

Early Girls Vol.1 1995 (2008)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 05 January 2012 19:42 - Last Updated Tuesday, 30 January 2018 22:17

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Volume 1: Popsicles And Icicles (1995) 01. *The Exciters – Do-Wah Diddy* 02. *Betty Everett – You're No Good* 03. *Shirley Ellis – The Name Game* 04. *The Cookies – Chains* 05. *Carole King – It Might As Well Rain Until September* 06. *Earl-Jean – I'm Into Something Good* 07. *Skeeter Davis – I Can't Stay Mad At You* 08. *Little Peggy March – I Wish I Were A Princess* 09. *Linda Scott – I've Told Every Little Star* [play](#) 10. *Janie Grant – Triangle* 11. *Toni Fisher – West Of The Wall* 12. *Dodie Stevens – Pink Shoe Laces* 13. *The Sensations – Music, Music, Music* 14. *The Hearts – Dear Abby* 15. *Reparata & The Delrons – Whenever A Teenager Cries* 16. *The Murmaids – Popsicles & Icicles* 17. *Robin Ward – Wonderful Summer* 18. *The Paris Sisters – I Love How You Love Me* 19. *Bonnie Guitar – Dark Moon* 20. *The Aquatones – You* [play](#) 21. *The Angels – 'Til* 22. *Kathy Young – The Great Pretender* 23. *Rosie & The Originals – Angel Baby* 24. *The Teen Queens – Eddie My Love* 25. *The Chantels – He's Gone* 26. *The Shirelles – Dedicated To The One I Love* 27. *The Blossoms – Son-In-Law* 28. *The Essex – Easier Said Than Done*

Leave it to one of England's premier re-issue labels to put together a compilation that rivals Rhino's excellent "The Girl Groups" series. While a few of these songs fall outside the strict definition of girl groups (1961-1965), this is a super collection and at 28 tracks you won't find a more generous single disc compilation.

There are a few late Fifties hits: 13-year-old Dodie Stevens' "Pink Shoe Laces," Gale Storm's "Dark Moon," and the Aquatones' "You." The rest are early-Sixties classics and also-rans.

You get the Exciters' version of "Do-Wah-Diddy" (later a No. 1 for Manfred Mann), Betty

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Everett's "You're No Good" (which Linda Ronstadt took to No. 1 in 1975) and the Cookies' lead singer Earl-Jean's minor hit "I'm Into Something Good" (which would become Herman's Hermits' first U.S. hit).

There are seven songs that overlap with the Rhino series, but that's a minor complaint. Where Rhino gave you the Angels' oft-anthologized "My Boyfriend's Back," here you get their earlier 1961 hit "'Til." While the Rhino series included three Shirelles' songs, it did not include their classic "Dedicated to the One I Love" found here.

This Ace release also includes several artists not on the Rhino series: "The Name Game" by Shirley Ellis, "I Wish I were a Princess" by Little Peggy March, "I've Told Every Little Star" by Linda Scott, and Rosie & The Originals' "Angel Baby."

Don't think of this as a competing series with Rhino, but a companion series. And just like Rhino, you get crisp, clean sound and extensive liner notes on each of the songs and the artists. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED ---Steve Vrana (Aurora, NE)

While the second volume of the Early Girls series is heavier on chart hits, the first collection offers more choice rarities (which, truth be told, is the real value in retrospectives of this kind). A handful of these 28 cuts are overly cloying (Earl-Jean's "I'm into Something Good" and Little Peggy March's "I Wish I Were a Princess" are almost sickeningly sweet), but the good far outweighs the bad -- alongside familiar singles like Shirley Ellis' "The Name Game" and the Shirelles' "Dedicated to the One I Love" are forgotten classics like Toni Fisher's amazing "West of the Wall" (an echo-drenched ode to Cold War-era romance) and Dodie Stevens' delightfully goofy "Pink Shoe Laces"; early favorites from Phil Spector (the Paris Sisters' "I Love How You Love Me") and Carole King (the superb "It Might as Well Rain Until September," her lone solo hit before breaking through with Tapestry a decade later) round out this smartly compiled, well-annotated and consistently engaging set. ---Jason Ankeny

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