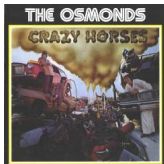


Osmonds - Crazy Horses (1972)

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A1 Hold Her Tight 3:18 A2 Utah 2:20 A3 Girl 3:38 A4 What Could It Be 3:20 A5 We All Fall Down 2:55 A6 And You Love Me 3:40 B1 Crazy Horses 2:40 B2 Life Is Hard Enough Without Goodbyes 3:45 B3 Hey, Mr. Taxi 3:05 B4 That's My Girl 3:12 B5 Julie 3:14 B6 Big Finish 0:18 The Osmonds members: Merrill Osmond (vocals, bass) Jay Osmond (vocals, drums) Melvin "Wayne" Osmond (vocals, guitar, piano) Alan Osmond (vocals, guitar) Donny Osmond (vocals, keyboards) Jimmy Osmond (vocals)

On *Crazy Horses*, the Osmonds attempted to roughen up their clean-cut musical image with some hard rock and psychedelia -- Led Zeppelin's "Immigrant Song" riff is used for bottom-heavy effect on "Hold Me Tight," while Sgt. Pepper's-era Beatles and Paul McCartney are the inspiration for "What Could It Be" and "We All Fall Down." Further tarnishing is attempted with the exclusion of Donny's bubblegum vocals -- the elder Osmonds share the microphone on all the tracks, presumably to insure that this will be a seriously rockin' affair. These "subversive" elements are mostly decorative, though, as variety-show arrangements and "One Bad Apple"-like melodies predominate on cuts like "That's My Girl" and the Bread-inspired number "And You Love Me." What stands out on this plodding album, though, is the excessive yet impressive title track, with its banshee-wail synth intro, Vegas horn arrangements and chugging Bachman-Turner Overdrive rhythm. If only the group could have perfected this Broadway/acid rock alliance on the whole album, we might have had a kitsch rock classic. This one is for die-hard fans and novelty hounds only; stick with one of their greatest-hits packages if you just want a good introduction to the Osmonds' recordings. --- Stephen Cook, Rovi

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