The Beatles – Let It Be (1970)

1. Two Of Us 2. Dig A Pony 3. Across the Universe 4. I Me Mine 5. Dig It 6. Let It Be 7. Maggie Mae 8. I've Got A Feeling 9. One After 909 10. The Long and Winding Road 11. For Your Blue 12. Get Back The Beatles George Harrison – lead vocals , lead and rhythm guitars John Lennon – lead and backing vocals, rhythm guitar, lead guitar Paul McCartney – lead and backing vocals, bass guitar Ringo Starr – drums and percussion

Oops. The Beatles had quietly broken up before their final album was released, the soundtrack to a rather disheartening documentary, in which the discomfort between the principle players is all too apparent. A slightly sad postscript, there are still monster tunes here by anyone else's standards, but it lacks sonic clarity, and is peppered with under-developed, sub-standard blues. Lennon is the guiltiest party, and his turgid 'Dig A Pony' is embarrassing, although he almost redeems himself with the strange beauty of 'Across The Universe'. Clearly trying to rally the troops, McCartney leads them through a number of frankly under-developed pub rockers, but then knocks everyone for six with two epic, soulful ballads, 'Let It Be' and 'The Long And Winding Road'. It is the only official Beatles album without a Ringo lead vocal, and the strange thing is that things get so bad, you actually miss it. Phil Spector's shiny post-production doesn't help, and the McCartney driven release of the original tapes as 'Let It Be … Naked' in 2003 is a genuine improvement. --- Neil McCormick, telegraph.co.uk

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