



Bitter Springs: Gary Glitter Fan Club Convention

Reviewed By: [Dixie Ernill](#)

Label: Harvery Records

Format: 7"



I've been banging on about how good the Bitter Springs are for years, and if there was any musical justice in this world then they would no longer be hidden in the shade, but be lying spread eagled on a lounge by the pool enjoying their rightful place in the sun. Sadly the likes of X-Factor continue to brain wash the public, making the emergence of genuine organic talent all the more difficult.

It goes without saying that the two songs here are top draw, fully loaded with Simon Rivers' excellent lyrics as usual. Despite the title of the first track, it is actually a sad song about breaking up, featuring such clever lines as "Think you're the only one with baggage/Look there's no room round the carousel", that is turned into an upbeat 'Dexy's' stomp by indie veteran Terry Edwards' wonderful brass accompaniment.

The second track is even more downbeat as Rivers delivers a ballad very much in the style of Stephen Fretwell or I Am Kloot with simple acoustic guitar backing. It's the Sunday morning to opening track's Saturday night and absolutely ace.

There's some live dates in the Autumn and an LP round the corner called 'Everyone's Cup Of Tea', which I guarantee you will be as good as anything you'll hear this year. Until then buy this.

MUDKISS FANZINE

NOTHING PLACES AND CELLOPHANE SOUNDS – DEN BROWNE OD'S ON SUEDE AND THRILLS TO BITTER SPRINGS

Bitter Springs: *Gary Glitter fan Convention / Free to Kill Again* (Harvey Records/ digital download)

Suede: *Suede, Dog Man Star, Coming Up, Head Music* (Edsel Music - 3 cd versions, with demo tracks, b-sides, rarities, videos, interviews and live footage, sleeve notes from Brett Anderson etc)

Augustus Pablo: *Message Music: digital productions 1986-1994* (Pressure Sounds)



Before we get to the main course, there's a tasty starter (don't worry, no more culinary metaphors, promise!) in the form of the latest **Bitter Springs** single. The a-side's title – '*Gary Glitter Fan Convention*' - is likely to catch your attention on its own. The phrase looks to be crying out to be absorbed into our daily lingo - "*mate, you'd get more people at a Gary Glitter fan convention*" - but as always with Simon Rivers' songs, there's plenty going on, lyrically and musically. The song's a rousing stomp-along, enhanced by lively backing vocals and Terry Edwards' sax and trumpets, with a classic soul feel. As always there's probably more happening here than I've caught up with so far, (it's taken me till now to spot the cheeky/blink-and-you've-missed-it "Nah! Not at all!" chorus/tribute to Television" promised in the flier). Anyway, to these ears, it continues the themes of the last two singles, '*My Life as a Dog*' and '*TV Tears*', in looking at our connection with media and the vicarious substitute relationships we build with remote and marginally 'real' stars, but there's also a personal relationship dimension here - "Think you're the only one with baggage/ Look there's no room round the carousel". There's an outrageous pun (some might say gratuitous, but it's too good to leave out) around "Billingsgate" and the word "selfish" Anyway, it's another tantalising taster for the long-awaited Bitter Springs album, '*Everyone's Cup of Tea*'. B-side '*Free to Kill Again*' is a total contrast, being a slow acoustic song, a ghostly solo ballad of Simon's with suitably spectral backing vocals from Beatrice Rose Loft Schulz. It's got a dark and desolate 3-in-the-morning vibe - "*I've hidden my tablets under the mattress, and I'm free to kill again*" and one that needs more listening to be honest before I really know what's going on here.

Amazon Review



Customer Reviews

The Bitter Springs

Gary Glitter Fan Convention

5.0 out of 5 stars **explosive sixties style foot stomper**, 24 July 2011

By

R. Cooper - [See all my reviews](#)

(REAL NAME)

This review is from: Gary Glitter Fan Convention (MP3 Download)

The Bitter Springs 13th single with some really fine explosive sax here from Terry Edwards & a spirited 60s type stomping energetic attack on this unusually titled track. Simon Rivers gets all emotional about the complexities of love with the lyrics "There'll be more chance of another Gary Glitter fan convention" which means probably most unlikely - continuing with love's inexplicable questions Simon states "my heart was broken long before I met you". Reminds of Lou Stonebridge & The Dance Band from the early 80s. Virtual flip 'Free To Kill Again' is an acoustic gentle sad piece with some inspiration thru the haunting voice of Beatrice - creates a fine distillation to 'GGFC'.