Genesis - Nursery Cryme (1971)

Written by bluesever
Sunday, 14 July 2013 15:14 - Last Updated Wednesday, 14 March 2018 09:07

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01. The Musical Box - 10:23 02. For Absent Friends - 1:43 03. The Return Of The Giant Hogweed - 8:08 04. Seven Stones - 5:06 05. Harold The Barrel - 2:56 06. Harlequin - 2:52 07. The Fountain Of Salmacis - 7:53   Personnel: - Peter Gabriel - lead vocals, flute, bass drum, tambourine - Steve Hackett - electric guitar, 12-string guitar - Tony Banks - organ, mellotron, piano, electric piano, 12-string guitar, vocals - Mike Rutherford - bass, bass pedals, 12-string guitar, vocals - Phil Collins - drums, percussion, vocals + - John Anthony – producer

If Genesis truly established themselves as progressive rockers on Trespass, Nursery Cryme is where their signature persona was unveiled: true English eccentrics, one part Lewis Carroll and one part Syd Barrett, creating a fanciful world that emphasized the band's instrumental prowess as much as Peter Gabriel's theatricality. Which isn't to say that all of Nursery Cryme works. There are times when the whimsy is overwhelming, just as there are periods when there's too much instrumental indulgence, yet there's a charm to this indulgence, since the group is letting itself run wild. Even if they've yet to find the furthest reaches of their imagination, part of the charm is hearing them test out its limits, something that does result in genuine masterpieces, as on "The Musical Box" and "The Return of the Giant Hogweed," two epics that dominate the first side of the album and give it its foundation. If the second side isn't quite as compelling or quite as structured, it doesn't quite matter because these are the songs that showed what Genesis could do, and they still stand as pinnacles of what the band could achieve. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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