

Early Girls Vol.3 2000 (2008)

Written by bluesever

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Volume 3: 2000 01. *Girlfriends – My One And Only Jimmy Boy* 02. *Little Peggy March – I Will Follow Him* 03. *Alice Wonder Land – He’s Mine* [play](#) 04. *Shelly Fabares – Johnny Angel* 05. *Ginny Arnell – Dumb Head* 06. *Cathy Jean And Roommates – Please Love Me Forever* 07. *Etta James – At Last* 08. *Percells – What Are Boys Made Of* 09. *Della Reese – Don’t You Know* 10. *Lillian Briggs – I Want You To Be My Baby* 11. *Jodie Sands – With All My Heart* 12. *Margie Rayburn – I’m Available* 13. *Patti Page – Old Cape Cod* 14. *Shelby Flint – Angel On My Shoulder* 15. *Timi Yuro – Hurt* 16. *Joanie Sommers – Johnny Get Angry* 17. *Diane Ray – Please Don’t Talk To The Lifeguard* [play](#) 18. *The Pixies Three – Birthday Party* 19. *Carla Thomas – Gee Whiz (Look At His Eyes)* 20. *Faye Adams – Shake A Hand* 21. *Etta Jones – Don’t Go To Strangers* 22. *Bernadette Carroll – Party Girl* 23. *The Starlets – Better Tell Him No* 24. *The Charmaines – What Kind Of Girl (Do You Think I Am)* 25. *Esther Phillips – Release Me* 26. *Debbie Dovale – Hey Lover* 27. *The Chantels – Look In My Eyes* 28. *Suzie Clark – Ain’t Gonna Kiss Ya*

England's ACE Records has become the premiere reissue label in the world. They have done everything Rhino has done for years. Used top grade source tapes, excellent sound, well written and informative liner notes and top-notch song selection. And for my money, they've upped the ante. The booklet is a 20-page, full-color collection of publicity stills, handbills and notes on each artist and song. And you get 28 songs! No other label is this generous.

And these are all wonderfully chosen songs. All but one of these (Suzie Clark's "Ain't Gonna Kiss Ya") made the pop or R&B charts. There are No. 1 hits like Shelley Fabares' "Johnny Angel" and Little Peggy March's "I Will Follow Him." Faye Adams topped the R&B charts with the rousing "Shake a Hand," and Etta James' hit No. 2 with "At Last." And then there are other forgotten pop gems sprinkled throughout this collection, like the Chantels' highest charting hit "Look In My Eyes," and Cathy Jean and the Roommates' hit version of "Please Love Me

Forever" (six years before Bobby Vinton returned it to the charts).

Unlike Rhino's Girl Group series, which focused on the early Sixties, the ACE series spans the years 1953 to 1964. So there is very little overlap between the two. In fact, only Joanie Sommers' "Johnny Get Angry" is duplicated from the Rhino series, so these two series complement each other very nicely. If you already own the two earlier volumes (or even the two volumes of the Rhino series), this latest installment is a welcome addition. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

The third installment in Ace's series of female-sung pop/rock from the pre-British Invasion era is an erratic combination of well-known classics with more obscure items that are sometimes decent, and more often forgettable. Mostly it's from 1960-1964, with a few odd inclusions of solo female performances from 1953-1959, several of them pop with little or no rock influence. The best cuts are usually the most famous ones: Etta James' "At Last," Little Peggy March's "I Will Follow Him," Carla Thomas' "Gee Whiz (Look at His Eyes)," Esther Phillips' "Release Me," Timi Yuro's "Hurt," and the Chantels' "Look in My Eyes." The thing is, none of these have been very hard to find on reissues. The majority of the disc is in fact comprised of songs that have escaped oldies radio rotation, whether because they only made it to around the middle of the Top 100, or because (as in Patti Page's "Old Cape Cod" or Jodie Sands' "With All My Heart") there was no rock & roll in their soul. However, with the exception of the Girlfriends' dynamite 1963 mid-chart "My One and Only, Jimmy Boy" -- one of the best Phil Spector soundalike productions ever, and a should-have-been Top Ten hit -- none of the rarer items are great. In fact most are inconsequential, and some are downright bad: there ought to be a law against licensing Ginny Arnell's 1963 single "Dumb Head," one of the most idiotic records ever to crack the Top 50. Some of the more interesting also-rans are Lillian Briggs' 1955 hit "I Want You to Be My Baby," which in fact is far more like jazzy Tin Alley pop than rock; Faye Adams' 1953 crossover R&B/pop hit "Shake a Hand"; and Suzie Clark's "Ain't Gonna Kiss Ya," a non-charting cover of a song on an obscure girl-group single by the Ribbons that was later covered by the Searchers. --- Richie Unterberger, AMG

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