

Them - The Angry Young Them (1965)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 05 October 2014 15:45 - Last Updated Thursday, 14 February 2019 20:59

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01. *Mystic Eyes* (Van Morrison) – 2:43 02. *If You And I Could Be As Two* (Van Morrison) – 2:53 03. *Little Girl* (Van Morrison) – 2:26 04. *Just A Little Bit* (Del Gordon) – 2:22 05. *I Gave My Love A Diamond* (Bert Berns) – 2:49 06. *Gloria* (Van Morrison) – 2:38 07. *You Just Can't Win* (Van Morrison) – 2:22 08. *Go On Home Baby* (Bert Berns) – 2:38 09. *Don't Look Back* (John Lee Hooker) – 3:22 10. *I Like It Like That* (Van Morrison) – 3:18 11. *I'm Gonna Dress In Black* (M.Gillon) – 3:34 12. *Bright Lights Big City* (Jimmy Reed) – 2:32 13. *My Little Baby* (Bert Berns, Wes Farrell) – 2:10 14. *(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66* (Bobby Troup) – 2:24

Personnel: - Van Morrison - lead vocals, tenor saxophone, harmonica - Billy Harrison (William Harrison) - lead guitar - Peter Bardens - organ - Alan Henderson - bass - Pat McAuley (Patrick John McAuley) - drums, piano, harmonica + - Tommy Scott (M.Gillon) - producer (01-04,07,09-12,14) - Bert Berns - producer (05,08,13) - Dick Rowe - producer (06)

The debut album by the group, also known as The Angry Young Them, and half its tracks make it a dead-on rival to the Stones' debut album. This reissue features the album's original British configuration ("Just a Little Bit," "I Gave My Love a Diamond," "Bright Lights, Big City," and "My Little Baby" are here; "One Two Brown Eyes" and "Here Comes the Night" are absent). "My Little Baby" was no huge loss, being a pale imitation of "Here Comes the Night," but the omitted "Just a Little Bit" features a Howlin' Wolf/"Spoonful"-style performance by Van Morrison that would have incinerated a lot of American teens. On the other hand, Morrison's soul-shouting performance on the deleted "I Gave My Love a Diamond," appropriated by Bert Berns from the public domain "Cherry Song," would have shocked any folkie familiar with the original. Morrison's "You Just Can't Win" isn't nearly as impressive, but even as a time-filler it isn't half bad. And then there's "Gloria," rock's ultimate '60s sex anthem, and one of the handful of white-authored songs that can just about hold its own against any blues standard you'd care to name. ---Bruce Eder, allmusic.com

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