statement of finitude, suicide and death, yet it's composed almost entirely from pop songs and other banal sources whose underlying messages are the exact opposite. This has always been one of PLU's talents; she effectively starts out with a script from a cheesy situation comedy, and remakes it as Greek tragedy of the darkest tint.

If you listen a bit further in, noting where you can the clever juxtapositions of information which fly by in seconds (fortunately this album comes with a complete transcript of the libretto which someone has carefully produced — no trivial undertaking I might add), you can start to dig out further nasty jokes embedded in this narrative, which prove taboo subjects and uncover the dark side of married life. 'Naked Little Girl' strongly suggests incest and child molestation, 'Partners' does ditto for wife-beating, and the depth of the sexual perversions implied in 'Woman' and 'Female Convict' are beyond the pale. It's not all Kraft-Ebing, thankfully, as it's also an extremely funny record — 'Pick Up' being one of my favourite examples of sheer comical absurdity — and executed with the usual love-hate feeling for the records and musical styles which are being demolished. The Carpenters and Julie London are just two examples of innocent victims besmirched; if you're of a sensitive turn of mind, you'll never hear 'Goodbye To Love' quite the same way again after this. To listen to this bundle you'll never hear 'Goodbye To Love' quite the same way again after this. To listen to this bundle of mixed messages and snide jokes is like eating strawberry Jello laced with cyanide.

ED PINSENT
www.illegal-art.net
www.peoplelikeus.org
www.desritus.net/wobbly

Tea & Toast Band
Swarf
UK NO LABEL CDR (2010)

For a singularly British approach to contemporary acoustic guitar music and song, the listener is advised to point their listening-nose in the direction of Tea & Toast Band, the UK underground combo who positively ooze quirkiness from every fluffy portion of their green-coloured pelts. On Swarf, you'll find seven songs made out of bedroom-minimal instrumentation to produce stark and skeletal backdrops for the deadpan singing of Robert Bidder, who sings and indisputably coiled storylines of the band's sound become more evident and start to grate, particularly in the thin vocals. A minor quibble though, as this electrifying disc has tremendous immediacy and excitement.

ED PINSENT
www.gravidhands.com
www.saddamhusseinrecords.co.uk