



Carrot Top Records, Inc.

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Megan Reilly-Arc of Tessa CD

Carrot Top Records Cat. No. saki034

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What possesses a diverse, talented, and somewhat grizzled group of seasoned New York music veterans to set aside nearly a century of combined fatigue & cynicism to play with a young female singer/songwriter just moved up from Memphis into the toughest music scene in the world? Each of them may have different answers, but all of them certainly would cite her unique songwriting and her voice.

Oh, the voice.

But first, the songs. Most are snippets of a moment of physical or emotional time, almost perfectly captured as if by a master photographer, without sensationalizing or unnecessarily falling back on the overwrought. Hints of country roots insinuate Megan's southern upbringing further into the music, which is played flawlessly. She includes covers of Van Morrison's "Gypsy" and stunningly, Roy Orbison's "Evergreen" that should close the book on future versions.

The band is comprised of Tim Foljahn (guitar, lap steel, mandolin-Two Dollar Guitar, Cat Power), Steve Goulding (drums-Mekons, Graham Parker, Waco Brothers, Archer Prewitt), Tony Maimone (bass-Pere Ubu, Gary Lucas) & Eric Morrison (piano, rhodes, vocals-Home, Pee Shy, Leels). They play each note, each beat, to perfection, always leaning to less, leaving ample space for the songs to breathe and faultless touches to be savored, amidst Eric's warm production. Helped out by Chris Lee and Jenny Morrison to both add tasty touches.

The band, the songs, the musical underpinning, all serve to illumine Megan's radiant voice. Sometimes an almost distant siren quietly drawing you toward emotional seduction with a languid southern indolence, and other times strong and full enough to quiet the loudest protestations, sometimes tipping over into the tiniest hint of emotional tremor.

Names: Opal, Cowboy Junkies, Mazzy Star, Timothy Prudhomme, Patsy Cline, Lucinda Williams

