



Kris Delmhurst “**Five Stories**” Catalyst Discs

As far as I can tell the five stories relate, not to Delmhurst’s lyrics but, to the fact that the recording sessions took place in, Hi-n-Dry, the attic studio of the late Mark Sandman, singer of Boston based band Morphine. Co-produced with Billy Conway, Delmhurst’s sophomore effort opens with the traditional “Cluck Old Hen,” the tale of a hen that loses its voice and the will to lay eggs. The eleven tracks that constitute the remainder of this collection were written by Kris. In the gentle “Damn Love Song” the narrator queries whether she can fully commit *“with her heart”* to the person she is currently with. The endless horizon of road and sky provides the backdrop of “Broken White Line” as the narrator recalls how, in the last four years, she has built herself *“a little world of rhythm and of rhyme”* since she had her heart broken. Relationships appear to be a big thing for Delmhurst, as the couple in “Words Fail You” struggle to express in words, their true feelings for one another. “Garden Rose” explores the proposition that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, and that beauty comes in many guises. In this case, a rose is enamoured by the little wildflower that survives among the weeds on that other side. The rose reveals all with the words, *“I always thought that my life was enough, until I saw your face so brilliant and so rough.”* The closing “Lullaby 101” is a gentle prayer that attests, using numerous examples, how a change of approach can revitalise your life. And following that - the 26 second, *hidden* instrumental track, that reprises the melody of the opening cut.

Folkwax rating – 7 out of 10

Arthur Wood.

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