



Chuck Prophet **"No Other Love"** New West Records

There's a swampy blues feel to the opening cut "What Can You Tell Me" on, this, Prophet's sixth official solo album. Stephanie Finch [Prophet's wife] contributes to four of the eleven cuts, and supplies a duet vocal on the gently reflective memory of lost love, "After The Rain." Prophet's voice is not quite as deep as say, Dave Alvin's, and it is probably best described as a crisp and throaty. Four minutes long, the album title cut consists of a total of twenty seven words [and only fifteen different ones at that !], features a string trio that, mid-song, swoops and dives, while subjectively treading much the same territory as "After The Rain." The lyric of "I Bow Down And Pray To Every Woman I See" features a quartet of female characters, Chloe, Darby, Bela and Kady, who each possess different character defects. In fact some of those girls plainly lacked the basic social graces. If those ladies populate the darker, seamier side of life, then "Run Primo Run" comes from the same stomping ground. Told in flashback, it recalls a heist twenty years ago that went wrong and resulted in the death of the old man who was being robbed. Sonny eventually finds redemption by confessing to the crime, and in the process sells out his partner Primo, who, as the song closes *"ran to his tool shed, Sirens, lights flashing red."* In "Summertime Thing" a really rockin' five piece band plays in the next door's garden, a sound that gives you the urge to play Beach Boy records and then go down to river, take off our clothes and jump in. In other words - get hot, crazy and stupid. Chuck doesn't delve as deep into life's seamier underbelly as say, Jim White or Johnny Dowd. That said, the roots rock area that Prophet works is still kind of edgy. Hey, look out behind you.....

Folkwax Rating 6 out of 10

Arthur Wood  
Kerrville Kronikles 06/02