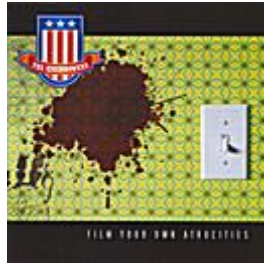


Mp3 The Eisenhowers - Film Your Own Atrocities



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Literate, tuneful and punchy adult pop. 14 MP3 Songs in this album (53:12) ! Related styles: POP: Power Pop, FOLK: Folk Pop People who are interested in Elvis Costello Squeeze Crowded House should consider this download. Details: When their debut album Almost half-undressed was released in 2006, The Eisenhowers were compared to the likes of Elvis Costello, Aimee Mann, Crowded House and Ben Folds. This, their new long-player, has been almost three years in the making and sees them further develop their brand of literate and thoughtful pop. As on the first album, there is a liberal sprinkling of dysfunctional characters. A suicidal millionaire takes first prize here on the skewed nursery rhyme of The things that make you happy, while there are songs focused on celebrity culture, domestic abuse, internet conspiracy theories and fatal attractions. The Eisenhowers are clearly influenced by classic British pop and this album has at least a couple of Ray Davies moments (notably on Gathering Dust and The Long Way Home). The epic closing track Icarus succumbs- sounds like an attempt to recreate the mid-tempo balladic grandeur of ELO, while the Elvis Costello-esque Aggrodisiac is a gloriously brief and punky little observation on bondage and psycho-sexual trauma. For all the smart-ass cynicism on show, the album still has some playful and romantic touches, exemplified on the stomping Lighthouse in which the kitchen sink (and a bucketful of nautical allusions) is thrown at a Kinks /XTC tribute on the subject of fatal attraction. The middle eight is worth the price of the admission alone, as the military drum and stacked backing vocals drive towards a giddyng psychedelic climax. The production is often quirky and imaginative and there are some genuinely sparkling moments across the entire spread of the album; this is definitely not a record that has been front loaded with three or four prime cuts. It has a cast of what seems like thousands, all working around the vision of Raymond Weir, the chief songwriter. His vocals are the only constant on all 14 tracks and he appears to understand and exploit his own limitations. Three

splendid female vocal supports are deployed pretty much throughout, while various contributions on cello, violin, guitar, piano and bass are tastefully managed and given plenty of opportunity to shine. The Eisenhowers like to juxtapose dark lyrical concerns with sweetly-executed melodic arrangements and their use of the evocative phrase Film your own Atrocities appears to be not just an observation on human cruelty, but also a statement about their preference for kitchen sink dramas, as opposed to big global concerns. This is best demonstrated on the centrepiece of the album, the anthemic and extraordinary 1969, complete with choirs, strings and samples from the Apollo 11 mission. It would be simplistic to state that this is just -as the title might suggest- a song about the moon landings, because its much more than that. The lyric describes an attempted seduction in a singles bar says Weir. The middle-aged protagonist in the song who has this powerful, romantic belief in the idealism and heroism of the NASA space programme- is trying to pick up a vacuous, but physically attractive, young woman. Hes hoping, of course, for sexual gratification, but theres an undertone of disillusionment and, bit by bit, the seduction becomes a signifier of his descent into parody and self-loathing. He starts to contrast the state of the world as it watched the unfolding spectacle of the Apollo missions back in the sixties, to the state of the world as it is now. Depressingly, he sees a planet hooked on dumb-ass reality TV and the goings-on of a succession of utterly brainless Z-list superstars. If REM were to play this rousing number at the climax of their set, youd see thousands happily wave their lighters and phones in the air. With material of this quality, The Eisenhowers will surely consolidate their growing reputation for literate and tuneful pop designed for a discerning adult audience.

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