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Pop review: Plush, Fed

(Broken Horse)

5 / 5

Betty Clarke

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Plush

Fed

Broken Horse



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Released only in Japan in 2002, Plush's second album lives up to the acclaim it has garnered ever since. Fulfilling the promise of their pared-down debut, *More You Becomes You*, Fed is a symphony of Burt Bacharach-inspired pop, blaxploitation-influenced soul and timeless balladeering, bound together by Liam Hayes' uncompromising vision. "My creation has drowned me," he sings in *Whose Blues*, yet he orchestrates the shifting moods and fast-flowing stream of ideas with skill. *Greyhound Bus Station* evokes Jimmy Webb's easy warmth. The strings are dramatic yet plaintive, while the keyboards are at times hymn-like, at times audaciously funky. Hayes' vocals swing from a low, defensive shrug to a tender, emotive falsetto. As nourishing as it is satisfying, Fed will leave you craving more.

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