

Let's Talk Dusty!

The Ultimate Forum for Dusty Springfield Fans

Skip to content

[Advanced search](#)

Living Without Your Love

Post a reply

21 posts • Page **1** of **1**

Living Without Your Love (#p58268)

by **al14** » Mon May 30, 2011 3:20 pm

As I continue on my Dusty Springfield Journey, I just recently added " Living Without Your Love" to my collection.

LWYL is another illustration of Dusty's versatility.

On a previous thread, I agree entirely with Marcus' comments of Dusty's relaxed, jazzy, effortless version of "Closet Man." This is the best song on the album, in my opinion. "Be Somebody" is also excellent.

However, the final cut, "I'm Coming Home Again" is the most significant. ICHA was released in 1979. If my facts are correct, Dusty does not return "home" to England until 1989.

Given all of the trials and tribulations that affected Dusty in the US during this period, one must wonder why Dusty waited so long to return home.

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58285)

by **Clive** » Mon May 30, 2011 5:36 pm

I think Dusty wanted to come back to England as a success so once she had the PSB produced hits maybe it was easier to return.

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58288)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Mon May 30, 2011 6:16 pm

Dusty's voice seems to have "mellowed" in the time between *Cameo* and *It Begins Again* (with some clear vocal difficulties during the *Longing* sessions, although they still yielded some brilliant moments), and on *Living Without Your Love* it sounds as though she has grown into her "new" voice. I read that Dusty dismissed the album as "unstunning" but I must disagree - it may not be the most exciting record of her career but it is a pleasant listen from start to finish.

I still long to see a clear photo of the originally intended cover artwork when the album was slated to be titled *Never Trust A Man In A Rented Tuxedo* 😞

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58289)

by **trek007** » Mon May 30, 2011 7:09 pm

Living Without Your Love has grown on me over the years, but I have to admit when I bought it in vinyl when it first came out I was excited at a new Dusty album, but then disappointed when I first listened to it.

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58292)

by **al14** » Mon May 30, 2011 7:34 pm

Interesting observations. Clive, I agree that Dusty would have wanted to return to England as a "success" in her own mind. If she had the management and support in the US to promote her music, perhaps Dusty would have returned earlier. (I apologize for trying to answer my own question.)

Kyle, I also agree that Dusty was unable to appreciate her "new voice" and the excellence of LWYL. Unfortunately, Dusty was too critical of her work and it hurt her more than helped her.

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58305)

by **jeffery** » Tue May 31, 2011 6:12 am

al14 wrote:

Unfortunately, Dusty was too critical of her work and it hurt her more than helped her.

Self doubt. Hurts more than helps just about everyone, and I'll always wonder what was at the root of this for Dusty. 🤔🤔🤔

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58312)

by **trek007** » Tue May 31, 2011 8:24 am

I don't think Dusty was alone in having self doubt about her work . To my mind many actors and singers are like this .

Its an artistic trait. Some film actors for example never watch their own films .

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58364)

by **mnmcv1** » Tue May 31, 2011 3:33 pm

i posted a review on Amazon for LWYL a while back- i debated posting it here, as it's somewhat critical, but hey...why not. 😊

please don't pelt me with tomatoes after this. 🍆 Just my opinion, nothing more, nothing less. 😊

Great Voice, Mediocre Album..., July 27, 2010 (3 Stars out of 5)

This review is from: Living Without Your Love (Audio CD)

Dusty Springfield quickly followed up on her 1978 comeback album, *IT BEGINS AGAIN*, with *LIVING WITHOUT YOUR LOVE*. Unfortunately, it fared worse commercially than its predecessor. The album was barely promoted, and Dusty's label, United Artists was bought out shortly thereafter.

However, while *IT BEGINS AGAIN* was an ambitious (if not altogether successful) project that is remembered favorably, *LIVING WITHOUT YOUR LOVE* is a decidedly lesser effort, lacking in focus or panache. While the main criticism of *IBA* is usually that it is overproduced, *LWYL*, with novice producer David Wolfert at the helm, seems lacking in that same area. The songs vary greatly in quality (both in the writing and in the execution), and as a result, the album as a whole comes across as uninspired. Dusty herself later referred to it as "unstunning".

The album kicks off with a cover of Smokey Robinson's "You Got Really Got a Hold on Me", which is pleasant (and features a decent vocal from Dusty) but suffers the same problem that plagued the sole Motown cover from her last album ("A Love Like Yours")- the production is too polished; not enough grit.

the second song, "You Can Do It" is another pleasant number, a midtempo, light R&B entry which features a notable horn arrangement, but seems to be lacking something, mainly in the chorus. The next song is Melissa Manchester's "Be Somebody", a slower bit of AC which is one of the better entries on the album, with Dusty delivering a compelling performance.

"Closet Man" is probably the most interesting song here- not so much because of the curious lyric (co-written by David Foster!) of a woman encouraging her secretly-gay friend to "come out into the light", but because of an irresistible arrangement, resplendent with jazzy nuances and heavy shades of the Quiet Storm sound that ruled late-night R&B radio at the time (compare the production on this with another blue-eyed soul classic, Bobby Caldwell's "What You Won't Do For Love").

The title track is in the middle of the album (it closed out side 1 on vinyl), and it's another album highlight- nothing particularly brilliant, but definitely a commercial number, uptempo and catchy, and Dusty glides along with the chorus. It would've fit comfortably alongside other light R&B/disco/AC hybrids that were ruling the airwaves at the time.

The second half of the album takes a nosedive, with "Save Me, Save Me" leading things off. If nothing else, you can usually expect a nice melody- or a bit of clever wordplay- from a Barry Gibb/Alby Galuten composition, but there's none of that here. It's a disco number that fails to be energetic or memorable, with Dusty sounding uneasy at times. Honestly, it's a lousy song.

Things get pretty sleepy from here on. "Get Yourself to Love" starts out nicely, then stumbles into a dreary pseudo-gospel mess. "I Just Fall in Love Again"- a huge hit less than a year later for Anne Murray- suffers from another pleasant-but-bland production. The song is also done in an odd-key, higher than Murray's version, which would've been perfect for Dusty's husky tones. "Dream On" is an innocuous Carole Bayer Sager trifle, but can be a bit irritating at times.

The closing song, "I'm Coming Home Again" (another Bayer Sager composition, and the leadoff single in Dusty's native UK) is a big improvement, even if it's too plodding for commercial consideration as a single. Dusty is touching on the track, but too much of the preceding selections have been forgettable for this number to salvage the album.

As for Dusty herself, she has some great vocal moments throughout but, saddled with second rate material too often, even she can't rescue some of this stuff.

After this album died a dismal death, Dusty stammered a bit, landing on Casablanca in 1982 with WHITE HEAT, another commercial disappointment, but a MUCH more exciting, compelling album than this.

It's not terrible, but aside from a couple of truly great highlights, there's not enough in LIVING WITHOUT YOUR LOVE to make it a must-listen.

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58383)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Tue May 31, 2011 4:48 pm

What a thoughtfully written and rather honest review 🤔

I disagree regarding "I Just Fall In Love Again" though, as I feel the key change brings out a different emotion from the song. I also enjoy the bit of schmaltz factor in the production, but then again I am a sucker for the schmaltz *lol*

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58384)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Tue May 31, 2011 4:53 pm

What a shame the reissued CD of the album did not contain any bonus material, as they had several non-album tracks from around the LWYL era to consider - "Your Love Still Brings Me To My Knees", "Baby Blue" (the 7" version is hard-to-find on CD), "Give Me The Night", "I Wish That Love Would Last", "I Don't Want To Hear It Anymore" (Love & Money version, if it exists without the movie sound effects). Perhaps the powers-that-be also felt the album was a lazy effort and thus thought a reissue ought to maintain the same spirit!

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58390)

by **mnmcv1** » Tue May 31, 2011 5:36 pm

Kyles Beguiles wrote:

What a thoughtfully written and rather honest review 🤔

I disagree regarding "I Just Fall In Love Again" though, as I feel the key change brings out a different emotion from the song. I also enjoy the bit of schmaltz factor in the production, but then again I am a sucker for the schmaltz *lol*

What a shame the reissued CD of the album did not contain any bonus material, as they had several non-album tracks from around the LWYL era to consider - "Your Love Still Brings Me To My Knees", "Baby Blue" (the 7" version is hard-to-find on CD), "Give Me The Night", "I Wish That Love Would Last", "I Don't Want To Hear It Anymore" (Love & Money version, if it exists without the movie sound effects). Perhaps the powers-that-be also felt the album was a lazy effort and thus thought a reissue ought to maintain the same spirit!

thanks Joe. I understand what you mean about IJFILA (trust me, nobody likes some good old fashioned schmaltz as much as i do 😊). Maybe it's the familiarity of Murray's version, since i grew up with that. I don't know why... something about it just doesn't move me. 😞

I think Taylor will also respectfully disagree with my thoughts on "Save Me, Save Me". 😊

PS- the CD issues of IBA, LWYL and WH were all bare bone (save for the liner notes); i think the only bonus cut on any of them was Tom Moulton's 12" mix of "That's the Kind of Love I've Got For You". It would've been a great idea to include some of the songs you mentioned on LWYL (I think "Let Me Love you Once Before You Go", "Give Me the Night" and "You Set My Dreams to Music" would've fit nicely as bonus songs on IBA as well).

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58410)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Tue May 31, 2011 11:16 pm

On my iPod I filed "Let Me Love You...", "You Set My Dreams...", "I Am Your Child" (United Artists 1977 version), and "Give Me The Night" as tracks 10, 11, 12, and 13 of *It Begins Again* (bumping the US Disco DJ's 12" mix of "That's the Kind of Love..." to track 14 🎧) and "...Knees", "Baby Blue" (7" Version), "It Goes Like It Goes", and "I Wish That Love Would Last" as tracks 11 through 14 of *Living Without Your Love*. As those tracks were non-LP/one-offs recorded around each era, I thought attaching them to their corresponding album was a nice fit 🍏

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58411)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Tue May 31, 2011 11:18 pm

nmncv1 wrote:

trust me, nobody likes some good old fashioned schmaltz as much as i do 😊

It was all the Barry Manilow records my fifth grade teacher used to play... they left an indelible mark on my music consciousness! Add to it Dionne Warwick's tenure with Arista Records and I was destined for a life of schmaltz appreciation *haha*

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58412)

by **nmncv1** » Tue May 31, 2011 11:39 pm

Kyles Beguiles wrote:

nmncv1 wrote:

trust me, nobody likes some good old fashioned schmaltz as much as i do 😊

It was all the Barry Manilow records my fifth grade teacher used to play... they left an indelible mark on my music consciousness! Add to it Dionne Warwick's tenure with Arista Records and I was destined for a life of schmaltz appreciation *haha*

okay, then we both grew up in Schmaltzy-MOR paradise (or hell, depending on one's taste...lol) i grew up with the "soft rock" station playing Manilow ("Ready to Take a Chance Again") Melissa Manchester ("Don't Cry Out Loud") Christopher Cross ("Arthur's Theme (The Best That You Can Do)") Dionne Warwick ("No Night So Long") Paul Davis ("I Go Crazy") Rita Coolidge ("We're All Alone") of course, Diana Ross ("It's My Turn") and on and on.

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58415)

by **Kyles Beguiles** » Wed Jun 01, 2011 1:28 am

Bless! I can only imagine what Dusty could have done with a track like "No Night So Long" when her voice was at its peak.

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58416)

by **jeffery** » Wed Jun 01, 2011 5:11 am

😊 The scmltziest Manilow are his "Jingles".

Wrigley's gum (double your pleasure double your fun with double good, double good doublemint gum)

and: 😊

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p58449)

by **Corinna** » Wed Jun 01, 2011 10:45 am

You did an excellent job with your review, Markus. I really enjoyed reading it, esp. the background facts and nods to IBA. Thanks also for explaining the schmaltz-factor. I remember having a hard time finding an enjoyable radio station back then! 😊

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p59411)

by **MissDustyFanatic** » Wed Jun 08, 2011 9:21 am

mnmcv1 wrote:

I think Taylor will also respectfully disagree with my thoughts on "Save Me, Save Me". 😊

Spot on there, Markus 😊

I've never understood the dislike leveled at this song... it's got more energy and passion in it than pretty much *every other song* on the album. I think it's rather adventurous the way the tempo of the lyrics changes within the choruses themselves. It seems to me that the structure of the song as a whole thrives on the constant tempo changes; it's quite aurally interesting, and to me anyway, is one of my favorite performances on the whole album.

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p59668)by **mnmcv1** » Thu Jun 09, 2011 9:56 pm**MissDustyFanatic wrote:****mnmcv1 wrote:**

I think Taylor will also respectfully disagree with my thoughts on "Save Me, Save Me". 😊

Spot on there, Markus 😊

I've never understood the dislike leveled at this song... it's got more energy and passion in it than pretty much *every other song* on the album. I think it's rather adventurous the way the tempo of the lyrics changes within the choruses themselves. It seems to me that the structure of the song as a whole thrives on the constant tempo changes; it's quite aurally interesting, and to me anyway, is one of my favorite performances on the whole album.

you know what i think let's me down about "Save Me, Save Me", Taylor? It's a Barry Gibb/Albhy Galuten composition!!! These guys put together so many great songs...and i learned about this song before buying LWYL. Major disappointment...but maybe i'm being too hard on the song *because* of its pedigree. Maybe it's not "lousy" (and there's certainly other songs on the album that i like *less*)...but i dont think it'll ever be anything more than just mediocre for me. Time will tell. 😊😎

Top


Re: Living Without Your Love (#p59679)by **terri** » Fri Jun 10, 2011 3:39 am**mnmcv1 wrote:****Kyles Beguiles wrote:****mnmcv1 wrote:**

trust me, nobody likes some good old fashioned schmaltz as much as i do 😊

It was all the Barry Manilow records my fifth grade teacher used to play... they left an indelible mark on my music consciousness! Add to it Dionne Warwick's tenure with Arista Records and I was destined for a life of schmaltz appreciation *haha*

okay, then we both grew up in Schmaltzy-MOR paradise (or hell, depending on one's taste...lol)

i grew up with the "soft rock" station playing Manilow ("Ready to Take a Chance Again") Melissa Manchester ("Don't Cry Out Loud") Christopher Cross ("Arthur's Theme (The Best That You Can Do)") Dionne Warwick ("No Night So Long") Paul Davis ("I Go Crazy") Rita Coolidge ("We're All Alone") of course, Diana Ross ("It's My Turn") and on and on.

I love and fell in love to many of these songs and they still are beautiful to me! 

Top

Re: Living Without Your Love (#p59799)


by **Kyles Beguiles** » Fri Jun 10, 2011 6:19 pm

terri wrote:

mnmcv1 wrote:

okay, then we both grew up in Schmaltzy-MOR paradise (or hell, depending on one's taste...lol)

i grew up with the "soft rock" station playing Manilow ("Ready to Take a Chance Again") Melissa Manchester ("Don't Cry Out Loud") Christopher Cross ("Arthur's Theme (The Best That You Can Do)") Dionne Warwick ("No Night So Long") Paul Davis ("I Go Crazy") Rita Coolidge ("We're All Alone") of course, Diana Ross ("It's My Turn") and on and on.

I love and fell in love to many of these songs and they still are beautiful to me! 

You have great taste then, Terri!

Top

Display posts from previous: All posts Sort by Post time Ascending Go

Post a reply

21 posts • Page **1** of **1**

Return to You Set My Dreams To Music

Jump to:

Who is online

Users browsing this forum: Google [Bot] and 13 guests

Powered by phpBB® Forum Software © phpBB Group :: Style: L_Antre