

America - Silent Letter (1979)

Written by bluelover

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01. *Only Game In Town* (Kelly, Didier, Cohen, Anderson) - 4:10
02. *All Around* (Beckley, Bunnell) - 3:21
03. *Tall Treasures* (Beckley, Bunnell) - 3:13
04. *1960* (Beckley) - 3:10
05. *And Forever* (Bunnell) - 3:10
06. *Foolin'* (Beckley, Fataar) - 2:52
07. *All Night* (Bunnell) - 3:19
08. *No Fortune* (Beckley) - 3:17
09. *All My Life* (Beckley) - 3:02
10. *One Morning* (Bunnell) - 2:11
11. *High In The City* (Beckley, Bunnell) - 3:00

Personnel:

- Dewey Bunnell - guitars, vocals
 - Gerry Beckley - piano, guitars, vocals
 - Mike Woods - lead guitar
 - Tom Walsh - percussion
 - Willie Leacox - drums
 - David Dickey - bass
 - Jim Calire - keyboards, sax solo
- Tower Of Power Horn Section - Lenny Pickett, Emilio Castillo,
Steve Kupka, Mic Gillette, Greg Adams

In a way, *Silent Letter* was a new beginning for America. Although they were still produced and arranged by George Martin, they had signed with a new label, Capitol Records, and had decided to delve deeply into lush adult contemporary, which was a different beast than the folky Californian soft rock that made their reputation. The change in sound didn't result in new hits (ironically, the same year they released *Silent Letter* they scraped the charts with a cover of

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"California Dreamin'" that was not included on the record), but it did revitalize them, ever so slightly. There is a fair amount of filler scattered throughout Silent Letter, along with a couple of interestingly awkward and ambitious songs like the segmented closer "High in the City," but there are also several very fine soft rock numbers. As a matter of fact, the opening one-two punch of "Only Game in Town" and "All Around" (which has a killer chorus) makes the record sound like it will be excellent. It begins to drift a little bit after that, but it never strays too far; every time that the album seems to lose momentum, it regains it. The end result may be flawed, but in an enjoyable way. And compared to the records that preceded it and some of albums that followed it, Silent Letter certainly seems like a latter-day highlight for America. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, allmusic.com

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