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The Pixies' Doolittle (33 1/3)



Synopsis

The Pixies have had a career unlike any other in alternative rock, disappearing as not-quite-the-next-big-things only to become gods in absentia. *Doolittle* is their knotty masterpiece, the embodiment of the Pixies' abrasive, exuberant, enigmatic pop. Informed by exclusive interviews with the band, Sisario looks at the making of the album and its place in rock history, and studies its continued influence in light of the Pixies triumphant reunion.

Book Information

Series: 33 1/3 (Book 31)

Paperback: 127 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic (March 25, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0826417744

ISBN-13: 978-0826417749

Product Dimensions: 4.8 x 0.4 x 6.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

You can barely throw a limited-run vinyl without hitting a band that claims to be influenced by the Pixies. They stand as one of the most brashly innovative alt rock bands even to this day. As Ben Sisario points out in his entry in the *Thirty Three and 1/3* series, "Doolittle", the seminal album by the same name is so irreplaceable that not only is it never duplicated, it's rarely even imitated. Even bands that proudly invoke the Pixies heritage seem unwilling or unable to display their bloodlines loud and proud. So then, why did this album released in 1989 by a small alt rock band sell more copies after their dissolution than during their heyday? Why do their stop-go songs sprinkled with nigh-unintelligible lyrics reeking of sex, death, violence and rage resonate so persistently? Sisario, impressively, comes as close to pinpointing the answers as anyone ever may, combining the style of a storyteller and the attention to detail of a historian. His book alternates from scenes of personal discussion with lead singer Charles Thompson to insightful and incisive

backgrounding on the state of alt rock and the industry. Even for readers with not the slightest clue of why they should care about the Pixies, Sisario presents a compelling case for why the Pixies were and to some extent still are avant garde. You don't even have to like them. After reading and listening to Doolittle, you will at minimum respect their contributions. Sisario has the advantage of studying and personally speaking with Charles Thompson at a time providing clarity of hindsight. Thompson and his band have since reunited in 2004 for touring and begun producing new music only recently, though with a slightly shuffled roster. Pixies songs have long perplexed listeners with their lyrics.

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