

Heather Loewen Serves 'Cabin Zen' for Breakfast



Heather Loewen & the Daily Specials, All-Day Breakfast is a full-meal deal.

After a successful CD release party a couple of weeks ago, Heather Loewen & the Daily Specials, *All-Day Breakfast* has hit the shelves.

Unlike her first release, *I Wish I Knew*, which was primarily homebrew, this is the full meal deal.

Full portions of meat and potatoes, a side of toast and syrup, served up with a drizzle of audio butter over all.

Jim Holland, at Seaweed Music, oversaw the engineering and mix of this album.

Black Widow Death Drive, with Loewen's processed vocals, rumble of classic surf guitar and hard smack of drums, opens the CD with a roar.

I don't know what it is about this tune that sticks in my ear. Perhaps it reminds me of that eerie Dutch movie, *The Fourth Man*. Maybe it's the creepy twist near the end that fuels my fire for twisty endings.

I would advise playing this song at volume.

I loved the feel of *Falling*. I found lots to feed the ear: lazy echoes, processed and double-tracked vocals, heavy guitar scraping the limits of pop and that weird mix that opens and closes the song.

I'm impressed by the sophistication of these choices by a little old band from the Yukon.

"An aspiring novelist turned songwriter," reads her bio on the web.

Loewen's approach to writing seems to have wisdom beyond her years ... or she has seen a thing or two and writes from what she knows.

Listen to *Runaway Train* and you will hear of what I speak: "Go, but go cautiously, fly but not too high" and my favourite line, "Clean out your house and take out the trash or the fast train's gonna crash".

Cabin Zen philosophy to be sure.

The song itself is a real pop rocker, lots of wah wah guitar and a heavy drum line. You could really flail around on the dance floor with this one.

Fuel Your Fire reads like the Yukon chapter of the *Kama Sutra*. "Try making love in the morning and in the afternoon, in the sun and the setting sun, in the ocean, on a mountain or by the river".



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Not that Yukoners will be rushing out to "Try making love in a snow bank", but given the right amount of fur wrapping, or minimum, a sturdy fleece, it may be worth a try.

"Why did God give us passion, the sun (and) each other if we weren't supposed to have fun?" she sings. A gospel according to Heather Loewen or just common sense?

The song has light guitar and bass groove that really gets you swinging around the room. It adds a light close to the album. In the immortal words of Christopher Walken, "more cowbell!"

The Daily Special has a sound

rooted in rock, new wave and a full measure of pop.

This album has the light of knowledge and wonder shining through every lyric.

The musical arrangements bal-

ance the lyric to give the album a tasty listening experience song after song.

This CD is available at Triple J's Music on Fourth Avenue.

Visit www.thedailyspecial.ca for all your Heather Loewen needs.

If you have a Yukon CD or film you would like to see featured in this column, please contact me at strangethingsdone@hotmail.com.

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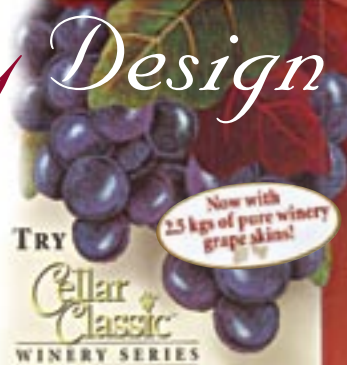
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