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DESPERATE CHARACTER

KIRSTY McCOLL. Polydor POLS 1035. Clock Goes Round / See That Girl / There's A Guy Works Down The Chip Shop Swears He's Elvis / Teenager In Love / Mexican Sofa / Until The Night / Falling For Faces / Just One Look / The Real Ripper / Hard To Believe / He Thinks I Still Care / There's A Guy Works Down The Chip Shop Swears He's Elvis (Country Version).

As far as I'm concerned, 'Elvis' is one of the best singles this year so far, but anyone looking for more of the same will be sadly disappointed with this album.

In fact, to be honest, the album lacks direction, and

tries to cover too many musical fields, most of them akin to the late '50's and early '60's pop music.

Kirsty's self-penned songs re-use old titles, such as 'Teenager In Love' (a la Pomus and Shuman) and 'Until The Night' (a la Billy Joel). Kirsty actually covers an oldie with the Hollies' hit 'Just One Look' but the result is thin and watery with a jerky pop-/reggae beat. 'He Thinks I Still Care' is moulded like a '60's girlie group ballad, and even has a guitar break straight from 'Blue Moon'.

When she sings country, this girl definitely delivers the goods, but there isn't much of it here ●

JO PAUL