

Alannah Myles – The Very Best (1999)

Written by bluelover

Monday, 09 April 2012 19:24 - Last Updated Monday, 02 October 2017 19:58

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01. *Black Velvet* 4:47 02. *Break the Silence* 5:14 03. *Everybody's Breaking Up* 4:34 04. *Love Is* 3:38 05. *Song Instead Of A Kiss* 5:04 06. *Sonny Say You Will* 5:06 07. *Our World Our Times* 6:18 08. *Long, Long Time* 5:13 09. *Great Divide* 4:25 10. *Family Secret* 5:16 11. *Lover Of Mine* 4:35 12. *Bad 4 You* 3:52 13. *What are We Waiting For* 3:57 14. *You Love Who You Love* 3:29 15. *Still Got This Thing* 4:37

With its slinky, modernized rock & roll beat, the Elvis tribute "Black Velvet" seemed to mark the beginning of a big career for Alannah Myles, but it turned out to be her one big moment. That's too bad, because as the compilation *The Very Best of Alannah Myles* proves, she deserved a little bit better than that. In a different time -- say, the early '80s, when Pat Benatar was one of the top rockers in the land -- she could have had a string of hits, since her voice was perfect for big, mainstream rock. If she had stronger material and if her production was a little more organic, she could have had a fighting chance in the '90s, but then again, maybe not, since her 1998 effort, *Arival*, was arguably her best, but it made little impact. Either way, the overall impression of *The Very Best of Alannah Myles* is that she was a rocker out of time, one that couldn't quite find the key to success in the '90s, but who still left behind some good recordings. True, the compilation is a little inconsistent -- that was a hallmark of her records, actually -- but all the best stuff is here ("Black Velvet," "Bad 4 You," "Lover of Mine," "Still Got this Thing," among others), making it the choice for anyone who was curious if she had more to offer than "Black Velvet." --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, All Music Guide

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