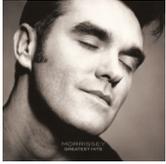


Morrissey - Greatest Hits (2008)

Written by bluelover

Tuesday, 13 October 2009 19:28 - Last Updated Sunday, 30 April 2017 08:53

Morrissey - Greatest Hits (2008)



1. *First of the Gang to Die*
2. *In the Future When All's Well*
3. *I Just Want to See the Boy Happy*
4. *Irish Blood, English Heart*
5. *You Have Killed Me*
6. *That's How People Grow Up*
7. *Everyday Is Like Sunday*
8. *Redondo Beach*
9. *Suedehead*
10. *The Youngest Was the Most Loved*
11. *The Last of the Famous International Playboys*
12. *The More You Ignore Me, the Closer I Get*
13. *All You Need Is Me*
14. *Let Me Kiss You*
15. *I Have Forgiven Jesus*

Dear old Morrissey doesn't make it easy for himself, does he? Always one for controversy and self-importance, his recent spat with the NME only goes to show that his love of a good fight is still as vibrant as it ever was. He'll need all that energy to convince anyone other than his legion of obsessive fans to purchase this, the fifth compilation of his career – not because of the quality of the tracks on offer but because, in all honesty, who wants these tracks that doesn't already own them? In fact, almost all Morrissey fans would be able to make this album at home for the price of just two downloads – as it conforms to the now omnipresent 'Best Of' practice of including a pair of new songs.

For the record, neither *That's Why People Grow Up* or *All You Need Is Me* are anything special,

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though the latter has a reckless throwabout charm that suggests his next studio release - pencilled in for later this year - will be a more than worthy successor to the tantalisingly fresh Ringleader Of The Tormentors. As for the rest, the picks reflect a brilliantly pedantic approach to a Greatest Hits package that only the archly arrogant Morrissey could have. All 13 tunes are indeed hits, with nine of them having made it into the top ten. But that emphasis on making the name an absolute truth means that some of his finer singles have been left by the wayside in favour of weaker, more recent work which probably only achieved such lofty heights because of the way singles sales have slumped.

Certainly, the brooding Irish Blood, English Heart, the bounce of First Of The Gang To Die and the dramatic splendour of You Have Killed Me are more than capable of holding their own next to the established excellence of Suedehead and Everyday Is Like Sunday, but to have discarded Alma Matters, Certain People I Know or the unholy epicness of November Spawned A Monster simply because they didn't make it as high up the charts as average offerings such as I Just Want To See The Boy Happy or the frankly lumpen Redondo Beach simply doesn't make sense.

Yet, that's why we love Morrissey, isn't it? Greatest Hits is neither the best starting point for a bequipped novice or a true reflection of his 20 year career – instead, it is an exercise in sheer bloody-mindedness and anyone who recognises the singer for what he is: a genuinely enigmatic, occasionally cantankerous, eternally intriguing genius, wouldn't have it any other way. ---Chris Lond, BBC Review

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