Osmonds - Crazy Horses (1972)



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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