

Amy Winehouse || Lioness: Hidden Treasures

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Amy Winehouse

Lioness: Hidden Treasures

Label: Island/Lioness Records

Released on: December 6th, 2011

Grade: 5 out of 5 meatballs

Reviewed by: Lindsey Shaw

When I heard the news of Amy Winehouse passing away from an overdose, I was devastated as any legitimate fan would be. I found myself hiccup crying as if a friend from middle school had been taken too soon. My mom was visiting that weekend and consoled me, knowing how much I loved the artist and incomparable voice that was Winehouse. Sniffing and YouTubeing my favorite songs by Amy, I took a mental back step thinking, "Why am I this thrown by the death of a famous person I never really knew?" The answer was simple. I was shedding tears in mourning a girl who spoke to me through lyrics, allowing me to draw a parallel between her heartaches and my own.



Although she'd never know how her break-ups and struggles with addiction would touch my personal mishaps as a young woman, I trust Amy predicted she'd provide comfort through song to those she'd never meet face to face. That's what makes her such a memorable star.

Opening *Lioness: Hidden Treasures* with her thematic homage to the era of "doo wop," Amy's cover of "Our Day Will Come" sets the irresistible vintage tone of this album. Venturing further into the blues time capsule that Winehouse always impeccably crooned through, she musically describes quests for love and the heartache once it's lost. It's tracks like "Between The Cheats" and a slower, more harmonized version of her hit "Tears Dry On Their Own" that remind us she had a sheer talent to take an old sound and effortlessly modernize it with an appropriate placement of the "f" word and her inimitable rasp and range.

Straddling the era that gave Amy a stage to celebrate and build on, and a new age pop only a voice box like hers could create, the album vacillates between miraculous covers like "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" and original tracks such as "Like Smoke" featuring Nas.

The songs seamlessly flow in and out of one another to revisit a time that inspired and fed a young icon, as well as to showcase an incendiary sound sculpted from Amy's personal plights to make something triumphant in musical history.

Fittingly, the album wraps with "A Song For You." I couldn't help but see the song as an eternal hand wave from a girl that, while a victim of self-infliction, was capable of reaching so many fellow broken, hopeful hearts by simply opening her mouth and sharing her gift. Amy, you'll be missed and thank you for leaving us with this.