



Darrell Scott **"The Invisible Man"** Full Light Records

Scott launches the sixth recording to bear his name [one was a duet set with pal Tom O'Brien], with the upbeat "Hank Williams' Ghost" wherein, it seems, the main character is full of *"Rage and angst hillbilly sins,"* that *"Have an odour all their own."* At the close of the final chorus Scott reveals *"We hurt the ones we love the most, And we blame it on Hank Williams' ghost."* Native American chanting is heard midway through "There's A Stone Around My Belly," while the 'stream of consciousness' lyric pointedly relates, *"Jesus was a carpenter" who "built his church without walls"* then adds *"And we brought him to his knees in this world."* In subsequent verses *"angels long for the world,"* there's mention of a *"cabin in Kentucky"* [Scott's birthplace], pushing *"the stone up a mountain"* and in closing Scott name checks poets Walt Whitman and Robert Frost.

Co-written by Darrell's buddy, the late Stuart Adamson [d. December 2001] [+] and Jerry Boonstra, "Shattered Cross" is the only cover song here. A tale from the dark side of life, it includes the 'music business' allusion – or is that illusion? - *"Your life won't amount to a bottle of smoke, Oh, you never make deals with a guy named Doc."* For the ordinary citizen "I'm Nobody" is a 'pulls no punches' allegorical attack on the end result of politicians and their politicking. That is, once you've transcended one of a couple of intentionally off the wall segments of lyric – for instance, *"And when I die don't bury me out to sea, Don't give me a 21 gun salute, You'll just scare the birds and the bees, Just tie my naked body to a rocketship, And when I'm blazing through the atmosphere, Close your eyes and make a wish, For world peace....."* In the main, subjectively, this number compares the wealth [and poverty] of the western world – read U.S.A. - with the unremitting poverty of the third world.

"With my head in a song and song in my head" the narrator in "And The River Is Me," who has *"Been singing for a living, Back and forth across America"* takes stock of his life. I'm still trying to figure out if "Let's Call It A Life" is intentionally tongue-in-cheek. As for "The Dreamer" that's the ne'er do well James Butler who left to seek his fortune in silver and turquoise in Colorado, while *"his lady in waitin'"* Suzanne found love and happiness in the arms of another. The hard rockin' "Do It Or Die Trying" was penned with Verlon Thompson, the lyric to the album title cut invokes spiritual images, as do a few other songs here - sic. the opening verse of "Goodle, USA" [pronounced 'Good Old U.S.A.'] – *"What if no one would kill for their religion, What if armies had a bake sale for their wars, What if the children of the world made world decisions, And paint-by-number wasn't even hangin' around anymore."* The latter politically barbed number was covered by Faith Hill on **"Fireflies"** [2005] under the title "We've Got Nothing But Love to Prove." The 'with strings' treatment of the reflective penultimate cut "Looking Glass" is reminiscent of Randy Newman's "I Think It's Going To Rain Today." In closing "In My Final Hour" once more employs spiritually infused words, as evidenced by the initial *"In my final hour when I'm looking at the end, When I climb that lonely tower, Will Jesus be my friend? Will the devil be my friend? Will you?"*

Some of the songs here are commercially slick [hell, he's an acknowledged Country hit songwriter, albeit one from the left field], some are inaccessibly 'too clever' while others possess redeemable qualities. Sadly, some of the latter are also swamped by the production – be it the chorus of chirping female backing vocalists or the all-star legion of support players. The latter include, upright bassist Danny Thompson [Richard Thompson, Rod Stewart], drummer Kenny Malone [J. J. Cale, Johnny Cash], guitarist Richard Bennett [Emmylou Harris, Mark Knopfler], pedal steel/electric guitarist Dan Dugmore [John Stewart], John Cowan [vocals] and Sam Bush [mandolin] from New Grass Revival, vocalists Jonell Moser and Suzi Ragsdale, and keyboard player Gabe Dixon [Paul McCartney]. Less can be more.....

Note.

[+] – Manchester born, and Scottish based, Adamson enjoyed a successful pop career with The Skids, with Richard Jobson, and later founded Big Country. He did by his own hand.

Folkwax Score 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 07/06.