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Don't Forget About Me
Mary O'Brien - the song

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Author

Topic

daydreamer Moderator

Posted - 05/05/2007 : 10:29:52



United Kingdom 5404 Posts

I came across this piece from the Guardian. Can anyone good at this sort of thing, post a download of the track here? Pretty please. In the meantime, I'll order it.

Looking at obituaries has become part of my everyday life. You get this little snapshot of a person's life that can open up avenues into things you didn't know about them. Lately, I've been inspired by the thought of pinpointing certain moments in people's lives and translating them into my own songs with Maximo Park, as a way of celebrating and exploring that person.

Our new single, Books From Boxes, features a B-side named after Don McPhee, the Guardian photographer who died in March, which is a case in point. I read the Guardian obituary and although a lot of people know about his photos, I was fascinated by the little anecdotes from people who had worked with him. The song starts off remembering one of these: "Two men in a double bed, shifting uncomfortably, beneath the Virgin Mary."

Don had been stranded in Knock, Ireland, working on a story about holy water with the Guardian's David Ward. There was nowhere to stay except a little guest house that had only one room and a double bed. It just struck me as hilarious, these two people - I'm sure a bit old-fashioned - having to share this, well, moment of tenderness. And even the fact that one of them had mentioned it as an anecdote about Don McPhee's life showed you how important it was or how funny they thought it was. As Ward notes, it was probably the closest a journalist ever got to a photographer.

I did a similar thing with Robert Altman, who appeared on the B-side of the single Our Velocity. The song Robert Altman wasn't about his films - until the final verse. It was more about the fact that he'd flown a plane during the war, and been conned out of all his money by some guy. These things were generally unheard-of but had obviously fuelled the fiercely independent character that made those films.

That B-side also had a song called Mary O'Brien, which is Dusty Springfield's real name. I've always found her voice deeply affecting, but I used that name to show there was a person behind the icon. She was a Catholic with an ambiguous - now accepted as lesbian - sexuality. What a conflict to go through. She had issues with drink and prescription drugs, and she once threw a whole tea set down a flight of stairs. A rock'n'roll star might throw a TV out of a window, but the image of a woman doing something like that - or starting a food fight, which apparently she liked to do - just makes this soul icon seem much more human.

I'm keen to take this idea further; I expect obituaries to feature on forthcoming Maximo Park singles, and I wouldn't rule out compiling them on an album. I'm already working on songs about Jean Baudrillard, the philosopher who died recently, the visual artist Joe Brainard and George Brown, aka Young Tiger, who was a Trinidadian calypso singer in London in the 1950s. He died in March. It interests me that he was part of that generation that came to Britain to forge a new life in a society that in some ways was quite alien.

Our guitarist, Duncan Lloyd, has been coming up with quieter things, which mean I've been singing differently from what people expect from Maximo Park. These songs are very thoughtful, intimate. On tour I've found myself sharing rooms where the beds are uncomfortably close. I can certainly relate to Don McPhee.

- Don McPhee will appear on the B-side of Maximo Park's Books from Boxes, released on June 11 on Warp

- Paul Smith was talking to Dave Simpson

Carole x

"Since you went away, I've been hanging around...."

**Mads**

Where am I going?



Posted - 06/05/2007 : 01:19:38

I'd love to hear this!

Im definitely keeping my eye out for it.

**LOVE MADS.**



Australia  
3323 Posts

**Gypsy Rose Lee**

I'll try anything



Posted - 07/05/2007 : 15:48:22

I'm afraid even SONGS 'R US can't come up with this one, Carole. :(

Love,  
Ro :)

USA  
1535 Posts

-----  
I'd rather leave while I'm in love... or, shortly thereafter :)



**daydreamer**

Moderator



Posted - 07/05/2007 : 16:19:57

Well, thanks for trying Ro 😊 I did find this....

<http://www.tescodownloads.com/servlets/2452328105705Dispatch/53/Call?htmltemplate=../lm/viewlm.htm&lmtype=TRACK&lmid=5806813>

but haven't done anything with it as my copy is in the post and besides, I don't quite know WHAT to do with it!

Carole x



United Kingdom  
5404 Posts

"Since you went away, I've been hanging around...."



**daydreamer**

Moderator



Posted - 13/05/2007 : 18:32:39

It's sung to just a guitar accompaniment, quite simple and as far as I can work out, these are the words. It's almost like the words to a dream that doesn't quite make sense, yet it does.

Mary O'Brien

Bottle blonde  
Till the end  
Ground down but not out  
Found fame, faded away  
But came back.  
Influence rubs off, whether appropriate or not  
Less than perfect split.  
She lifts the cup to her lips  
She tries to force it back



United Kingdom  
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Something in her gut starts to react.  
 Definitely, oh it must be...  
 Definitely, oh it must be...  
 Cheap crockery that was tipped,  
 From the top of the stairs.  
 What did you do that for?  
 Easily swayed and afraid, can't turn back.  
 Starting to crack  
 Her mascara is streaming  
 But the guests are not leaving  
 A less than perfect split  
 She lifts the cup to her lips  
 She tries to force it back  
 Something in her gut starts to react  
 I don't really know if I want to, be  
 Part of this world, but I must be.  
 I'm none of the above.

Carole x

"Since you went away, I've been hanging around...."

Edited by - daydreamer on 17/05/2007 21:13:07



**MattMidd1**  
 I've got a good thing  
 ★★★★★  
 United Kingdom  
 4270 Posts

Posted - 13/05/2007 : 18:56:30

Cheap Crockery that was tipped 😊 I like the sound of this song.

Matt.



**Mads**  
 Where am I going?  
 ★★★

Posted - 14/05/2007 : 07:35:16



Kind of sounds like a poem written in a high school english class, but then theres more to it on a different level....am I making sense?

I like it though 😊

**LOVE MADS.**



Australia  
3323 Posts

**allherfaces**  
 Administrator  
 ★★★★★

Posted - 14/05/2007 : 14:36:39



This sounds interesting and I look forward to catching up with this thread soon.....



We're here for Dusty...  
<http://www.dustyspringfield.info>

USA  
14235 Posts



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