

Tekst 10

DEAR LUCINDA...

by brendan vaughan

THE GREAT LUCINDA WILLIAMS has a new album, *World Without Tears*, and at least one devoted fan at *Esquire* wants to weep. An open letter to a fallen hero:

Lu, we need to talk. I love you, I do. But you've been acting so weird lately. Last summer, when I saw you in New York, you *rapped* half your new songs. And now this new album ... well, I guess I just need some space. And, yeah, I want to hear other people.

It's not that *World Without Tears* is a disaster, Lu. It's not. It's decent. In fact, I liked it on first listen. Which is a bad sign. Nothing betrays fleeting art like instant accessibility. Appreciating great music – appreciating any great creation – takes a little work, right?

The worst part is, I think you're faking it. Not on the slow burns – no, those tracks ring true. But these rockin' songs – I don't mean to be harsh, Lu, but they're so *ordinary*.

My theory? After *Essence* came out, you listened to all those critics (and fans) whose reaction was, "Sure, it's a good record, but it's not *Car Wheels* – it doesn't *rock*." And you tried to give the people what they want. Mistake. *World Without Tears* sounds schizophrenic, as if cowritten by Lucinda Williams, fifty-year-old balladeer, and some half-remembered version of your younger self.

You know what I miss the most? Your stories. You used to take me on such incredible journeys! Unhappy endings, yeah, almost always, but they were *stories* – rich and vivid and brimming with unforgettable characters. You seduced me with those songs, with the lives of those characters, and I fell as hard as a fan can fall. Sure, there'd been other women, other singers with other tales. But I'd never felt that way before.

That's all over now. And it's not me, Lu, it's you. I guess I just miss that spark, that lost magic between us. Maybe I'm being too hard on you. I probably am. But then, that's love.

XXX,
B



Esquire

■ Tekst 10 Dear Lucinda...

- 1p **36** ■ Which of the following does Brendan Vaughan think about *World Without Tears*, according to the first three paragraphs (lines 1-18)?
- A It does not offer listeners enough variation.
 - B It is too experimental for a large audience.
 - C It lacks authenticity and uniqueness.
 - D It mixes too many musical styles.
- “My theory?” (regel 19)
- 1p **37** □ Wat is de theorie van Brendan Vaughan volgens de vierde alinea (regels 19-25)?
- 1p **38** ■ How can the text *Dear Lucinda...* best be characterised?
- A As a background article in the style of a letter by an intimate friend.
 - B As a music column in the style of a letter to the editor.
 - C As an advertisement in the style of a personal letter.
 - D As a record review in the style of a letter by a disappointed lover.