

# A novel experience

## FINISH THE STORY Bristol

A FINISH The Story gig is not a regular event, the group preferring to take their development at their own pace, in spite of more immediate possibilities open to them. It's perhaps a good thing as they have many experiences to share, some common to us all but most based on their own contact with love and joy, followed by tragedy, anguish and the process of recovery.

Finish The Story are a trio. Two instrumentalists — Gary on synthesiser and rhythm control and Peter switching between cutting lead and pummelling bass guitars — create a model, almost madrigal-flavoured wash of sound in songs like 'Cold As Roses, Damp As Dew' and 'Every Angry Word', echoing in an amalgam of elements from folk and punk.

The music can soothe and caress or bite with a vengeance but the coup-de-grace, the essence of Finish

The Story is supplied by the stunningly physical presence of singer Nicola. Equipped with a voice that can cry, taunt, tear or plead with comparative ease, her songs confront the disease of dishonesty between lovers, friends and associates.

Finish The Story probe the emotions and heal the scars that upsetting them can leave. Their performance is filled with a purging energy, suffused with atmosphere.

There is even a sense of righteousness to where they stand (the 'Righteousness Talk Of Remembers', to quote another song) with the audience having to look to themselves, as the group are merely a reflection of what they themselves may be going through. But the show of strength blows away the doubters and can only lead to better things.

The hopes of higher ruling guiding Finish The Story will result in many more stimulating chapters. Watch this space.

DAVE MASSEY

*FINISH THE STORY'S Nicola: a very physical performance*

