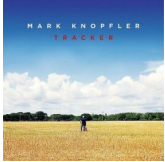


Mark Knopfler - Tracker (2015)

Written by bluesever

Saturday, 04 April 2015 13:29 - Last Updated Friday, 29 June 2018 16:45

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1. *Laughs And Jokes And Drinks And Smokes* 06:41 2. *Basil* 05:45 3. *River Towns* 06:17 4. *Skydiver* 04:39 5. *Mighty Man* 05:56 6. *Broken Bones* 05:31 7. *Long Cool Girl* 05:06 8. *Lights Of Taormina* 06:10 9. *Silver Eagle* 05:02 10. *Beryl* 03:11 11. *Wherever I Go* featuring Ruth Moody 06:27
Mark Knopfler – vocals, guitars Guy Fletcher – keyboards, vocals Bruce Molsky – fiddle, rhythm guitar, banjo John McCusker – fiddle, cittern Mike McGoldrick – whistle, wooden flute Phil Cunningham – accordion Glenn Worf – bass Ian Thomas – drums Nigel Hitchcock – saxophone Tom Walsh – trumpet Ruth Moody – vocals

Between Dire Straits, solo, soundtracks and collaborations, this is Mark Knopfler's 27th album, and it is probably fair to say we know what to expect by now. Tracker is another collection of carefully observed songs of ordinary lives, essaying folk, blues, country and early rock'n'roll forms, delivered with a low, mordant, deadpan voice. Dark material such as River Towns, Mighty Man and Wherever I Go leaves a particularly strong emotional aftertaste, even if it doesn't always quicken the blood.

In his solo career, Knopfler tends to keep those lightning flashes of silvery electric lead guitar to a minimum, letting his band flesh out tracks with understated refinement. I can't be alone in missing the epic scope of his more dramatically forceful work with Dire Straits.

The standout track for me is a boxing song, Broken Bones, on which Knopfler picks up the tempo to concoct a simple, yet hypnotic, disco groove with a lovely interplay between multiple rhythm and lead guitars. Intriguingly, it is the only song recorded completely solo.

Fans will find much to enjoy here, but it might be time for Knopfler to push himself out of his

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comfort zone. --- Neil McCormick, telegraph.co.uk

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