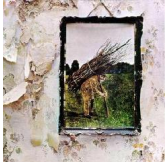


Led Zeppelin – Led Zeppelin IV (1971)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 11 October 2009 20:50 - Last Updated Saturday, 09 June 2018 20:58

Led Zeppelin – Led Zeppelin IV (1971)



1. *"Black Dog"* (Jimmy Page, Robert Plant, John Paul Jones) – 4:55

2. *"Rock and Roll"* (Page, Plant, Jones, John Bonham) – 3:40

3. *"The Battle of Evermore"* (Page, Plant) – 5:38

4. *"Stairway to Heaven"* (Page, Plant) – 8:01

5. *"Misty Mountain Hop"* (Page, Plant, Jones) – 4:39

6. *"Four Sticks"* (Page, Plant) – 4:49

7. *"Going to California"* (Page, Plant) – 3:36

8. *"When the Levee Breaks"* (Page, Plant, Jones, Bonham, Memphis Minnie) – 7:08

Led Zeppelin John Bonham – drums John Paul Jones – synthesiser, bass guitar, electric piano, mandolin, recorders Jimmy Page – acoustic and electric guitar, mandolin, production Robert Plant – lead vocals, harmonica, tambourine + Sandy Denny – vocals on "The Battle of Evermore" Ian Stewart – piano on "Rock and Roll"

Encompassing heavy metal, folk, pure rock & roll, and blues, Led Zeppelin's untitled fourth album is a monolithic record, defining not only Led Zeppelin but the sound and style of '70s hard rock. Expanding on the breakthroughs of III, Zeppelin fuse their majestic hard rock with a mystical, rural English folk that gives the record an epic scope. Even at its most basic -- the muscular, traditionalist "Rock and Roll" -- the album has a grand sense of drama, which is only deepened by Robert Plant's burgeoning obsession with mythology, religion, and the occult. Plant's mysticism comes to a head on the eerie folk ballad "The Battle of Evermore," a mandolin-driven song with haunting vocals from Sandy Denny, and on the epic "Stairway to Heaven." Of all of Zeppelin's songs, "Stairway to Heaven" is the most famous, and not unjustly. Building from a simple fingerpicked acoustic guitar to a storming torrent of guitar riffs and solos, it encapsulates the entire album in one song. Which, of course, isn't discounting the rest of the album. "Going to California" is the group's best folk song, and the rockers are endlessly inventive, whether it's the complex, multi-layered "Black Dog," the pounding hippie satire "Misty Mountain Hop," or the funky riffs of "Four Sticks." But the closer, "When the Levee Breaks," is the one song truly equal to "Stairway," helping give IV the feeling of an epic. An apocalyptic slice of urban blues, "When the Levee Breaks" is as forceful and frightening as Zeppelin ever

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got, and its seismic rhythms and layered dynamics illustrate why none of their imitators could ever equal them. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, All Music Guide

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