



The May Fire - "The List"

Published September 10th, 2008 in N.



San Fran's The May Fire comes out with a new EP, the last of an EP trilogy that followed *The Plastic Army* and *La Victoria*. But in this download age, who can fault a band for recording a quick five or six and flipping them around? Led by the vocals of Catty Tasso, *The List* is a bit darker than the previous. While others stuck to a Cali pop punk/ surf blend, this one grinds harder with a deeper edge. The punk base is still there, but the repetition is more prevalent. Much of the album seems to be fighting through a sticky spider web of trance. The "Red Unicorn" might be interpreted as an indie rock gem, but Tasso delivers a passive but firm vocal line that is simultaneously disorienting and comforting. Blend in some raucous guitar wails, and the eerie zombie choir, and then check the window to make sure a crowd of body snatchers is not outside.

The opener "Burning Up" is one of those happy songs about sad subjects. "All the people on the streets are burning up/the tears of fear are falling down/it's a time of lost control, the struggle is on." It's got the percussion punk beat, but Tasso has a drone that delves into a set of somber "la la's." The May Fire is deeply depressed in a snappy-spunk way, like sucking a Jolly Rancher while trudging through a blizzard. "The List" is actually my favorite, but it still retains a dangerous mode in a semi-confessional mode. It's about the pleasure of life on the road, quickly eradicated by failed expectations. A wash of ecstatic shoegaze chords comes up from behind Tasso on this one. Overall, it's an album of grunge punk, tempered by a shoegaze anxiety. Whatever that means. [Josh Spilker]

Rating: 3/5

Release Date: August 5, 2008

Website | MySpace

0 Responses to "The May Fire - "The List""

No Comments

You must login to post a comment.