

Linda Ronstadt - Simple Dreams (1977)

Written by bluelover

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01. *It's So Easy* 02. *Carmelita* 03. *Simple Man, Simple Dream* 04. *Sorrow Lives Here*
05. *I Never Will Marry* 06. *Blue Bayou* [play](#) 07. *Poor Poor Pitiful Me* [play](#) 08. *Maybe I'm Right*
09. *Tumbling Dice* 10. *Old Paint*

Acoustic Guitar – Dan Dugmore (tracks: A1, A2, B2), Linda Ronstadt (tracks: A5, B5), Waddy Wachtel (tracks: A2, A5, B1, B3) Backing Vocals – Kenny Edwards (tracks: A1, A2, B1, B2, B4, B5), Linda Ronstadt (tracks: A1, B5), Peter Asher (tracks: A1, B3, B5), Waddy Wachtel (tracks: A1, A2, B3, B4) Bass – Kenny Edwards (tracks: A1 to A3, B1 to B4) Clavinet – Don Grolnick (tracks: A1, B2) Drums – Rick Marotta (tracks: A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, B4) Electric Guitar – Waddy Wachtel (tracks: A1, A2, B2 to B4) Electric Piano – Don Grolnick (tracks: A3, B1) Electronic Drums [Syn-drums] – Rick Marotta (tracks: A2, B1, B2) Guitar [Dobro] – Mike Auldridge (tracks: A5, B5) Piano – Don Grolnick (tracks: A1, A2, B1, B2, B4, B5) Steel Guitar – Dan Dugmore (tracks: A3, B1)

On its face, *Simple Dreams* seems a crazy quilt of styles, from the friendly country-rock remake of Buddy Holly's "It's So Easy," the brooding covers of Roy Orbison's "Blue Bayou," and Dolly Parton's "I Never Will Marry" to dissolute tales of rock & roll madness like the Rolling Stones' "Tumbling Dice" and Warren Zevon's "Carmelita" and "Poor Poor Pitiful Me." Yet Ronstadt is able to keep it all together, proving her interpretive depth and stylistic breadth all at once. *Simple Dreams* is perhaps Ronstadt's most adventurous rock-oriented album, and, with the exception of the drum sounds, which indelibly identify this as a product of the '70s, it still works.
--Daniel Durchholz

Featuring a broader array of styles than any previous Linda Ronstadt record, *Simple Dreams* reconfirms her substantial talents as an interpretive singer. Ronstadt sings Dolly Parton ("I

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Never Will Marry") with the same conviction as the Rolling Stones ("Tumbling Dice"), and she manages to update Roy Orbison ("Blue Bayou") and direct attention to the caustic, fledgling singer/songwriter Warren Zevon ("Poor Poor Pitiful Me" and "Carmelita"). The consistently adventurous material and Ronstadt's powerful performance makes the record rival Heart Like a Wheel in sheer overall quality. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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