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RECORD REVIEWS, JULY-DECEMBER 2021.

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## RECORD REVIEWS, JULY-DECEMBER 2021.

[THE BOYS. Terminal Love LP](#)



that status, but this was the record that showed that they were just as capable and creative in the studio. If you haven't heard this album for a while, this is an ideal time to listen to it again and appreciate how well it's aged. And with all the bonus goodies, this is a reissue that you can't afford to miss!

### **PARTY DAY. Sorted! CD (Optic Nerve)**

There was a period of time in the early Eighties when a lot of very interesting bands suddenly started to appear from Northern towns like Sheffield, Bradford and Leeds. Taking their inspiration from Punks' DIY approach and the more eclectic sounds of bands like Wire, Joy Division, The Cure and Siouxsie & the Banshees, new groups like Southern Death Cult, The Chameleons and Red Lorry Yellow Lorry all took 'rock' music but turned it in new directions, often allowing more space in their music and developing the arrangement of songs in more imaginative and dramatic ways. There was often more emphasis on the rhythm section, making much of the music highly danceable despite the often unusual style. Party Day emerged from Barnsley during this period of time and were very much

an important part of the scene despite not receiving the same level of success that some of their contemporaries achieved. Regardless, interest in the band has continued to grow and their records (most of which were released on their own label) have remained popular, resulting in original copies becoming much sought-after. This double CD is the first time the original material has been released on this format, gathering together all of their original releases (two 7" singles, the 'Glasshouse' EP, and the two albums, 'Glasshouse' and 'Simplicity') as well as tracks from compilations and previously unreleased material. It's a collection that long-time fans and those new to the band have been waiting for, with the tracks re-mastered and sounding better than ever. Much played and supported by John Peel, the band quickly built-up a reputation both for their recordings and as a live-band. Indeed, reviews at the time often mentioned their well-balanced mix of melancholic themes with catchy melodies and the snarling delivery of primal punk rock. Original guitarist/vocalist Martin Steele left the band shortly after their first album due to health issues, but with Dean Pickett taking his place they retained their momentum and produced a second album, 'Simplicity', which displayed further development whilst maintaining the elements that under-scored their originality. They continued until 1988, making demos and plans for a third album, but sadly they split-up before it could be completed. In retrospect, the band have been inaccurately placed into the 'goth' genre, but don't let this put you off because what they were doing was much more in line with what is now called 'post-punk'. Admittedly, some elements of what they were doing musically were later adopted by bands that were too awful to be mentioned here, but you shouldn't blame the real innovators for the dross that may have come along after them. Party Day wrote and performed songs that were powerful, catchy and atmospheric, rock music that really didn't want to sound like anyone else. As a result, you can listen to it now, more than 35 years later, and it still sounds fresh. I must admit, I was actually surprised just how good this album sounds. Do yourself a favour – get a copy, listen to it, and prepare to be impressed.

**THE PIRANHAS. The Complete Collection CD box-set (Anagram)** The Piranhas originally formed in Brighton during 1977, but instead of following the

## PARTY DAY



## SORTED!