



Dar Williams **"Out There Live"** Razor & Tie Records

Including three spoken intro's there are nineteen cuts on this *live* disc. Recorded over three nights during November 2000, in Massachusetts and NYC, Dar is supported throughout by her four-piece band. Suffice to say in my opinion, Steuart Smith is a guitar god [plus he's played with practically every intelligent singer/songwriter of the last two decades], while Gail Ann Dorsey has toted her *big bad* bass for David Bowie and the Indigo Girls. Drummer Steve Holley [Elton John/Wings/Joe Cocker] and keyboard player Jeff Kazee [Southside Johnny] complete the line-up. Forget the million \$ quartet, this one is stamped with a twenty-four carat hallmark. As for Dar's tunes, there are five apiece from her [so far] mid-career discs **"Mortal City"** and **"End Of The Summer,"** two from her Razor & Tie debut **"The Honesty Room"** and another handful from last year's **"The Green World."** For me, the material on **"Summer"** and **"Green"** was less effective than her first two collections, as Dar's storytelling slant gave way to more abstract lyrical themes. And the folk element gave way to pop smarts. So there you have it, there's no new *works in progress* here, just seventy-one minutes of *marking* time. One thing remains certain and true - "The Babysitter's Here" is a classic song for all time, and Dar's role playing as a breathless, excited, anxious, innocent pre-teen is simply exquisite ear candy.

Folkwax rating – 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

Kerrville Kronikles 10/01