

reviews

Gunporn - Pretty Pretty Please *(Shadow Animals)*



Yes. This is what I need. Hi-hats spit in your face, buzz saw synths mock your pathetic whining. Although the initial layer is a blast of black humour, sharp wit and attitude, it's not hard to tell that at the root of *Pretty Pretty Please* is a very scared, lonely soul coming to terms with its own modern existence, but showing defiance, strength and most of all, the ability to laugh at itself. This is a lonely soul's manifesto, parading under the banner of "Eat, sleep, rap, eat, sleep, rap, eat sleep rap."

It's similar to Sixtoo circa the early Psyche years, nihilistic and at odds with the world (the moody cello sample on *What Happened To Your Neck* sounds so much like Continuum's classic instrumental *Angry*). Just check the imaginatively titled *My Cunt Tree Is Of Three* with its bleary volume swells and *Bleubird's* firsthand witness observation of a sour deal turned to frenzied self doubt: "somebody call 911 I think I need a hug". Just like the ugly caricatures on the back cover; sweating politicians in gas masks, frail bodies with guns, smothered voices, *Gunporn* create music which, although undeniably wracked with fear just like us, beats a heart brimming with a tiny hope.

Bluebirds panic-stricken rhetoric is dizzier and even more vivid than on *Sloppy Doctor*, whilst *Caveman Speaks* inner-city claustrophobia and angst alternate perfectly around chopped-up drums, the minimal handclap/snare hits sounding not unlike a *Plasticman* production.

They speak what I've been waiting years to hear: "This voice will never be the catalyst for change". Not only is it going to take a lot more than sloganeering to change things, but an attack to stop the banality and pretentiousness of music with political undertones, especially in the underground rap world. And whilst simultaneously giving up or settling for being just too damn confused there are moments on this record where the glimmers of hope suddenly become something very important, real and vital.

-Jack

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