10cc – Ten Out Of 10 (Japan Edition) [2001]

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01. Don't Ask <u>play</u> 02. Overdraft In Overdrive 03. Don't Turn Me Away 04. Memories <u>play</u>

05. Notell Hotel 06. Les Nouveaux Riches 07. Action Man In A Motown Suit 08. Listen With Your Eyes 09. Lying Here With You 10. Survivor

Personnel * Eric Stewart — vocals, synthesiser, guitars, bass, slide guitar, pianos, percussion, synthesiser strings, rock snare * Graham Gouldman — vocals, bass, guitars, percussion, double bass, sitar * Paul Burgess — drums, percussion * Rick Fenn — guitars, fretless bass, backing vocals ("Don't Ask", "Action Man in Motown Suit") * Marc Jordan — organ, piano, backing vocals, electric piano * Vic Emerson — synclavier, string synthesiser, piano, electric piano, bass * Lenni Crookes — sax on "Don't Turn Me Away" * Simon Phillips — drums on "Survivor" and "Tomorrow's World Today" * Keith Bessey — maracas on "Survivor" * Andrew Gold — vocals, bass, guitar, piano, electric piano, synthesizer, vocoder, percussion

After the success of Bloody Tourists, and the artsy excess of Look Hear?, Eric Stewart and Graham Gouldman gave the rest of the band their walking papers, and recorded this album as a duo. Sounding fresh and energized, this was by far 10cc's best album since 1977's Deceptive Bends. Maintaining a mild case of the guirkiness of old, Stewart and Gouldman embrace some of their finest melodies on this release, allowing the songs to speak for themselves. "Don't Ask" is one of those great little pop songs that you think you've heard somewhere before, but haven't, and it should have been a massive single, but wasn't. "Memories," "Les Nouveaux Riches," and "Overdraft In Overdrive" all utilize a reggae backbeat, but are even more carefree than their 1978 single "Dreadlock Holiday!" Both members share the spotlight throughout, trading off lead and backing vocals with ease. Gouldman's vocals sound more confident than ever, while Stewart still sings like an angel (he'll melt your heart on "Don't Turn Me Away," and "Lying Here With You"). The only weak track in the bunch is the barroom blues track, "Listen With Your Eyes," which was probably written in their sleep. The U.K. and U.S. versions of the albums differ by a few tracks (the U.S. version replaces three songs with tracks recorded with Andrew Gold). Quite possibly the last great 10cc album, and certainly the last to sound like a true collaborative effort between Stewart and Gouldman. ---Steve "Spaz" Schnee, AllMusic Review

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