

Brittle Sun "Paquita"

Reviewed by Mary Wood

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I've known Brittle Sun for years. Each song I've reviewed has been personal to the songwriter and delivered in a manner which really carries the listener with the story aside the emotion of vocalist, Viki Mealings.

Paquita, means free in Spanish; more specifically, little free one- female.

"Paquita," is another beautifully, painful song in which Viki, with the weight of a gravely, horrid memory and immense loss simply tells a truth and delivers it in song through residual pain.

This song is a tribute to an old friend, eerily named Paquita, again, a Hispanic name sometimes chosen at birth meaning free. Paquita is, (I don't like past tense here as she exists, just not in an earthly way), a most exceptional and very kind person as divulged by the lyrics, who was murdered by two men.

Paquita is truly free now though she went through horror to be so. The sadness won't leave those left behind Viki surely the sincerest, hurt friend. Viki is wonderfully sensitive, but this makes her feel twice as much. It also makes her singing hit listeners twice as hard in a real place.

The songwriting follows the palpable inner damage she carries from this tragedy and the sincerity with which she shall always love Paquita. I have NO doubt Paquita hears the song, truly.

Her songwriting is always true to the story and hemmed up with creativity and a willingness to color outside of the lines. Viki wouldn't consider rhyming as a guide, which could degrade the story, as do far too many. She smoothly slides in those that hold truth, occasionally.

I cannot emphasize enough how incredibly well Viki's elite; vulnerable and contrarily strong voice tells this immensely sad story and makes a genuine and painfully raw tribute to her friend and we feel it all.

I can try to reverse but I'm always driven into the eye of the storms in her songs and actually had to ask her to keep one song away from me, couldn't review.

Viki has such a kind and enlightened soul and spirit with wonderment with fun to boot. She plays bass and lead guitar as part of a group that is renowned for unusual instruments, their norm. This produces the perfect sound and melody plain upon which their vocal is predominate and in return this heightens the music to a place where the two meet. "Paquita" is a perfect example.

A variety of guitars are all up in this song- Viki on lead guitar and bass, David Jetson-baritone and lap steel guitars and rhythm. Stewart Garrett subtly adds to the density of the song from the drummer's mitt.

David and Viki combine for harmonic solos- Viki playing electric and David baritone guitars resulting in a melody that has stuck with me.

This song shall be very relatable to so many who may join in the pain and take solace in a completed promise that is a tribute completed.

I chose Viki as my female vocal of the year in 2019, not even a contest! Her combination of vocal skill and naked emotions is rarely seen.

An absolutely incredible song and it prompts me to respect and adore Brittle Sun even more.