



I Hate Q's!

I hate Q's! No one's serious about Q's—If people were, there'd be more Q's! Come on, you know the Q was only invented because someone, back in the far recesses of time, needed something to fill in the space between 'P' and 'R'...and so now...the entire Western world is stuck with...the Q!

Q's are especially the bane of collectors. You know it's true. Every time you organize a category's albums, you have to leave space for...Q's. You don't have any Q's...but you know—with absolute certainty—that if you *don't* leave any space for Q's the very next batch of covers you get will have a....Q!

Then you have to have a 'Q' divider in your album. You don't have any Q's...You might well go through your entire collecting career without *ever* getting a Q in that category...But you *have* to have that 'Q' divider because it's part of our alphabet, and your entire collection would thereby be demeaned by the lack thereof.

And finally, worst of all, there are those incredibly painful occasions (albeit blessedly rare) when you *do* come across a Q that has to be part of your collection. You know what *that* means! You have to use one of your precious plastic pages to house it! And said occasion *always* happens when you're running dangerously low on plastic pages to begin with [*The Gods do this on purpose, you know. It's sort of a Purgatory-on-Earth type of thing*].

So, there you are, proudly showing your collection to a wide-eyed friend. You turn through page-after-page of A's, B's, C's, and so on. And then...you come to the Q's. And there's that one, lonely,

introverted Q cover sitting there all by itself in that otherwise empty page. Your soaring pride in your collection is suddenly shattered upon hearing the muted and disappointed "Oh!" from your friend. You close the album, turn, and exit the room, leaving your friend to find his own way out. The rest of the afternoon is spent out on the patio with a double whiskey while you contemplate the meaning of life.

The Q is useless! Forgotten! Forlorn! Feckless! It should be banned! We should petition the government to establish an official anti-Q Day! All references to the letter 'Q' should be stricken! [*except this editorial*] It's there—and yet it isn't! Evil, wicked, malevolent! But, in keeping with the traditional guidelines for persuasive writing, I've saved my most damning argument for last. Did you know that in the entire Zambian language there is not a single name that starts with the letter Q?! [<http://www.thezambian.com/zambia/w/names/zambian-names-beginning-with-the-letter-q.aspx>]. I rest my case!

