

## MARIE WILSON

**Real Life** (Atlantic Recording Corp.)

At her best, Australian singer-songwriter Marie Wilson sounds like Chrissie Hynde and the Beatles wrapped in one saucy, rich package. Unfortunately, she is rarely at her best on her debut album "Real Life," newly released in the United States.

Other than the first song, a minor hit in Australia last year called "Next Time," Miss Wilson is indistinguishable from the host of earnest female singer-songwriters who dot the landscape in the late 1990s. She has a solid voice, good backing musicians and excellent production, but she is hobbled by mediocre lyrics that make her sound like a second-rate Melissa Etheridge — whom she strongly echoes in her devotion to simplistic, lung-busting tales of passion and betrayal.

Judging from her album, she is probably worth catching live in an Australian pub, but in the record store, skip the full-length disc and try to dig out a single of "Next Time." She appears Nov. 4 at Washington's Hard Rock Cafe. —  
*Sean Scully*

"Now Hear This"  
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