

Low Cut Connie – Dirty Pictures (Part 1) (2017)

Written by bluesever

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1 *Revolution Rock N Roll* 2 *Dirty Water* 3 *Death & Destruction* 4 *Montreal* 5 *Angela*
6 *Love Life* 7 *Am I Wrong?* 8 *Controversy* 9 *Forever* 10 *What Size Shoe* Adam
Weiner - piano, vocals James Everhart - lead guitar Will Donnelly - rhythm guitar Larry
Scotton - drums Lucas Rinz - bass

Low Cut Connie earned some high-profile fans after the 2015 release of *Hi Honey* -- notably, President Barack Obama added their tune "Boozophilia" to a summertime playlist that summer -- but the group's core changed in its wake. Drummer Dan Finnemore departed in 2016, leaving pianist Adam Weiner as the band's undisputed leader, and the shift is apparent on *Dirty Pictures, Pt. 1*. A good chunk of the album is still devoted to the greasy, sleazy rock & roll that's been Low Cut Connie's specialty since the outset -- "Love Life" is a dirty nocturnal grind, the bright hooks of "Angela" hide its snide jokes -- but there's a darkness running through *Dirty Pictures, Pt. 1*, one that's evident from the moment "Revolution Rock N Roll" starts the album on a minor key. It's not hard to read this as a reaction to the tumultuous state of the union in the back-half of the 2010s -- as Weiner sings here, "there's death and destruction in the country" -- but this melancholy streak deepens Low Cut Connie's music, providing moments of questioning next to the nonstop boogie. "Death & Destruction" slides into "Montreal," a haunted late-night saloon song recalling Big Star by way of the Replacements, while a frenzied salute to the late Prince via a cover of "Controversy" gets paired with the aching "Forever." What makes these moody moments striking is that Weiner hasn't renounced the power of rock & roll, nor his penchant for mischief; he isn't trumpeting a new direction, he's adding dimension to a band that already offers more than its fair share of surprise and pleasure. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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