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**THREE MERRY WIDOWS Which Dreamed It? (TVT, 23 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10003/212-979-6410)** – Lyrical and folksy, the Three Merry Widows' debut embraces a rock age long gone by, not settling for established pop formulas but instead blazing through an hour's worth of rhythmically and loosely concerted pop melodies. Like a more rock 'n roll Edie Brickell & The New Bohemians, this quintet composes their songs around an acoustic base, add a rhythm sound from the bass and drums and layer an ever-present guitar hum that winds and circles without falling into any neo-psychedelic potholes. The cherry on top is the harmonies created between guitarist Sean Garcia and the powerfully larynxed Alice Spencer – the words flow from her lips as fluently as a gentle good-night kiss, yet you still remember it long after you've gone to sleep. A total group effort – they all share songwriting duties – the Widows go deep without going off the deep end, giving St. Louis something else besides Budweiser to put it on the map. **Which Dreamed It?** Try "Black Halo," "The Other Side," "Rejected," "Solucinations," and "When Will I Believe."

# ROCKPOOL

April 15, 1991 Volume 13 Issue 259

## ALBUMS

### **3 Merry Widows** Which Dreamed It TVT

3 Merry Widows have many reasons to be merry, but the overwhelming reason is Alice Spencer. Her voice comes at you with the force of a battering ram manned by an army of ancient warriors. Alice can soar like an early Grace Slick and she packs a Joplin-esque gutsy bluesy punch. Alice and her amazing voice front a band that has pasted together a bewitching collage of sound and texture for their debut *Which Dreamed It* (producer **Peter Henderson** helped, too). The Widows brandish their chiming, ringing guitar hook-laden melodies like broadswords. Sometimes they echo full of Renaissance / Appalachian folksie flavor as on "Rejected", "Awaken", and particularly "Relevance". Other times they whirl in an electric / acoustic combination on such gems as "The Winter Seems Too Long", "Black Halo", and "The Other Side". And of course there's Alice, her voice and her phrasing – it's all very enchanting. Very merry indeed. (23 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC 10003)

Dianne Pine

# HIGH TIMES

DECEMBER 1991 Number 196

## *WHICH DREAMED IT?*

Three Merry Widows  
(TVT Records)



Three Merry Widows changed my life. I know I said the same thing about Marc Bolan when I was 15, and I'm sure I meant it at the time. But Bolan only taught me about sex. Three Merry Widows got me laid.

The night was hot, moist and August. My downstairs neighbor, the cute brunette with the legs, ignored me yet again. I'd noticed her long ago, even before my girlfriend and I split. I had tried to talk to this girl, but I would have needed three arms to get her attention.

That is, until that fateful night. Work was a bitch, so I rolled myself a fatty as soon as I got home. My officemate, a longhaired ad writer, had given me a Three Merry Widows CD that day. We like the same music, and he wanted my unbiased opinion. I dropped in the disk and after a few songs (and a few hits), I started to feel OK. After a few more songs, I knew I must be smiling for a reason. The band sounded like angels. Then I heard a knock at my door. "Which Dreamed It?" she asked,

looking a lot like an angel herself in a just-long-enough white T-shirt.

"Huh?" I responded stupidly.

"The CD. Three Merry Widows," she said. "It's called 'Which Dreamed It?'" I couldn't help noticing the way her lips slid across her teeth. I knew then I'd agree with anything she had to say as long as the night lasted.

Most of what she said was about the band. She couldn't understand why they weren't huge. Girl singer, the best. Psychedelic twang, she raved, the best. Hypnotic, grinding, sensual. She definitely used the word "passionate" a whole bunch of times. All I did was nod, smile, pass the joint and try to kiss her when the mood was right.

That happened during "Black Halo." The song is short; the kiss was long. She didn't seem to mind. Maybe now you might understand what I mean when I say that Three Merry Widows changed my life. Wish I could say the same thing for Guns 'N Roses.

*-Glenn Frankel*