



the charade

keeping up appearances

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file under: Swedish pop

track listing:

01. Keeping Up Appearances*
02. The World is Going Under*
03. I Used to Live in the 80s
04. What's a Normal Person?
05. Ballad of Uneasy Rider
(I'm a Loaded Gun)
06. Heroes and Villains
07. The Perfect Shade of Grey
08. You Don't Wanna Know
09. Springtime Fever
10. 140 bpm Misery Love Song
11. Stockholm April 2007

*focus tracks

All music: The Charade

Lyrics and melodies tracks 1,2,3,5,8,10 & 11
by Magnus Karlsson,
4,6,7 & 9 by Ingela Matsson
Produced by Mikael Matsson

Recorded at Bodal, Danviksklippan
and Nacka Strand
from January to December 2007
Mixed at Stockholm Audiophonic
Soundlab January 2008
Mastered by: William Knapp
Design by: Christine Jewell / Skipping Stones
Photographs courtesy of Nolan Pelletier

Ingela Matsson – vocals
Magnus Karlsson – vocals and guitars
Mikael Matsson – Keyboards, bass
and programming
Guest star:
Jan Thornstein Hedin - Banjo on track 5



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Swedish popsters, **The Charade**, return with their 3rd release on Skipping Stones Records, **Keeping Up Appearances**. Timeless but still fresh, The Charade isn't afraid to show their love of 60s girl groups updated with modern arrangements. The lyrics are included in the CD for the first time, and are poignant reminders of longing to change the past and dealing with the day-to-day struggles of life.

The sunny pop with melancholic undertones keeps rising to perfection, building on their previous two releases on Skipping Stones, with guitarist / vocalist Magnus Karlsson, vocalist Ingela Mattson and the keyboards /programming of Mikael Matsson. Beautiful layerings of angelic vocals from Ingela Matsson are backed up by the intricate arrangements and keyboards of husband Mikael Matsson. The legendary Magnus Karlsson brings this trio down to earth, grounding the sweet pop sounds with jangly guitar.

Karlsson honed his skills as the guitarist for the **Happydeadmen**, who combined the sounds of the Housemartins and The Smiths to become one of Sweden's first pop bands in 1988. Their fresh and crisp sound paved the way for bands like The Cardigans, Popsicle, St. Etienne and 1990s pop in Sweden.

Mikael came of age musically through the "boy-girl jangle pop perfection" of **Red Sleeping Beauty** in the 1990s and later perfected his style in **The Shermans**, where love bloomed with singer Ingela. Mikael and Ingela Matsson bring their brand of sunny pop to a new level, showing growth and honesty as they relax into domestic bliss.

Critical acclaim for "A Real Life Drama"

"supertwee relaxed music that brings to mind big fluffy clouds, sunny days, cotton candy, and prozac" *It's a Trap*

"a well-crafted, accessible pop" *Two Way Monologues*

"The Charade shell out great pop songs with 60's pop throwback in the shape of fancyfree boy-girl harmonies" *Three Imaginary Girls*

"cheery, seamless music ... that wears its influences as easily and beautifully as a summer bonnet." *cokemachineglow*

Critical acclaim for "The Best is Yet to Come"

is brisk and breezy, capturing strolls on sunny days cut into by bitter cold" *Vanity Project*

"jangle-pop perfection many times over" *Common Paper*

the charade

keeping up appearances

lyrics



Keeping Up Appearances

Never thought that I could heal myself and somehow it makes me feel alright

Another rainy summer staying indoors,
had to struggle just to see the light
I wear my pride through sleepless nights
to the morning dressing up to face the day

Never ever look sad and lonely
Always be on your best behavior
Never ever do wrong and worry
Act as if the best is yet to come

People always seem to judge one another
from a shallow point of view
Complications give a strange impression
and they never want to talk to you
Fearlessly I plunge into them ready,
ready for the social world

Never ever look sad and lonely
Put on your best charade
Never ever go for the gloomy
Better Keep Up Appearances

The World is Going Under

So come on all you folks
who don't deserve what you have
And come on all you losers
who don't have what you need
In time there'll be reasons for you all to rejoice
Hear the wake up call and just follow the noise

It's raining again but the shadows remain,
and the wind's blowing from above
And the state of mind is of every kind
to keep up with it
To be honest with you
The world is going under

So come on all you good souls keep your heads above ground
And come on all you weirdos,
hear the cracking sound
Don't lose what you've got, cause you're chance is gone
And sleep while you can,
maybe have some fun

We're divided in two and the best we can do is to take off our shoes
and be happy
Through the flames and bricks we soon cease to exist but don't tell
your neighbour
It's raining again ...
To be honest with you
The world is going crazy

I Used to Live in the 80s

I used to live in the eighties,
I remember it all too well
Suffered from all the bad things
that surrounded me in those days
I first turned goth and dressed in black,
went to hell and barely came back
But then suddenly I saw the light, the guitars weren't loud but bright
Had to make a statement

Music was so bad I had to form a band, keep away from mullets hide
my head in the sand
And become a popstar by being lazy and shy, didn't know why, just
didn't know just why
Somehow I miss those times
When youth was still ahead

Used to wake up in the eighties.
Didn't like it but what could you do
Sit down and wait for the nineties?
I guess time must have been moving too slow
Have to blame myself for the outcome, there were reasons why it
almost went wrong
The story could have been so great,
but it all came out in just one song
That's all that matters

The reason why I cared to even let things
happen, the same old story told in various versions.
A decade that made me wonder what I did on this planet, made me
almost cry almost cry
Music was so bad ...
I remember my future. And now it's all behind

What's a Normal Person?

If this is all what life's about
Would like to tear something apart
Get up at six and it's still dark
Come home at six still tired
So why not challenge expectations
What's a normal person?
It will be worth the complications
If you only live once

So what would happen if I'd smile?
Started to sing and hugged that guy?
Supposed they'd throw me off the bus
Well, that would be a good thing

And then I'd plead insanity
Don't give me no responsibility
Just had to break out of that line
I don't think that's a bad thing

Ballad of Uneasy Rider (I'm a Loaded Gun)

I'm a loaded gun
If you ask me what I am
If there's no one around
I'd be sure to make a sound
Yesterday she dumped me
and I almost lost my job
Took refuge on a barstool only just to sob

I wonder where you are
Wonder where you've gone
Need to have you back and sleep my drinks off
Tomorrow's far away
I guess I have to pay for being such a jerk

I'm an empty gun
My will is close to none
Clouds over my head
The blues is in my bed
Hope that we can reconcile, if only for a day
I'd explain my mistakes if you promise to stay

I wonder where you are ...

And if you're asking me to step down
from my stage
I'd listen to you, I'm not sure I would obey

I wonder who you are
I wonder what I've done
My reaction only proves I feel sorry for myself
Tomorrow's here today
I guess I have to pay for being who I am

Heroes and Villains

It could hardly be irrelevant
that he's very good looking
In that good, old-fashioned way
It could hardly be irrelevant that he's very successful
When it comes to being smug

Let's hear it for the heroes, the heroes of today
Let's hear it for the villains, the villains of today

He has all the right opinions
When he talks about the system
And the privileged and the rich
In the perfect world all people will be treated
as equals, but it's not because of him

He has you running around in circles
He demands to be admired
And complains about the wine
For a guy like him living as you learn is not an option, simply not for
him

The Perfect Shade of Grey

Doesn't matter if your world's falling apart
Doesn't matter if you're slim, gorgeous and smart

Late in the afternoon
you know you can see the moon
Come on shed a tear with us
for the loss of years
Happiness it's retrievable
Or would you say unbelievable
Let's seek the golden key
in the glossy magazine

Doesn't matter if it pour down would you say
As long as you wear the perfect shade of grey

You Don't Wanna Know

I wanna love you, but I think it's too hard to do
Wherever it may grow, love requires a place to go
Someone told me once that I had enough charm to be chosen by the
ones I could cope with
Anytime of day it would show that it's true
You don't wanna know

I was the sad one, working hard on my weary look
Now I'm the mad one and my head is an open book
These times are better than I remember the old days, as you move on
you always grow good taste
Learning from all failure
No chance I will deny it no chance I will
re-try it, being stubborn was my only crime
Maybe I could see through the lies that I have told you and make sure
that everything is fine

Wasting a lifetime by making a worthless choice
Saying the right line, whatever necessity
In troubled or in good times I'm always
prepared to sacrifice my personal freedom
You don't have to know
You don't wanna know ...

Springtime Fever

Even though it's March still
There's no hesitation
Snow is definitely already melting away
It's the greatest feeling
Really my salvation
One more month of winter I would never survive

Hey springtime fever
Come melt the snow away
I feel the heat now
Do you feel the heat now?

It's not all that easy
Coming out of hibernation
My mind is out there dancing
My body is still on the couch

Suddenly you're just not
content with how the days pass
Slowly realizing that life can be so much more

Hey springtime fever ...

Give yourself a break now
Let's enjoy the moment
Take a very deep breath
You'll know what to do

140 bpm Misery Love Song

At a dead end street
With nothing on my feet
I am looking for you
Now it's dark outside
Took a cab for a ride
Don't know where to go tonight

I need to know
Still you don't regret a single thing?
Did you have slam the door and leave?
Did you have to call me names and feed?
For nothing

What will you find when you come back?
What will you feel when you see me again?
Is there courage enough to be friendly
Are you afraid to apologize?

I need to know
Still you hang around with all those thugs?
Do you have to drink such amounts? What for?
When you always steep on the hallway floor?

Aren't you afraid to be lonely
I guess you have to come back

Stockholm April 2007

In this city everyone's a stranger
There's no need to have a smile on your face
But when I saw you at this crowded station
My lips started to move in a haze
There you were
The person I'd been looking for
There I was
In another world looking for you

If you really want me, maybe you can
have me now. If you don't believe me
you don't have to take me anyhow

Tried to sit so I could see your face
Maybe our eyes would meet if just for a moment
But after three stops you jumped off and escaped
You didn't even glance at my direction
Here I was, waking up from my dream
There you were, already at work

If you really want me maybe you can have me now
If you don't believe me you don't have to take me anyhow. If I were a
stalker

I could be your nightmare now.
But I'm just dreamer living in my dreamworld

When I came home there was this emptiness
As I had lost something I never had
The moment just an hour ago
I guess spring has more to offer than pollen
There are things, goin' on everyday
Some you forget, some will haunt you
again and again

If You Really Want Me ...