

REVIEWS

HANK WILLIAMS III

*Long Gone Daddy*

[Curb]

The latest from Hank III comes with a mess of backstory. First, the family stuff: This skinny country warbler is the grandson of genre godhead Hank Williams and son of fellow hornets'-nest swatter Hank Jr. Then there's the label drama. Hank III has publicly warred with Curb Records and did not participate in assembling this collection, which comprises four previously released tunes and six outtakes. While Hank III may not support the project's existence, *Long Gone Daddy* does him proud anyway. Focusing on his country material, as opposed to his frequent metal and punkabilly dalliances, this set reveals him to be far more than a photocopy of his granddad. The closest he comes to imitation is the title track, during which his voice goes nasal in that familiar fashion and the band plucks like it's 1948. —Kenneth Partridge

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