

POP TOP 10

Best-selling singles of the week:

1. "End Of The Road," Boys II Men
2. "Sometimes Love Just Ain't Enough," Patty Smyth/Don Henley
3. "Humpin' Around," Bobby Brown
4. "Baby-Baby-Baby," TLC
5. "Jump Around," House Of Pain
6. "She's Playing Hard To Get," Hi-Five
7. "Please Don't Go," K.W.S.
8. "Do I Have To Say The Words," Bryan Adams
9. "People Everyday," Arrested Development
10. "Just Another Day," John Secada

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Clapton shines on acoustic release

Reviews



Singer at best when unplugged

Eric Clapton "Eric Clapton Unplugged" Reprise Records

"Eric Clapton Unplugged," the compact disc for which fans begged, has been released by MTV Networks on Reprise Records.

Clapton picks, plays, strums and slides through 14 selections of previously released recordings.

"Unplugged" shines a new light on the legendary British guitarist whose days of yore began in the 1960s when he played with the Yardbirds, Cream, the short-lived super group Blind Faith, and Derek and the Dominoes.

Listeners either will love this compilation of Clapton's acoustic blues melodies or won't. It's hard to believe a few reviewers actually have turned their thumbs down and noses up when they plugged in "Unplugged."

Old die-hard rockers and rollers might remember that Bob Dylan was booed when he first showed up on stage exchanging his folksy format for an electric sound. Reviewers hated that, too.

But it was still undeniably Dylan's voice, just as Clapton's "Unplugged" is undeniably Clapton's blues, whether electric or acoustic.

Clapton's guitar playing, influenced by early American rhythm and blues artists, also borderlines the style of John Mayall, as evidenced in the last and fast track of "Rollin' and

Tumblin'" on "Unplugged." "Tears in Heaven," featured on the soundtrack of "Rush," captures the goosebump chill of Clapton's sensitivity.

The song evolved after his young son, Connor, died. A short time before Connor's death, Clapton's friend and frequent touring companion, Stevie Ray Vaughn, was killed in a plane crash.

Clapton's "Tears" lyrics pose questions many of us ask after experiencing the loss of someone close.

"Would you know my name if I saw you in heaven?/Would it be the same if I saw you in heaven?/I must be strong and carry on 'cause I know I don't belong here in heaven/Would you hold my hand if I saw you in heaven?/Would you help me stand if I saw you in heaven?/I'll find my way through night and day 'cause I know I just can't stay here in heaven."

Another song, now receiving air play, along with "Tears in Heaven," is Clapton's unplugged version of "Layla." His quiet, Clapton finesse with laid-back vocals and guitar playing, almost renders "Layla" unrecognizable from the original screaming electric version, released in the days of Derek and the Dominoes.

"Old Love" deceptively starts with runs reminiscent of "Layla," but incorporates Clapton's fancier fretwork, at times similar to Spanish or classical guitar playing.

On the lighter side of "Unplugged," the track, "San Francisco Bay Blues" is a happy, hand-clapping tune featuring a kazoo, the instrument mimicking the lip-tickling sound of wax paper on a comb.

"Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out," fixes on the



Courtesy of Reprise Records
Eric Clapton's latest release, "Eric Clapton Unplugged," is a compilation of tunes from Clapton's MTV performance of the same name.

blues style of the '50s and early '60s. The subject is money — either you have it or you don't, and if you do, you can count on everybody being your friend.

His other "unplugged" songs include a short instrumental, "Signe," "Hey, Hey," "Running on Faith," "Walkin' Blues," "Malted Milk" and the slow, cool tune, "Lonely Stranger."

The beauty of hearing Clapton unplugged is the chance to listen to his

voice undistorted. Clapton's true quality and range is sometimes overlooked or overstretched when he's competing to be heard above electric guitars.

Two prime examples of his vocals on "Unplugged" are "Alberta" and "Before You Accuse Me."

So, whether listeners are sold on Clapton's acoustic style or not, "Unplugged" is unforgettable.

-Jill O'Brien

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Tale showcases author's talent



"A Plague of Change" L. Warren Douglas Del Rey Discovery Books

By Sam Kepfield Staff Reporter

Del Rey has begun their "discovery" line, showcasing new authors, usually with first novels. So far, from L. Warren Douglas and the several others out, it's a good addition to an already prestigious label.

"A Plague of Change" takes a few familiar themes and wraps them to-

gether to form a stunning new item. Bass Cannon is the ne'er do well scion of a rich Founding Family on Cannon's Orb. After tom-cating his way through adolescence, he is sent off to a military academy, where his talent for interfacing with computers through a device called a "Hat" is discovered.

No sooner does he return to his home world after graduation than is he shanghaied by jealous friends, placed on a lightspeed freighter in indentured servitude. He makes himself invaluable to the captain and earns a neat nest egg after he is let off.

Enter the psalta, inhabitants of Phastillan — repulsive creatures who exude pheromones for communication. Human traders want to have as little to do with them as possible.

Bass, however, is hired by the psalta as a computer expert to install a planetary computer system and train operators. He quickly rises in rank and esteem for his abilities.

It is surprising then, when he is

framed for an embezzlement scheme involving heavy metals. In exile, though, he learns even more and devises a solution to ensure the survival of Phastillan.

To survive and to expand, humans and psalta must learn to work as one, to become one culture.

The trans-Reef planets are dying because humanity is overextended, letting all its pathologies run wild. Whole planets are depopulated, and pirates rule large swaths of known space. They take over Phastillan and settle in for a long stay.

Cannon's solution is sly. I won't give it away here except to say that it involves pheromones and the unusual effect that psalta pheromones have on human libido.

"A Plague of Change" is brainy and clever with plenty of science thrown in to make it believable, but not so much as to detract from the characters, well-drawn all. Douglas is an author to watch.

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HP's story time

HP Hovercraft of the Dead Milkmen reads about Michael Jackson from the book "Rock Report" Saturday in the Nebraska Union. Hovercraft said the book was full of Christian reasons to not listen to bands.

Jeff Hallor/DN