Nirvana - Nirvana (2002)

1. You Know You're Right 2. About A Girl 3. Been A Son play 4. Sliver 5. Smells Like Teen Spirit 6. Come As You Are 7. Lithium 8. In Bloom 9. Heart-Shaped Box 10. Pennyroyal Tea 11. Rape Me play
12. Dumb 13. All Apologies 14. The Man Who Sold The World 15. Where Did You Sleep Last Night
Personnel * Kurt Cobain – guitar, vocals * Krist Novoselic – bass guitar * Dave Grohl – drums (except on tracks 2 – 4) * Chad Channing – drums on "About a Girl" and "Been a Son" * Dan Peters – drums on "Sliver" * Pat Smear – guitar on unplugged tracks * Lori Goldston – cello on unplugged tracks * Kera Schaley - cello on "Dumb"

Ignore the legal wrangling, bad blood, feuds, even Kurt Cobain's suicide, behind the release of this long-awaited single-disc anthology of Nirvana's work, simply titled Nirvana, and focus on one simple thing: does it do its job well? Does it capture the essence of the most influential band of the '90s, the most storied band since the Beatles? Does it have all their best songs on one disc? The answer: kinda. The inherent problem with the disc is that it's difficult to compile Nirvana's best material by any chart-based yardstick, the way that the Beatles 1 -- Cobain's widow made no bones about the fact that she wanted this collection patterned after that hit, and to be as successful a catalog item -- did, since they didn't have that many singles, nor did their career need to be condensed like the Rolling Stones' Forty Licks since they only recorded for five years. Nirvana's best tracks -- not necessarily the same thing as Cobain's best songs, although they frequently overlapped -- were buried on album tracks, B-sides, stray singles, so there's no good criteria for why, say, "Dumb" makes the cut and "Aneurysm" doesn't. Even more problematic, Nirvana's three proper albums, along with the rarities compilation Incesticide and the acoustic MTV Unplugged, all have different personalities and sonic characteristics that don't necessarily fit well together, whether it's the gleaming Nevermind, the ragged indie pop band on Incesticide, or the stark despair of In Utero. So, what you wind up with is a record that has all the hits and many of the radio favorites, plus the very good previously unreleased final recording, "You Know You're Right," in a collection that is less than the sum of its parts. At 50 minutes, it's all too easy to concentrate on what's missing: "Something in the Way," "Polly,"

"Serve the Servants," "Verse Chorus Verse," "Dive," "Negative Creep," "Love Buzz," "Territorial Pissings," "Drain You," "School," "Lake of Fire," "Where Did You Sleep Last Night?," and, most egregiously, the aforementioned "Aneurysm" are all prime candidates to fill out the remainder of the disc. Not all could have fit, but the presence of a few more tracks, along with placing "You Know You're Right" at the end where it belongs, would have made this collection not just stronger, but possibly definitive. As it stands, it feels like a bit of a cheap compromise and a wasted opportunity.--- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

Nirvana – album kompilacyjny zespołu Nirvana wydany przez Geffen Records w 2002 roku, 8 lat po śmierci frontmana i wokalisty Kurta Cobaina. Znajdziemy tu czternaście na nowo zremasterowanych utworów - od About A Girl pochodzącego z wydanego przez Sub Pop Bleach, po przepiękne The Man Who Sold The World z repertuaru Davida Bowie, zarejestrowane specjalnie dla MTV Unplugged. Nie zabrakło oczywiście nieśmiertelnego Smells Like Teen Spirit i kompozycji z In Utero - płyty będącej zwalającym z nóg spotkaniem dzikiej energii i melodyjności zespołu Cobaina z realizatorskim geniuszem Steve'a Albiniego. Jednak Nirvana była by jedynie zwykłym składankowym wydawnictwem przeznaczonym dla tych, którzy chcą mieć na jednym krążku spójny i dobrze zmiksowany zbiór "największych przebojów" swych idoli, gdyby nie otwierający płytę, nigdy wcześniej nie opublikowany, znakomity utwór You Know You're Right.

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