

Mp3 Don't Mean Maybe - Real Good Life



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upbeat crunchy shifting tweaked psyche punk rock second effort recorded by Jack Endino 14 MP3 Songs
ROCK: Grunge, ROCK: Punk Details: It's hard to believe that this album was released in the same year as Live Sample, the sophomore first effort from Don't Mean Maybe. Perhaps it was the influence of new drummer Ron Sloan, perhaps the guidance of producer Jack Endino deserves the credit, but this is a vastly superior effort. The songs have more punch, the instrumental attack is sharper, and the bandmembers show their considerable chops off to much better effect. The comparison to the Minutemen is still valid, but instead of sounding like a frat rock knock-off of that band there is an element of sincere homage and craftsmanship here. The vocals on most tracks are even soulful, especially on the mournful "Tranquil Sea," a meditation on a homeless man who is unable to appreciate the beauty of the landscape around him. The surprise cut on this album is a scorching cover of "Hot Smoke and Sassafras," a surreal blast of garage psychedelia that was a hit for the Texas group Bubble Puppy in 1969. Don't Mean Maybe gives this piece of fluff a jazzy post-punk attack that is novel and yet faithful to the original spirit. Real Good Life is a real good album, and if the band had been able to follow it up immediately with another of similar quality they could have hit the big time. - Richard Foss AMG

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