

# NEW MYSTERY GIRL

It comes at you so hard and loud and fast and goes so equally quickly that you won't know what hit you. You'll stand bewildered, blinking furiously, and once you recover from "Wha' happened?" you'll realize you've had yourself one serious rock'n'roll listening experience.

It's *Crawl Through Your Hair* (Gutsy Dame), the new seven-song, 20-minute disc from Austin's New Mystery Girl – six originals and a ride through the New York Dolls' "Subway Train" – that is short, sweet and bluntly to-the-point. In fact, all the originals clock in at under 3 minutes.



The group is the brainchild of singer/guitarist Chrissie Flatt, a Texan through and through – Austin-born, raised in San Antonio and Waco. If the group's first effort, 2010's *Twist City*, was a transition from her early days in the Texas singer/songwriter scene in the 2000s, this is an affirmation, a complete break with the past. Read as you will into the sounds and you probably won't be wrong: Ramones, Joan Jett, Johnny Thunders, The Pandoras, the *Back From the Grave* '60s garage compilations and top-40 gems. Passion and punk with pop hooks – brash and original, yet quite familiar at the same time.

"What influenced me for *Crawl*," Chrissie explains, "was just to be more rocking and also to try to write 'easier' songs. I tend to write complicated chord structures, and *Crawl* was my attempt at a more basic, 1-4-5 approach."

And the job of providing most of the 1-4-5s was handled, as always, by Eric Hisaw – an Austin fixture who has worked with several artists in addition to his fine solo career, and has accompanied Chrissie since her earliest days. Drummer Hector Munoz and bassist Bobby Daniel (both from Alejandro Escovedo's Sensitive Guys) provide a firm backbone to the album. Where the first album relied on the kindness of several friends, *Crawl* is driven by is a tight, coalesced quartet.

"It's solid when it's the four of us because Hector really thinks about what he's playing and digs it – his heart is in it. He never phones anything in," she says. "Bobby is great because he plays the meat – NO noodling and trying to play more notes than need be; he is solid and his backing vocals fit perfect with my lead. And Eric ... Well, he knows the groove. I believe Eric was born with a guitar in his hands and a million songs in his heart - he just knows music."

And while the disc is a straightforward affair, that doesn't mean there isn't room for a curveball. Take "Minute Man," for example.

"'Minute Man' was a beast," Chrissie says. "I thought long and hard and came up with James Brown for the drums after thinking about the documentary where James says to his band that all the instruments were drums. I told Hector that and he played around a bit and boom! – we got it for 'Minute Man.'"

And you'll get *Crawl Through Your Hair* – a little disc, three chords a whole lot of boom!

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