

Live Marillion redundant

Marillion
The Thieving Magpie (La Gazza Ladra)
EMI

by Mike Spindloe

Someone once said that all good things must come to an end, and so it is for the career of Marillion, who rose to superstar status in Europe on the coattails of a wave of nostalgia for Gabriel-era Genesis but lived to transcend those admittedly complimentary comparisons.

That, of course, is the cynical view; my own is much more benevolent. In fact, history should assign Marillion their place among the best progressive rock bands of the '80s. And they were truly a band of the '80s: their first demos were made in 1981 and *The Thieving Magpie* should be their last album.

The reason for the end, which has actually not been admitted or confirmed by the band or their record company, was

moment as he, for she trembled all over. "What would happen," he inquired, "if I crushed you in my arms?" "I'd melt," she murmured shakily. Taking her response as a sign to go ahead, he leaned towards her and clasped her in a warm embrace.

Seconds later he felt a sticky sensation spread over him and, gazing down, saw a large chocolate puddle seep over his lap. As for Alice, she was nowhere to be found. She had vanished as quickly as she had appeared, for chocolate people have that unique ability.

"I knew she was too sweet to be true," Bob muttered.

the departure of lead singer Fish for a solo career. To carry the Genesis comparison right to the bitter end, Fish is neither Peter Gabriel nor Phil Collins, and without his former mates he may well find himself, if you'll excuse the bad joke, a Fish out of water.

Whatever the future may hold for the band (who are apparently seeking a new lead singer), they did leave behind a solid body of work, highlighted (for myself) by the 1985 concept album *Misplaced Childhood*. Marillion also had the distinction of being one of the best-marketed bands in rock history; they left behind a mind-boggling assortment of EPs and singles, most of which were released (along with their five albums) on both black vinyl and picture discs.

That brings us (finally!) to the current release. It's a double live album which includes tracks spanning the band's career, including live versions of some previously non-LP tracks. For collectors, the CD version (available only as an import)



contains the entire *Misplaced Childhood* album done nonstop live; the vinyl version contains the first half. The rest of the tracks are the same.

Unfortunately, there is little reason for this package to exist, except as a probable farewell from the band to their insatiable fans. Marillion played it fairly safe live, as is immediately apparent from the studio soundalike versions of songs presented here. The *Misplaced Childhood* segment is

a good example. Over its 40-plus minutes the arrangement varies only slightly from the original. It is pleasing to listen to and remains a great lyric piece, but is ultimately redundant.

The same is true for the rest of the LP. If you're still interested in catching up with the band, try *Misplaced Childhood* first; it's kind of like *The Wall* without Roger Waters' grating self-pity. Overall, this is a toothless farewell from a tiger of a band.

FM88^{CJSR} playlist

WEEK ENDING MARCH 8, 1989

THIS LAST WEEKS
WEEK WEEK ON

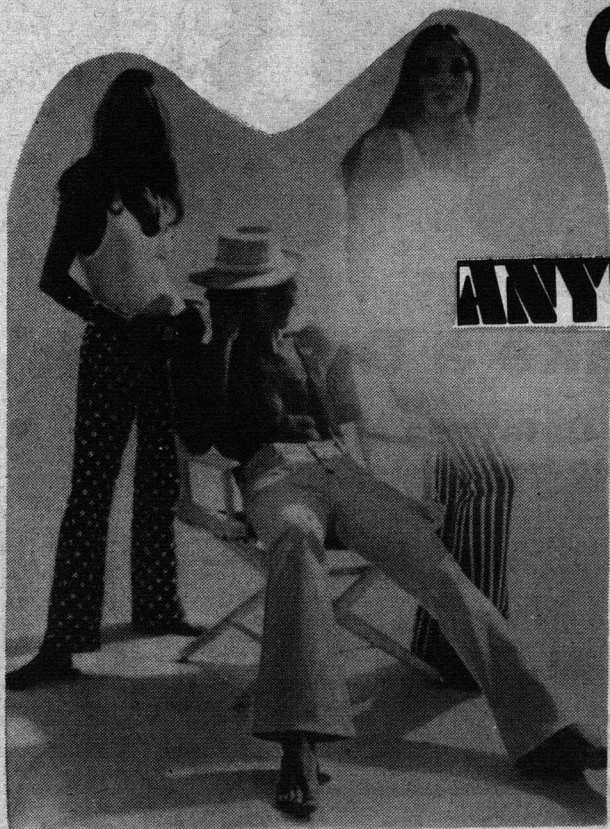
1	1	2	Elvis Costello	Spike
2	7	5	Yello	Flag
3	12	2	Fairground Attraction	The First of a Million Kisses
4	3	7	Various Artists	Don't Let the Fruit Rot on the Tree
5	4	4	Romanians	World on Fire
6	-	1	Proclaimers	Sunshine on Leith
7	-	1	Voice of the Beehive	Let it Bee
8	-	1	Fine Young Cannibals	The Raw & the Cooked
9	2	5	Replacements	Don't Tell a Soul
10	5	5	Lyle Lovett	And His Large Band
11	11	6	Lou Reed	New York
12	15	6	Bruce Cockburn	Big Circumstance
13	13	6	No Means No	Small Parts Isolated & Destroyed
14	-	1	Eugene Ripper & the North	Selftitled
15	-	1	Bel Canto	Whiteout Conditions
16	16	2	Yomo Toro	Funky Jibaro
17	-	1	Gary Fjellgard	Heart of a Dream
18	-	1	Tone Loc	Loc'd After Dark (EP)
19	-	2	Charlebois	Dense
20	-	1	The Bible	Content

EPs

1	-	1	Pogues	Yeah Yeah Yeah Yeah Yeah
2	1	2	That Petrol Emotion	Groove Check
3	3	4	Nick Cave	Deanna
4	-	2	Officials	Real Life
5	6	3	Church	Sum of the Parts
6	4	4	Morrissey	Last of the Famous International Playboys
7	10	3	Bambi Slam	Long Time Coming
8	-	1	Simple Minds	Ballad of the Streets
9	-	1	Son of Sam	Pieces of Elizabeth
10	-	2	National Velvet	Flesh Under Skin

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