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House of Love: She Paints Words in Red – review

(Cherry Red)

☆☆☆☆☆

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House Of Love
She Paints Words
In Red
Cherry Red
2013

Even on their [debut album](#), now 25 years old, the House of Love were steeped in nostalgia. Since [reuniting](#) a decade ago, frontmen Terry Bickers and Guy Chadwick have spent most of their time looking back; the songs on *She Paints Words in Red* are their first new work in eight years. The older they get, the softer the band sound: there is a dark streak of anguish in Chadwick's lyrics to *Hemingway* and *Trouble in Mind*, but the guitars are lambent, pastel-pretty on the former, gentle as a lullaby on the latter. True to its name, *Sunshine Out of the Rain* sets a troubled romance to guitars that glimmer like sunlit pools. Despite this loveliness, it's hard not to feel a nostalgic pang for their youth. You glimpse it in the chugging riff of [A Baby Got Back on Its Feet](#) and in the needling notes of *Low Black Clouds*, but only [PKR](#) maintains the tension. Tellingly, it predates everything else by two decades.

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