

High Fidelity

Discard List

by Sean McQuaid

Dionne Warwick
Friends Can Be Lovers
(BMG)

6.5

Before Whitney Houston, before Mariah Carey, the grandmammy of the soulful pop divas hit the charts with her very first single, "Don't Make Me Over", in 1963. Over thirty years later, Warwick is still churning out the tunes with her latest release, "Friends Can Be Lovers". The album is in many ways typical of the multiple Grammy-winner's past efforts, and there's nothing particularly ground-breaking or astonishing here. Still, it's a pleasant enough listen. The title song is a pretty harmless, seventies-ish, easy-listening effort and typical of the fairly upbeat, soulful love songs of the album, though Warwick tries to display her "naughty side" in the less than shockingly provocative "Where My Lips Have Been". Other noteworthy tunes include a cover of Sting's "Fragile", the mildly moving "I Sing at Dawn", and "Love Will Find a Way", a duet with Warwick's cousin, Whitney Houston, who imbues this tune with a bit more range and colour than some of the other vocals. The album in general is a relaxing pleasant bit of listening, good for drifting off to sleep with or just drifting off into space. Fun for the whole family.



Flowerhead
...ka BLOOM!
(BMG)

6

by gm

Flowerhead cannot be typed; it will not fit into any label. The music has the basic components of alternative rock (read: grunge); the vocal harmonies sound at times like the Grapes of Wrath; the lyrics are both self-searching and self-promoting; the lyric construction is, at times, much like the refrain techniques used by some heavy metal bands. My first thought was "Screaming Trees meet the Grapes of Wrath".

But ...*ka BLOOM!* is better than it looks on paper. Songs "Acid Reign" and "Oh Shane" experiment with song construction. The lyrics of other songs sound as if the group is attempting to write an anthem for today's real music fans (as opposed to Stan's techno-trash), but it won't happen. ...*ka BLOOM!* is good enough to buy in cassette form but may be a waste of money as a CD investment.

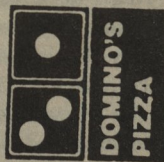


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