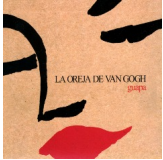


La Oreja de Van Gogh - Guapa (2006)

Written by bluelover

Thursday, 15 October 2009 12:10 - Last Updated Thursday, 22 October 2015 12:30

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01 A diez centímetros de ti 02 Alguna de mis noches 03 Amores dormidos 04 Apareces tu 05 Cuantos cuentos cuento 06 Dulce locura 07 Irreversible 08 Mi vida sin ti 09 Muneca de trapo 10 Noche 11 Perdida 12 Vuelve Amaia Montero – vocals, backing vocals Xabi San Martín – keyboards, piano, backing vocals Pablo Benegas – guitar Álvaro Fuentes – bass Haritz Garde – percussion

Like its predecessor, the multi-platinum *Lo Que Te Conté Mientras Te Hacías la Dormida* (2003), *Guapa* is a stunning showcase of La Oreja de Van Gogh's talent for crafting an array of nearly perfect pop/rock songs that are memorable and instantly appealing yet also intelligent and unique from one another. While many contemporary pop/rock albums feature a few highlights and a bunch of filler, La Oreja de Van Gogh albums are exceptionally high quality from beginning to end, with any particular song catchy and well-crafted enough to be a potential hit single. For instance, last go round *Lo Que Te Conté Mientras Te Hacías la Dormida* spawned eight chart hits -- over half the album -- and like its predecessor, *Guapa* offers a bounty of gems. The dynamic lead single, "Muñeca de Trapo," is the best of them, featuring a chorus powered by a surging guitar riff. The two highlights that follow, "Dulce Locura" and "Perdida," are also explosive. While the quiet-loud-quiet dynamics of these songs aren't as prevalent elsewhere on *Guapa*, every song boasts a memorable hook, and there's often a palpable tension between guitarist Pablo Benegas, whose riffs tend to overtake the songs during the choruses, and lead vocalist Amaia Montero, whose singing grows more intense whenever the guitar riffs kick in. All of this makes for dramatic and frequently powerful pop/rock -- that is, pop songs that at times truly rock. Toward the latter half of *Guapa*, after all of the aforementioned highlights have passed, there is a bunch of lighter songs ("Irreversible," "V.O.S.," "Apareces Tú," "Mi Vida sin Ti," "Cuantos Cuentos Cuento"), which helps relieve some of the earlier tension and closes the album on a fairly relaxed note. ---Jason Birchmaier, Rovi

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