



Mason Jennings **"Century Spring"** Architect Records

Opening with the pleasant, upbeat folk/rock number "Living In The Moment," the narrator in Jennings' song attest that he has *wised up to life*, and the message amounts to *"Now I'm living in the moment with the friends I love."* Love appears to be the pivotal word in this collection, because the pair of cuts that follow, "Sorry Signs On Cash Machines" and "New York City," talk of little else. Featuring an acoustic guitar and Mason's voice, in "Dewey Dell" Jennings sings of how *"My Galveston girl I hold you like a child and kiss away your tears."* All you need is love, and love alone.....

If there's momentary hesitancy about the guitar work on the latter cut, then a piano adopts that role in the plaintive sounding "Forgiveness." Possibly the most fully realised composition in this collection, the narrator claims, figuratively, to have *"brought no baggage"* and is *"waiting for a train to forgiveness."* Later Jennings employs the image of looking *"out upon the darkness down the tracks"* in the hope of glimpsing of *"the light of forgiveness."* Of course the thought occurs, that one often seeks *forgiveness* because of *baggage*. If the latter cut appears fully realised then the two-minute long album title cut finds Jennings warbling words of love and eternity to Amy, and with a Beatle sounding chorus it all seemed to end before it began. Mason even takes a tilt at a *rap* vocal inclusive of the "f" word in the opening line of "Bullet." Suffice to say the latter lyric does contain the line *"this song is a joke."*

"Killer's Creek" possesses a remarkably upbeat popish melody, while the gently strummed melody of "East Of Eden," particularly on the refrain, bears a striking resemblance to "Don't Let Me Down." You know, the song penned by Lennon & McCartney. And for that matter, there's even a hint of the **"High Noon"** movie theme as the opening guitar chords ring out.

So is the work of Mason Jennings, the songwriter, contrary to ordinary ? Nah, it's simple and fairly average. The sticker on the CD case proudly proclaimed *"A cross between Bob Dylan, Nick Drake, Lou Reed and Neutral Milk Hotel.....Jennings' lyrics articulate a sweeping utopian vision of perfect love, equality, beauty and faith."* The source, why no less a tome than No Depression. When the hat fits.....

Folkwax Rating 6 out of 10

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