

# collecting covers



Stargard, Nine Lives (1982)

by Victor Shadow

Record collectors can roughly be divided in two groups. One group knows exactly what it wants and will spend a lot of time - and usually a lot of money - getting it; the other is out there in the hope of being surprised. I consider myself to be a member of the latter: I visit flea markets, break my back rifling through smelly old boxes stacked with albums and scout for weird stuff that I don't yet know. My decision to buy a record is usually determined by the cover art: if the art is weird enough, then chances are that the music will be worth listening too. And sometimes that works; a band that I've never heard of before turns out to be really good, or at least good at producing some sound of its own. At other times, the music will be awful, terrible, even obnoxious - but in this case, at least the cover is still great fun to look at.