

Alberta Hunter □ – The Legendary Alberta Hunter: '34 London Sessions (1981)

Written by bluesever

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A1 Two Cigarettes In The Dark 2:55 A2 What Shall I Do? 2:39 A3 Soon 3:01 A4 Where The Mountains Meet The Sea 2:50 A5 A Lonely Singing Fool 2:43 A6 Long May We Love 2:55 B1 Miss Otis Regrets (She's Unable To Lunch Today) 3:10 B2 Be Still My Heart 3:02 B3 Stars Fell On Alabama 2:56 B4 Two Little Flies On A Lump Of Sugar 2:47 B5 I Travel Alone 3:00 Alto Saxophone, Guitar – Noel "Chappie" D'Amato Alto Saxophone, Violin – Stan Andrews Bass – Tiny Stock Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Flute – E.O. Pogson Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Oboe – Allan Warner Conductor, Trumpet – Jack Jackson Drums – Percy Hampton Orchestra – Jack Jackson & His Orchestra Piano – Harry Rubens Trombone – Eric Tann, Tony Thorpe Trumpet – Freddy Mann, Harry Macfarlane Violin – Colly Eisner, Dave Esher Vocals - Alberta Hunter

This handsome album is a bit of an oddity. Alberta Hunter, famous as a jazz-oriented blues singer in the 1920s, reinvented herself as a sophisticated stage singer in London. Her 11 recordings with Jack Jackson's society dance orchestra in 1934 are very straight, outside of jazz and somewhat dated today. Whether it be "Two Cigarettes in the Dark," "Miss Otis Regrets" or "Two Little Flies on a Lump of Sugar," Hunter interprets the romantic ballads like a cabaret singer. So, although this reissue was perfectly done (with extensive liner notes), there is little here to interest jazz listeners. ---Scott Yanow, AllMusic Reviews

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