

SongO'TheDay

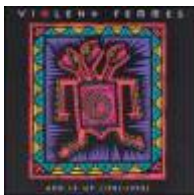
Music Write-Ups

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#106: "I Held Her in My Arms" by The Violent Femmes

Monday, May 28th, 2007 [review by zadriana]



from *Add It Up (1981-1993)* (1986 song)

▶ #106: "I Held Her in My Arms" by The Violent Femmes

Write-Up by zadriana

1995- One of my father's rugby players leaves a rack containing thirty CDs at my house after a party. I throw away *Toad the Wet Sprocket*. I throw away Pearl Jam's *Vitology* (I clearly had mixed taste in 1995 - I suppose this is still true). But there's one CD that has no label or case. It's red and black and I think it's pretty. (It's funny how so many of my major life decisions have taken into account the "but I think it's pretty" factor - too many for my own good.) So pretty, I thought. So good, once I listened to it all the way through. The Violent Femmes' *Add It Up*.

1998- I still listen to this album on repeat. Driving around in a fifteen year old beat up Mercedes that runs on Diesel and gerbils. I only use words I know how to spell.

2001- At a graduation, I find myself repeating the lines "Help me Lord/ Help me Understand/ what it means to be a boy/ what it means to be a man." It dawns on me that I am neither. I am surprisingly okay with this.

2003- After what may or may not have been a one night stand (technicalities and inebriation confound things), I actually say to someone "I can't even remember if we were lovers." The song pops into my head. I wonder if other people are wired this way. Is everyone's life an alternative folk-punk song?

2004- I dance to this song in a goth club in Miami, even though I hate Miami and everything for which it stands. Some guy I know dances to it like a ninja attacks. For some reason, five or six girls flock to him. I stare confused. No one flocks to me. I am wearing a halter top. This apparently makes no difference.

2007- On my way to meet a girl for an unpleasant confrontation (I talk shit sometimes, this gets me into trouble). I sing the song to myself. It makes me feel less like an idiot more like an undiscovered rock star.

I've spent a good portion of my life trying to find a replacement for something I never had. But at least this song makes me happy. And I can dance to it. So, you know, there's that.

-Adriana E. Ramirez

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Comments (3)

1. **shlepcar** wrote:

I know it's an insight to just how obsessive I can be about collecting music, but I'm really dying to know what the other 27 cds were in that rack. I'm glad you held onto the Violent Femmes.

I love your write-up! You're funny. I hope you post again soon.

I like that I'm also trying to figure out the story behind the confrontation.

May 29th, 2007, at 11:56 am <#>

2. **zadriana** wrote:

One of the CDs was Rage Against the Machine, for sure.

The story behind the confrontation is not so interesting. I got mad about something and vented to friend X about friend Y. Friend X then told friend Y everything I said, adding a bunch of vagueries that made friend Y think I was saying more than I did. So she got upset about my "shit talking" and scheduled a sit-down. It didn't go so well, as I refused to apologize. See... this story isn't so interesting. We made up and everything is okay now. And I've learned not to trust friend X, because... really.

May 29th, 2007, at 12:31 pm <#>

3. **transitmonger** wrote:

"I'm gnawing on the knowledge". Catchy! (and vaguely cannibalistic? I hear gnawing; I think femur.)

This song speaks to the craziness which is your life, Adri. Good pick.

May 30th, 2007, at 6:41 am <#>

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This review was written by zadriana as the Song O' the Day for Monday, May 28th, 2007, and was filed in [alternative](#), [college rock](#).

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