The Virginmarys - King of Conflict (2013)



01. Dead Man's Shoes 3:32 02. Portrait of Red 3:30 03. Just a Ride 3:16 04. Out of Mind 3:44 05. Bang Bang Bang 4:10 06. Lost Weekend 3:15 07. Running For My Life 4:12 08. Dressed To Kill 3:49 09. My Little Girl 3:11 10. Takin' the Blame 3:35 11. You've Got Your Money, I've Got My Soul 3:38 12. Ends Don't Mend (Includes Hidden Track) 14:42
Musicians: Ally Dickaty - Guitar/Vocals Danny Dolan - Drums Matt Rose - Bass/Vocals

With all the vigour of youth and the talent of aged rockers, The Virginmarys are a triumvirate of rock and blues offering their first studio album, King Of Conflict; some of the best 53 minutes of music thus far in 2013. Hold no doubt that this band deliver all the sound and atmosphere of a live performance through their debut album; serving a musical apprenticeship under the likes of Eagles of Death Metal and Ash these three boys from the unassuming ‘burbia of Macclesfield have earned their stripes.

Ally Dickaty’s vocals pierce each song coupled with simply impressive progressions; the illegitimate love child of Dave Grohl and Alex Turner, he has everything a frontman needs and leads the troupe effortlessly. King Of Conflict has no reservations and wastes no time in stating its case; lead single ‘Dead Man’s Shoes’ opens on a catchy riff and a strong rhythm. ‘Portrait of Red’ follows and shows the second layer to their writing; a more melodious affair with just as much gravel from all three instruments.

The relationship of Jack Bruce and Ginger Baker laid the foundation of psychedelic rockers Cream; in much the same way, Danny Dolan and Matt Rose showcase their skills on tracks such as ‘Lost Weekend’ and ‘Bang Bang Bang’. Production from Toby Jepson (Little Angels) is minute and wisely so; the power and prodigy of each song stating itself from the performance. The halfway mark arrives and it’s frustrating to say there is very little one could offer critique on; their strengths lie in song writing and performance and they claim no more. Lyrically songs such

as ‘Just A Ride’, ‘My Little Girl’ and the penultimate ‘You’ve Got Your Money, I’ve Got My Soul’ stand out the most.

King Of Conflict screams authenticity and makes a strong case for a top spot at summer festivals across Europe. The Virginmarys have made an exciting entrance to mainstream rock and while some will say, “it’s been done before” they need only reply, “yeah but we do it better”. ---Mark Roche, state.ie

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