



Radney Foster "**Another Way To Go**" Dualtone Records

I'll admit to a fondness for Radney Foster as he is a totally unpretentious purveyor of great melodies that are consistently supported with lyrics that are a cut above the average for the country/roots field in which he plies his trade. All the way from the late eighties and throughout "**Another Way To Go**," his second disc for Dualtone, Foster has faithfully created, or collaborated on, songs that you, later, find yourself subconsciously humming.

"Real Fine Place To Start," the [appropriately titled] opening track, kicks in with a great guitar riff, and Radney goes on to explore all those feelings that mark the beginning of a love affair. Considering the slant of Tom Pacheco's recent "Heroes" it seems that Radney must have, around the same time, tuned into the same *wave of inspiration*. Three people – "*the kind we could use a lot more of*" - are featured in "Everyday Angel." Miss Laura used to feed "*the hungry in the church basement, after she retired from teaching school*," Marilyn is a battered wife while Dave perished "*running up stairs that he never got back down*." I think you know the date of Dave's demise. If "Again" is Rad's *slow ballad* on this collection, then by way of varying the mix, there's a Rolling Stones guitar 'n' sax raunch to the tune of "What It Is That You Do," a song that explores a case of unrequited love.

On "Disappointing You," a voice and acoustic guitar ballad, it's early in the morning as the narrator muses about the fact that when he walks out the door in a short time, headed for his place of work, it will be for the final time. His reflections are that "*all I'm giving is nothing you can use*," and "*all I've ever needed was to hear that you might need my love, too*." The use of hammered dulcimer, following the first chorus and closing out the song is quite sublime, and the instrument appears again on "Scary Old World" which features a Rodney / Chely Wright duet. Radney wrote the song with the late and legendary, Harlan Howard.

Some writers are just naturally hook inclined as far as their melodies are concerned. In that regard you could peg Foster as the male alter ego of say, Lynn Miles. That said, "**Another Way To Go**" ain't no ordinary road. In fact, it's a darned memorable one.

Folkwax Rating 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood  
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