

Alvin Lee - Pure Blues (1998)

Written by bluesever

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01 - *I Don't Want You Woman* (2:36) 02 - *The Bluest Blues* (7:27) 03 - *I Woke Up This Morning* (5:27) 04 - *Real Life Blues* (4:35) 05 - *The Stomp* (4:31) 06 - *Slow Blues In 'C'* (7:50) 07 - *Wake Up Moma* (3:58) 08 - *Talk Don't Bother Me* (3:29) 09 - *Every Blues You've Ever Heard* (5:25) 10 - *I Get All Shook Up* (4:38) 11 - *Lost In Love* (4:06) 12 - *Help Me* (10:54) 13 - *Outside My Window* (8:04) Personnel: Alvin Lee (vocals, guitar, piano); Dyan Birch, Frank Collins, Paddy McHugh (vocals); Steve Gould (guitar, keyboards); Neil Hubbard (guitar); George Harrison (slide guitar); Mel Collins (saxophone); Clarence Clemons (tenor saxophone); Chick Churchill, Steve Grant, Tim Hinkley (keyboards); Alan Young, Ric Lee, Ian Wallace (drums).

Pure Blues is a good sampler of Alvin Lee's music, both with Ten Years After and solo. It looks like a standard compilation, yet it concentrates solely on blues-based material. Ten Years After, though, was not just a blues-rock group. They were deeply rooted in '50s rock and roll and jazz in addition to blues, so this compilation really only shows one part of the Alvin Lee picture. But if you're a major blues lover like me, that's okay.

It starts with the acoustic "Don't Want You Woman" from Ten Years After's self-titled debut (currently out of print). Other highlights are the heavy riff-driven "I Woke Up This Morning", and "The Stomp" (both from the SSSSH album) and two killer live tracks, "Slow Blues in C" and "Help Me" from the Recorded Live album.

This is a nice sampler, but don't make the mistake of letting this be the only Alvin Lee/Ten Years After CD you check out. If you like this, further listening should be: Undead (1968), Recorded Live (1973), and last year's release of Ten Years After Live at the Fillmore East.---
FairiesWearBoots8272, amazon.com

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