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Magnetic Fields' 69 Love Songs: A Field Guide (33 1/3)

LD Beghtol

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#478417 in Books LD Beghtol 2006-12-11 2006-11-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.55 x .36 x 5.941, .29 #File Name: 0826419259157 pagesMagnetic Fields 69 Love Songs A Field Guide 33 1 3 | File size: 18.Mb

LD Beghtol : Magnetic Fields' 69 Love Songs: A Field Guide (33 1/3) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Magnetic Fields' 69 Love Songs: A Field Guide (33 1/3):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kenny DalglishGreat!6 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Not the best in the seriesBy Charles SikkengaA little too fragmented and idiosyncratic for the casual listener/reader. The glossary of terms used in 69 Love Songs is fun and informative, but beyond that, its hard to penetrate.11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. It would be better if the author actually looked at and thought about the lyricsBy Janet PerryI have been crazy about songwriters who are clever with lyrics since childhood. Give me an unexpected rhyme or an obscure metaphor and I'm lost. So is it any wonder that I went crazy for Merritt the first time I heard a Magnetic Fields album?69 Love Songs is not my favorite MF album, but I do love

it. I love the scope of it, I love all the varied faces of love here, I love the way Merritt channels so many great songwriters and styles and I love his inventiveness. While the author has a lovely voice, he appears to know squat about poetry or poetical analysis. He also appears to believe everything Merritt says as the absolute truth. My problem is that his analysis of many of the songs is just plain weird. While it might not agree with my thoughts on the songs, I decided I would test the interpretations that seemed weird with others. So I gave two people who weren't familiar with MF the lyrics and the interpretations from the books. They didn't agree either. It's as if the author reads into these songs what he'd like them to be about. Merritt often writes about vampires, so "I Don't Believe in the Sun" must be about vampires, even though the song won't support it. And so on, it's maddening and ruined the book for me. However Merritt draws on so many ideas and metaphors that there is value in knowing who people are. But then again often this is pretty shallow in the book. I found myself often wishing to know more. The definitions are better when things are more obscure. I wish I could recommend this book, the album deserves so much more. But, in the end I can't. Read the lyrics in the albums, look up the things you don't know on Wikipedia, and find the meaning yourself. You'll do better than the author.

A fully illustrated oral history of the Magnetic Fields' 1999 triple album, 69 Love Songs - an album that was afforded "classic" status by many almost as soon as it was released. LD Beghtol's book is chatty, incestuous, funny, dark, digressive, sexy, maddening, and delightful in equal measures. It documents a vital and influential scene from the inside, involving ukuleles and tears, citations and footnotes, analogue drum machines, and floods of cognac. Oh, and a crossword puzzle too. The centre of the book is the secret history of these tuneful, acerbic, and sometimes heartbreaking songs of old love, new love, lost love, punk rock love, gay love, straight love, experimental music love, true love, blue love, and the utter lack of love that fill the album - as told by participants, fans, imitators, naysayers, and others. Also included are a lexicon of words culled from the album's lyrics, recording details, performance notes from the full album shows in New York, Boston and London, plus rare and unpublished images, personal memorabilia, and much much more.

"LD Beghtol's 69 Love Songs provides a lovingly written account of the wonderful Magnetic Fields and their magnum opus. Beghol utilises an obsession to succinct detail over 158 pages, which fits perfectly with the ethic of the group's two-and-a-half-minute pop masterpieces."