



Dizzy Miss Lizzy: Mercier Descloux (right) and Patti Smith pairing off.



Lizzy Mercier Descloux

★★★

Press Color

LIGHT IN THE ATTIC, CD/DL/LP

Originally on ZE in 1979, the first of six albums from world-travelling, genre-gobbling artist.

A French woman hanging out and writing with Patti Smith and Richard Hell in New York, Lizzy Mercier Descloux released her lean, wanton 23-minute debut in 1979. This re-release is double the length, with 10 added tracks and mixes, but most of the goodness resides in those first eight songs. The greatest is the very first: Fire, ostensibly an Arthur Brown cover, is more like ESG and The Slits mixed together by Patrick Cowley, drunk. There's a full disco complement of cowbells, surround-sound synth swooshes and slap-twang guitar, and just as you think the torrent might calm, a funky sax soars in. And all with a thick-as-beurre French accent. Other stand-outs include a cover of Mission Impossible, a new take on Fever called Tumor ("Tumor when you 'old me tight"), and final track Morning High - Rimbaud's poem read in parallel French/English by Mercier Descloux and Patti Smith.

Anna Wood