

# Bunches O' MUSIC

## Rebecca West

*Six More Weeks of Winter*  
Cinnamon Toast Records  
/ Denon

This sophomore release from what is probably Halifax's most intelligent band, Rebecca West, is too good to be true. It is a great follow up to last year's *Burners On*, and anyone who was a fan of that album is sure to love this one.

Rebecca West is made up of ex-Bubaiskull member Alison Outhit on guitar and vocals, as well as Lukas Pearse (formerly of Horseshoes and Handgrenades) on bass and Dale Hussey (formerly of Merge) on drums. With Outhit's raspy vocals and Pearse's amazing bass maneuvers, R. West continues to prove itself to be nothing less than awesome.

The powerful lyrics of the songs "Super Heroine" and "Mystery Bird" only go to show how diverse and powerful the

songwriting skills of the collective band are (one example is the line "Slide down indifference, straight on into spite" from "Mystery Bird" -- it's so great!). Even though this is only a five song EP, it is still worth the listen and even worth buying. The last song, "State Of Grace," is an epic lasting over eight minutes!

It is not average East Coast "indie" pop. It's heavier and has a darker atmosphere. If you liked *Burners On*, you'll like *Six More Weeks of Winter*. It's also produced by Ian Blurton of Change of Heart, and his influences also shine through in the production. I guess it is safe to say that this album is almost representative of a female fronted Change of Heart, but maybe I shouldn't go so far.

## Far

*Tin Cans with Strings to you*  
By: Bruce Henry

The group plays, heavy, with a fast tempo plus lots of drums and electric guitar, they sound like Metallica and Soundgarden put together. As for their singer, he is sometimes overpowered by the rest of the other instruments, making him hard to understand, even though he likes to yell. When I first heard Far I did not like most of their songs, but if you are looking for a song that, as the group would put it, "...kick peoples butts..." I strongly recommend their song "Seasick". You will either like or hate this album, but like so many other groups, if you listen to them over and over again, you will eventually have the tendency to like their style of expression. If you asked me if I would go out and buy this album? I would probably say "no", but if you are a fan and already like their work by all means go out and buy it. The music will grow on you if you give it a chance.

Paris Out of Hand (A  
Wayward Guide)

By Karen Elizabeth  
Gordon  
Chronicle Books

While in Paris, visit the Hotel des Etranges, where phantoms change your sheets (and your room) in the middle of the night. Or, you could stop by the Arse Poetica, a little boutique where tailors will sew your favourite literary verse across the seat of your pants.

However, the only way to find these and other

intriguing Parisian sights is in this outlandish tour by Karen Elizabeth Gordon. This guide is a collaboration with Barbara Hodgson, photographer and author of *The Tattooed Map*, and Nick Bantock, author of the best selling Griffin and Sabine trilogy.

Arranged somewhat like a traditional guide book, *Paris Out of Hand* uses maps, illustrations, and entries in Hotel guestbooks to create another Paris. However, as the introduction states: "... you shall place your trust in your own imagination, where all true journeys begin, with no precise itinerary, but through-

the-looking-glass discoveries, for nothing is as it seems." In its pages, you will find a guide to hotels, shops, sights, and other miscellany, each with its own quirky personality. Also included are the necessary phrases for travelling in Paris, such as the french translation for "May I buy your Hyena a drink?"

The book itself is beautifully fabric bound, with intricately detailed illustrations. It is an artistic and entertaining fiction, which stretches your imagination and challenges your perceptions.

A. Chisholm

## The Bobs

*Too Many Santas*  
Rounder Records

It isn't out of the ordinary for me to be humming "White Christmas" to myself while soaking up rays on the beach in July. Yes, it's true I love Christmas. If this sounds like you then The Bobs *Too Many Santas* is the CD for you. This music is guaranteed to put that Christmas morning smile on your face right now. There is a wide variety of music (all acapella) and lots of catchy lyrics like "...padding out expense accounts - silicone with extra bounce - buy a pound get an ounce - It's Christmas in L.A.". The whole CD is fun to listen to. Some of the hot tracks are "Too Many Santas", "Christmas in L.A.", and "Mrs. Claus Wants Some Lovin'". If you like Christmas songs with a twist, this is a must. If not Bah Humbug!

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