

Amazon Review Customer Reviews

The Bitter Springs Snowflakes In June EP

4.0 out of 5 stars

fine crafted creations of unorthodox beautiful bleakness,

17 Dec 2011

By

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(REAL NAME)

This review is from: Snowflakes In June EP (MP3 Download)

The Bitter Springs Xmas gift 'Snowflakes In June ' is a slow haunting hypnotic piece with more inspired caustic lyrics "this generation are great with their fingers...they fight as their trousers fall down". At first few plays it seemed overlong & a little boring but then after about the 6th time it began to grab. The violin creates nuances between a simple acoustic guitar strum & Simon Rivers sombre vocals. Certainly an unorthodox Xmas song perhaps but reflecting the present global financial, climatic & humanity mess then why not. 'Undercover' is an electronic dub type piece with this time a theremin type instrument playing the hypnotic lead. 'White Noise (And Even Now)' revisits their 2010 single with an bleaker set of lyrics "the cry for help that no one hears" and more heartbreaking high drama with accordion creating the main nuances this time.

Snowflakes in June Review

When explaining what he liked about The Fall, John Peel famously said, “They're always different; they're always the same”, and I'm sure if Peel was with us today he'd use it again to describe the Bitter Springs. You never know what your going to get next. It could be feet tapping Northern Soul (Gary Glitter Fan Convention), a four-to-the-floor rock-out (TV Tears), or a Paul Williams inspired Musical (My Life As a Dog in a Pig Sty), and that's just in the last 18 months or so. However, there's always a constant. That bankable element that never disappoints; the inimitable words of the king Spring, Simon J Rivers.

Rivers holds a mirror to 21st Century Britain, unafraid to reflect the minutia of our everyday lives, celebrating the awkward, deviant, and bizarre, with an empathetic tenderness. In this he ploughs a unique and lonely furrow. Almost Freudian like in his insights and observations describing the human condition, Rivers' universal yet deeply personal lyrics hit you right between the eyes. He takes you to the places you rarely take the time to notice. That said, humour abounds. Rivers delights in sharing a joke with the listener, but often, like life itself, he'll leave you unsure whether to laugh or cry.

The phrase 'less is more' could've been invented for “Snowflakes in June”. 11 minutes, 8 seconds more to be precise. It's minimalistic arrangement, the whole song is just 2 chords, hypnotises and weaves a spider's web on which Rivers hangs his typically crushing tale. “Remember when money was your only master, now that's just a bad memory, remember that all things must end in disaster, you couldn't let chaos be, you couldn't let chaos be”. Call the medics now, Rivers has hit the target again.

Actually, forget the medics, someone should call Mike Leigh and play him “Snowflakes”. It's a cinematic wet dream of a song. The pairing of Leigh and Rivers is so obvious I can't believe it hasn't happened yet. But I forget. Rivers, as always one step ahead, took a snatch of Leigh's “Secrets and Lies” dialogue, delivered by Timothy Spall, and made it the centre piece in the excellent “The Ballad of Little Stubby Fingers” from the 1999 album “Benny Hill's Wardrobe”. There could be a theme developing here.

Of course Rivers, with one eye always on value for money, isn't satisfied with giving us 11 minutes. “Snowflakes” comes with 2 more tracks, each running in at over 7 minutes long . “Undercover” delivering the immortal line “I was gender unassigned, I only moved out to the country so I could drink and drive”. While the final track “White Noise” is the Springs' 6th take on live favourite “And Even Now”. Buy this today, tell your friends, let your friends tell their friends. Let's go viral and sweep the Christmas number one from under the feet of Cowell's puppets. But, if not, this is the real world after all, you can always be sure with Rivers there's another gem coming just around the corner.

Neil Palmer
08/12/11