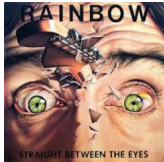


Rainbow - Straight Between The Eyes (1982)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 25 July 2013 15:27 - Last Updated Wednesday, 21 November 2018 17:44

Rainbow - Straight Between The Eyes (1982)



1. "Death Alley Driver" (Blackmore, Turner) – 4:42 2. "Stone Cold" – 5:17 3. "Bring on the Night (Dream Chaser)" – 4:06 4. "Tite Squeeze" – 3:15 5. "Tearin' Out My Heart" – 4:03 6. "Power" – 4:26 7. "MISS Mistreated" (Blackmore, Turner, David Rosenthal) – 4:27 8. "Rock Fever" (Blackmore, Turner) – 3:50 9. "Eyes of Fire" (Blackmore, Turner, Bobby Rondinelli) – 6:37 Personnel: Ritchie Blackmore - guitar (Fender Strat, Marshall) Joe Lynn Turner - vocals Roger Glover - bass (Hondo Longhorn 4 & 8 string) David Rosenthal - keyboards (Oberheim, Moog, Roland, Hammond & Hohner) Bobby Rondinelli - drums (Yamaha, Sonor & Paiste)

Straight Between the Eyes undoubtedly has one of the worst album covers in rock history, but the record is an unexpected return to form from the journeyman hard rockers. Just a record before, Rainbow sounded as if they were verging on Billy Squier territory, but here, they reverse course and deliver a solid, no-frills hard rock record. It isn't just that the material is stronger, though it certainly is, it's that Roger Glover abandoned his smoothed-out, radio-ready production that marred *Difficult to Cure*. That's not to say that *Straight Between the Eyes* doesn't sound dated -- Rainbow was a band that was forever tied to its era -- but the album does have a harder-hitting, muscular sound that is more appropriate for the band. Similarly, vocalist Joe Lynn Turner sounds more comfortable with the group, and the entire band just seems to gel, turning even the generic numbers on the album into enjoyable, straight-ahead hard rock. There may not be any specific showcases for Ritchie Blackmore, but his playing is better heard in this setting, where he's not only soloing, he's propelling the band with his powerful riffs. As always, he's the driving force behind the band, but this is truly a band effort, which is one of the reasons why *Straight Between the Eyes* is one of the strongest albums the group ever cut. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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