

## Carly Simon – Spy (1979)

Written by bluelover

Thursday, 09 February 2012 09:39 - Last Updated Sunday, 07 August 2016 14:03

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01. Vengeance – 4:12 02. Just Like You Do – 4:11 03. We're So Close – 5:08 04. Coming To Get You – 2:46 [play](#) 05. Never Been Gone (Simon/Jacob Brackman) – 3:34 [play](#) 06. Pure Sin (Frank Carillo/Simon) – 3:54 07. Love You By Heart (Simon/Libby Titus, Jacob Brackman) – 3:57 08. Spy (James Taylor, Simon, Arif Mardin) – 4:11 09. Memorial Day – 8:24

Personnel: - Carly Simon - guitar, piano, lead vocals - James Taylor - guitar, backing vocals - John Hall, Frank Carillo, Joe Caro, David Spinozza - guitar - Warren Bernhardt, Don Grolnick, Mike Mainieri, Richard Tee - keyboards - Billy Mernit, Ian McLaughlin - piano - Kenneth Bichel - synthesizer - Cliff Carter - synthesizer, bass - Will Lee, Tony Levin - bass - Steve Gadd, Rick Marotta - drums - Errol Crusher Bennett, Rafael Cruz - percussion - Michael Brecker - tenor saxophone - Hubert Laws - flute - Tom Bones Malone - trombone - David Sanborn, Peter Ballini - alto saxophone - Lew Del Gatto - baritone saxophone - Randy Brecker - trumpet - Gail Boggs, Ullanda McCullough, Lucy Simon, Tim Curry - backing vocals + strings

Carly Simon was onto something, naming her album after Anais Nin's book of erotic fiction *A Spy in the House of Love*, and she used the concept to come up with songs about maintaining the passion in a long-term relationship. But she didn't follow through completely, devoting two songs (including the singles chart entry "Vengeance") to attempts to remake "You're So Vain" and returning to producer Arif Mardin and his New York jazz-pop session men for an inappropriately slick and overdone sound. (Whoever expected a Carly Simon album with a drum solo on it?) Commercial considerations, in other words, marred what could have been an interesting concept album which still, despite the compromises, contained several good songs. And, of course, the commercial considerations were misplaced -- the album became Simon's worst seller and prefaced her departure from Elektra Records. --- William Ruhlmann, allmusic.com

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