



BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

TEL +49(0)4748 - 82 16 16 • FAX +49(0)4748 - 82 16 20 • E-MAIL sandra.wohlers@bear-family.de

ARTIST TITLE

Lee Emerson
It's So Easy For You To Be Mean

LABEL CATALOG # PRICE-CODE EAN-CODE

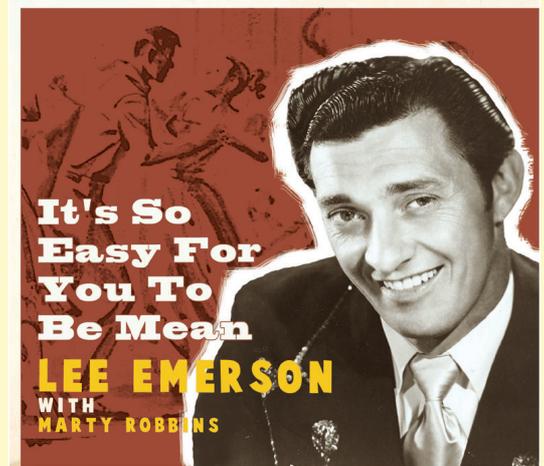
Bear Family Records
BCD 16526
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ISBN-CODE FORMAT GENRE TRACKS PLAYING TIME

978-3-89916-598-2
1 CD digipac with booklet
Country / Rockabilly / R&B
23
79:31



- First ever CD release by Lee Emerson!
- Emerson wrote classic country hits and recorded hillbilly, rockabilly, and even an R&B single!
- In 1978, Emerson was shot and killed by Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler (*The Ballad Of The Green Berets*)!
- Features rare demos and recordings from Lee Emerson's Estate!

INFORMATION

Lee Emerson left rural poverty in Virginia for a new life out west. In Cody, Wyoming in 1953 he recorded his first single for WAGON WHEEL RECORDS. Friends told him he should go to Nashville, so he did. Right after arriving, he landed a contract with COLUMBIA and caught the attention of the label's biggest star, Marty Robbins. They taped two duet sessions together – the very few Robbins ever did! Emerson's COLUMBIA issues also included his original version of what is now a bluegrass classic, *I Thought I Heard You Calling My Name*. Emerson shuttled between hillbilly, rockabilly, and rock 'n' roll. Two unissued COLUMBIA masters are included. In 1961, Emerson recorded an R&B single as Heywood Jenkins for MERCURY, but didn't record again until 1976. In between, he wrote one of Marty Robbins' biggest hits, *Ruby Ann*.

By 1978, Emerson had become a drunk and a pill-head. He was writing songs in Texas with Freddy Fender but returned to Nashville to work with... and date... a female singer. Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler (*The Ballad Of The Green Berets*) also dated the woman and on December 2, 1978 Sadler shot and killed Emerson.

This is the full story. Lee Emerson's tragic life and complete output... many new to CD! As a bonus, there are 12 demos of songs that he wrote for Kitty Wells, the Willis Brothers, and others. Wonderfully eccentric and engaging music!



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TRACK LISTING

It's So Easy For You To Be Mean • I Cried Like A Baby • Where D'ja Go? (& Marty Robbins) • You Call That Waitin'? • I'm Gonna Rise And Shine Tonight • I'll Know You're Gone (& MARTY ROBBINS) • Thank You My Darlin' • So Little Time • A Pair Of Broken Hearts • You Don't Know • How Long Will It Be (& MARTY ROBBINS) • What A Night • Start All Over • Catch That Train • I Thought I Heard You Calling My Name • Do You Think • I Hate To Say Goodnite (as Lee Smith) • Forever Alone (as LEE SMITH) • You Can't Hear Me (as HEYWOOD JENKINS) • Lover Boy (as HEYWOOD JENKINS) • Totalin' Time (as HEYWOOD JENKINS) • You Can't Hear Me (take 4) (as HEYWOOD JENKINS) • Gospel Truth (Like It 't Is)

THE DEMOS – 1960s

Ten Thousand Crying Towels • I've Thought Of Leaving Too • Ben-Ja-Min Franklin • I'm Gonna Go In Hiding • I'm Keeping It To Myself • Hossy Riding Police • Truck Stop Cutie • Thirty Blocks Across The City

DEMOS – 1970s

Waiting In The Shadows Late At Night • Ain't It Funny How Stripes Can Turn Love Off • Sinner's Corner • Dreams Always Lie