



The 4tify Songbook: Lyrics & More

10/2012

About ANNA1 and 4tify

ANNA1 are a four-piece rock band from Alsdorf, a small town near Aachen (Germany). They formed in 1983 as a teachers' band at Alsdorf grammar school, but have undergone numerous changes in personnel and musical style since then. Yet the two founders Dieter Handke (drums, vocals) and Jan Lethen (bass, guitar, vocals) have been the heart and soul of the various line-ups for nearly three decades. Dirk Remmler (guitar, vocals, drums) and Jörn Prochnow (vocals, guitar, bass) joined the band in 1992 (1998, respectively).

The band's style has been referred to as "coal rock" or "miners' rock", reflecting both their geographic origin (Alsdorf is located in a former mining region) and their approach to rock music: hand-crafted, hearty, without frills. ANNA1 have never covered a song, and they never will.

„4tify“, their second full length album, is released in 2012. It features nine songs written between 2006 and 2011, and a re-recorded version of "Lovers Corner" (originally released on the demo „Why“ in 1995), comprising hard rock riffs, balladesque hook lines, and vanguard moments of fun, weirdness, and irony. 4tify is limited to 100 copies and available via email-order (info@anna1-online.de, for 5€ plus packaging and shipping).



Tracks

01 Rotten Girlfriends 04:24

This track draws its inspiration from the plot of a short story by E.A. Poe, yet our protagonist even surpasses the famous author in his ingenuity by the fact that he not only rids himself of his spouses but profits from the carcasses as a fertilizer in backyard composting. The problem is space is limited ...

02 Blue Chip Wonderland 03:37

As we had no chance to personally take part in the "Occupy Wall Street" movement, we wrote this song to deal with the criminal malpractice of city boys and stock market traders.

03 Duck And Cover 05:20

Life can be comfortable and peaceful, if you are wearing a tinfoil hat. There is no doubt, however, that eventually fate will clobber you. This is a dupe's lament.

04 Yellow Mama 04:09

Why do we kill people, who kill people to show that killing people is wrong? "Yellow Mama" is the colloquial denomination of the electric chair at Kilby Prison, Alabama. This gadget acquired its yellow colour from a contribution of highway line paint from the adjacent State Highway Department lab.

05 Centerfold 03:07

This tune was inspired by Michel Houellebecq's novel "Extension du domaine de la lutte". In modern western societies both genders tend to define themselves as products offered and more or less sought-after in a sexual market place.

06 In Vain 05:07

Existential nihilism can sometimes run rampant in a coal rocker's mind and soul. The first verse of this song is about a spoilt stone-hearted boy, the second about a poor exploited girl. You would expect them to meet in the third verse, fall in love with each other, start a family, and be happy. Unfortunately there is no third verse.

07 Out In The Green 05:24

While the more audacious members of the human race fancy kitesurfing or bungee jumping in their leisure time, fostering the desperate search for the next rush of adrenaline, we prefer less spectacular types of recreation such as hiking.

08 Dirty Daddy 05:31

In sparsely populated areas it can be very hard to make contact with a member of the opposite camp (as Frank Zappa put it). This song is about an inventive fellow-countryman, whose quest for relief and satisfaction has finally come to an end. Oink!

09 Lovers Corner 03:52

The oldest profession in the world has always inspired musicians. Let us instance "Roxanne" by Sting, "Jezebel" by Sade, or "Killer Queen" by Freddie Mercury. This is our petty contribution to this sinful matter.

10 Spite 03:47

Only the good die young. We are still around. 'Nuff said. At least we are as loud as hell (Ask the local regulatory authority for reference). You have noticed, that Kurt Cobain is not mentioned in the lyrics, haven't you?

Rotten Girlfriends

(Music: Jörn Prochnow, Lyrics: Dieter Handke)

verse:

When love is fading
And the days are filled with hate
A thought is in the making
How can I get rid of Kate

The shady corner
With the thistles is a perfect place
I'll play the lonesome mourner
And let the tears wet my face

chorus:

The churchyard is no good for you
You can rot in peace
I'll show you that my hate is true
And I can save the fees

verse:

All went well and I grew brave
Detectives I could well deceive
Until with Margret Jones
Space was scarce with all the bones

chorus:

The churchyard is no good for you
You can rot in peace
I'll show you that my hate is true
And I can save the fees

Your carcass six feet under
Will serve the purpose well
To fertilize the weed for years
I'll water it with fake tears

Blue Chip Wonderland

(Music: Jan Lethen & Jörn Prochnow, Lyrics: Jörn Prochnow)

verse:

Golden gloves
The outperformers leave a margin
We`re having a blast
There is no use caring about
Distress and starving
That`s not what we are aiming at
Just inescapable by-products
Our stepping stones
To the shiny throne
To the honeypot

Success at last
All the others perform dutifully
Their dull little tasks
While we're towering above the rest
We're the chosen ones
Sheltered by powerfull friends
We are what we're meant to be
It`s a perfect fit
In the end you'll admit
Ignorance is bliss

chorus:

This is blue chip wonderland
Our conscience is quite clear
The only thing that matters here
Is our return on equity

This is blue chip wonderland
Strength is paying off
Interest and compound interest
The yields are as high
As the walls we have to hide behind

Duck And Cover

(Music: Dirk Remmler, Lyrics: Jörn Prochnow)

verse:

I used to wear a tinfoil hat
Scared away the monsters under my bed
I did my best to avoid being hit
I dodged the bullets just like Neo did
Used my survival kit
And the prayers I said
They sounded so insane

I've been a fool so I deserve being fooled
Now I've to face the cold hard truth
Though I obeyed to the rule
I found myself in the emergency lane
We are all just pawns in a game
Still we feel the pain
And the prayers I said
They sounded so insane

chorus:

You can run but you can't hide
You're lying in the dugout
Still you're blinded by the light
(They say) "duck and cover"
But that's a lie
Duck and cover
Until you die

Yellow Mama

(Music: Dirk Remmler & Jan Lethen, Lyrics: Dieter Handke & Jörn Prochnow)

verse:

Time's running out
I'm walking death row
Cops hanging round
They're all about
Think you can scare me
Keeping me waiting
While you see me die
I'll be escaping
Push the button
Let me fly
Yellow Mama

Death do not brag
I walk in your shadow
My body will sag
Yet I'm done with sorrow
They're strapping me down
I'm sneering at them
My crown has no thorns
I'm riding the lightning
Push the button
Let me fly
Yellow Mama

chorus:

My brain's boiling over
But the dish is served cold
Tonight is barbecue time
Another cock and bull story
Is being sold

I've asked for redemption
But you seek bloody revenge
Now you savour to the full
Being chained to the world
Soon you're all gonna pull

Push the button and let me fly
Push the button and set me free
Mother superior here I come
Yellow Mama

Centerfold

(Music: Jan Lethen, Lyrics: Jörn Prochnow)

verse:

When Miss Innocence awakes
She plays the queen of spades
All I do
I can do
Is sit and wonder
Sit and wonder
And at lunchtime she likes to play
Penguins and polar bears
All I do
I can do
Is sit and wonder
Sit and wonder

chorus:

Prick teasin' girl
You know how to drive me wild
Picture yourself being centerfold
Picture yourself being centerfold
Picture yourself
Picture yourself
Being centerfold

verse:

It's a rat race these days you know
And it goes through flesh and bones
It was made
It is meant
To pull me under
Pull me under
It's the extension of the battle zone
Slowly eating away your soul
It was made
It is meant
To pull me under
Pull me under

In Vain

(Music: Dirk Remmler, Lyrics: Dieter Handke & Jörn Prochnow)

verse:

When he was a young boy
His father said to him
Don't care about the weak and ugly
Stay with those who win
Right from the beginning
The rat race became his game
He never cried, never looked back
And he always knew who to blame
When he grew up a lightning strike
Took his love away
He shrugged and went on with fuming paces
On his cold and lonely way

chorus:

In vain - all the tears and pain are
In vain - and the devil laughs
In vain - we're rotten to the core
(This life is a bore)
Life's a waste of time
Such a waste of time
It's a losing game
It's a losing game - in vain

verse:

She was born in trailer park
With no silver spoon in her mouth
All the men who came to see her mom
Use to tell her to go out
She was silent when he paid her
Once again he grabbed her butt
She had quickly learned to swallow it all
For a couple of extra bucks
The Greyhound bus made the coast
She still hoped to see the light
But drowning her sorrow she thought in the end
Life is a mad man's ride

chorus:

In vain - all the love and hate is
In vain - and the good lord laughs
In vain - we're washed up on this shore
It's a tasteless joke
Such a tasteless joke
It's a losing game
It's a losing game - in vain

Out In The Green

(Music: Dirk Remmler & Jörn Prochnow, Lyrics: Dieter Handke & Jörn Prochnow)

verse:

I'm fed up
With the hectics and the noise
To leave it all behind
Is my only choice
I want to get rid
Of the streets and cars
Can't find no peace
Behind urban bars

chorus:

I leave this town - step by step
It's the open fields - the forest ahead
Towards freedom I'm wandering
Start walking stop wondering
Out in the green

verse:

I know a place
Calm and quiet
Where birdies sing
And fawnies hide
And all of the sorrows
Leave my head
No one's around
I hug trees instead

chorus:

A sun lit place - I take a rest
The dewy grass is a cosy bed
The company of flowers
Could be enough for hours
Out in the green

Out in the green
I want to be
Out in the green
And here I go

Dirty Daddy

(Music: Dirk Remmler, Lyrics: Jörn Prochnow)

chorus:

I can't help myself
I'm just a farmer
I'm crossing the line
My beloved swine

I carry things too far
You'll squeal with glee
That is why they call me
Hog Roast Romeo

verse:

My sweet little rosy pig
It's not just carnal desire
Now that I found you
I'm so glad
I'm falling for your pigtail bristles
Your fleshy knuckles are driving me mad

The Lord of the pigpen
Can do as he pleases
God knows, how I destest myself but
The forbidden fruit is sweetest

verse:

Country life can be so hard for
The male rural population but
Necessity is the mother of invention
Your grunting sounds so tenderly
When I'm snatching at your ears

Little pig little pig
Let me in
Else you'll face the cattle gun
I'm taking no refusal

chorus:

I can't help myself
I'm just a farmer
I'm crossing the line
My beloved swine

I carry things too far
You'll squeal with glee
That is why they call me
Hog Roast Romeo

Lovers Corner

(Music: Dirk Remmler, Lyrics: Dieter Handke)

Down in Station Road
The night is always busy
It's a strange place
So you'd better go alone
Near the phone box
Where the light is somewhat hazy
Is the place of old
Which weirdos call their home
Is the place of old
Which weirdos call their home

Take a heart and
Make your way to Lovers' Corner
Sure you won't forget
The things that you will see
They're all scalpers there
That wish to do ya
Selling love so false and haggle for 10 p
Selling love so false and haggle for 10 p

Smiling faces promise
Hours of joy and laughter
And forgetting
In a state of ecstasy
But it's ill-spent hope
And no use going after
For as often as they tell you
Come with me
For as often as they tell you
Come with me

Spite

(Music: Dirk Remmler, Lyrics: Jörn Prochnow)

verse:

Jimi passed away, he was choked they say
Couldn't find a string to hang himself
When Phil kicked the bucket too young it was
Cos pin cushions are not designed to last

Gary's strings were cut too soon
Still having the blues under a pale moon
Brian took his last dive, the pool was quiet
His foreman gave him a hand that night

chorus:

Our heroes died but we don't fret
To blast it out until we're dead
Succeeding them we're standing proud
We serenade them. Turn up loud!

verse:

Janis bit the dust in a hotel room
When intoxication started to bloom
John was shot in New York City
By a freak full of hate and full of self-pity

Bon had a ball and a couple of beers
Rockers round the world were drenched in tears
Bassman Cliff sat in the wrong seat
He was killed by a drunkard's dirty deed

chorus:

Despite these blows we're having fun
Against all odds we're standing strong
We fortified, one went away
But miners' rock is here to stay