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THE USUAL STORIES AND USUAL LIES: Reviewed

Contributed by Alice Lowecey

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***The Usual Stories and Usual Lies* by Brian Sharpe**

For my next long weekend, I'll take **Brian Sharpe's** CD, ***The Usual Stories and Usual Lies***, and hit New York City. I'll start at Long Island Sound, plug in my headphones, and spend a few happy days finding the soul of all the places he sings about in this CD.

Long Island Sound – the longing for 'the' girl and the hope and dreams of a life together. Candystore Dropout – *"But that's how it starts/You take just one look/And she has you by the heart."* Santa Cruz – *"Tell me is your hair still as soft as your voice/And would you be mine if you could make the choice."*

These words and more are wrapped in a pleasing, gravelly voice that sneaks under your skin. Sharpe lures you away to his world of friends, lovers, hope, and poignant memories waiting on that next familiar street.

But like the city, it ain't all pretty or exciting.

Bar on 4th Ave – *"And you can see it in her eyes/All the pain that she has tasted."* Last Goodbye – a breakup that will wrench your heart. Just Like You – *"How long must we wait/Till we can breathe again?"* That Would Be A First – *"You're not allowed to reach in/And touch behind those eyes."* Last Chance – *"And I can feel the future in my throat and how badly I am scared."*

But remember love. Love Song No. 1 – *"You made me alive/You made me complete."* Love Song No. 2 – *"You're amazing and forgiving/You're too good for me, I'm sure."*

Sharpe is a true storyteller. He sings and you're compelled to listen: *"We never take love lightly though/We only take love way too...way too fast."* You'll hope you're the friend he's spending the day with or the girl he's longing for.

<http://www.briansharpe.com/>

Alice Lowecey is a former Franciscan nun turned Soccer Mom and Band Mom. She was raised on classic horror in film and literature, and now writes fiction that'll give you a good scare. She lives in Buffalo, NY with her husband of 19 years, two sons--one a teenager, eep--and two cats.