

Alkaline Trio - My Shame Is True [Deluxe Edition] (2013)

Written by bluesever

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01. She Lied To The FBI 02. I Wanna Be A Warhol 03. I'm Only Here To Disappoint 04. Kiss You To Death 05. The Temptation Of St. Anthony 06. I, Pessimist 07. Only Love 08. The Torture Doctor 09. Midnight Blue 10. One Last Dance 11. Young Lovers 12. Until Death Do Us Part 13. Balanced On a Shelf 14. Pocket Knife 15. Broken Wing 16. Sun Burns
Musicians: Matt Skiba – guitar, vocals Dan Andriano – bass guitar, vocals, guitar
Derek Grant – drums, backing vocals + Bill Stevenson - additional backing vocals
Brendan Kelly - backing vocals (2) Tim McIlrath - vocals (6)

For a journeyman punk-pop band like Alkaline Trio, who have been making melodic, angst-ridden, infectious rock since the late '90s, the band's 2013 album, *My Shame Is True*, is something of a revelation. Primarily, that revelation is that a band whose songcraft and musicianship might easily have plateaued by now is still bounding ever upward. To put it simply, this album is bonkers good. Produced with a searing, robust intensity by musician Bill Stevenson -- whose own band, the Descendents, laid the groundwork for just the kind of punk-pop music Alkaline Trio have built their career around -- *My Shame Is True* brings together all of the band's most commercial and personal inclinations to bear on some of the best songs of its career. While naming the album with a cheeky reference to Elvis Costello's classic 1977 debut, *My Aim Is True*, might seem like a bold move by a band clearly indebted to Costello's own superbly crafted punk-era guitar pop, *My Shame Is True* quickly dispenses with any irony, and reveals itself to be a great album on its own terms. Anchored by such infectious anthems as the satirical and romantic opening call to arms, "She Lied to the FBI," and the lust-ridden "I Wanna Be a Warhol," in which Matt Skiba's romantic and sexual obsession takes on iconic proportions, *My Shame Is True* is an unabashed rock masterstroke for the band. It's as if Alkaline Trio have packed over a decade's worth of experience, passion, and heartache into one disc, and in the process, figured out a way to balance the sprawling, open-wound emotionality of their early punk albums with their mid-career discovery of pristine songwriting craftsmanship. Sure, Alkaline Trio did not attempt to break the usual guitar-bass-drums-vocals mold of pop-punk. They simply deliver track after track of airtight, wide-eyed rock that digs its fingers into your soul for 40 minutes and does...not...let...go. ---Matt Collar, Rovi

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