

Brittle Sun - Paquita

Reviewed by Drew Jarvie (The Delerium Trees)

Brecon Indie Reviewer Team

Brittle Sun in 'Paquita' tackle a subject that at best could be called horrific – the murder of a friend. Paquita, a Hispanic name meaning free, was murdered by two men. Gravestones are nice, family related but friends often have no way to express their hurt and memories in some deep felt way. Musicians do have the chance, write requiems or write a song. Brittle Sun wrote this beautiful and memorable song.

Viki Mealing's voice is nervy, full of emotion, you almost feel that it could break at any moment but that is her strength. Her harmonies also double up the emotion. For me, PJ Harvey, Joan Baez and early Kate Bush spring to mind, James Allan of Glasvegas also springs to mind, their song 'Flowers and Football Tops' deals with murder of a friend, a promising footballer.

Not to be forgotten are the other two members of Brittle Sun, Stewart Garret on drums and David Jetson on various guitars. Viki Mealing also plays guitar and bass. The inter-change between the three members of the band is beautiful, emotional and heartfelt. An excellent but simple drum beat from Garret pushes the song gently on when it enters. Broken chords on guitar accompanying the vocals indicate a folk / psychedelic influence. Mealing and Jetson also show wonderful musicianship in their guitar work, the mix of electric and acoustic.

Beautiful, story telling lyrics convey probably what we all feel of the song's topic, perhaps Mealing's vocal reflects a vulnerability in all of us, the worry of knowing, the worry of not knowing, the worry of not knowing what to do if we were in same position as Paquita.

However, the song isn't without hope, Mealing sings concerning the spotlight

'The spotlight doesn't shine on the likes of us'

This might be a sad line, it is, however the spotlight is here, there and everywhere on this planet. Paquita has left this earth, wherever she is it has to be safer. What a wonderful thought to think that spotlights can't shine on us all, starlight can. Paquita must surely be amongst these stars.

I'm sure some of that starlight shines on us, it most definitely shines on Brittle Sun!