

The Beths "Future Me Hates Me": masterful sincerity in joyful hooks

From the hand-painted cover to the lyrical sincerity produced under the guise of bubbly guitar pop, "Future Me Hates Me" echoes the conventions of a choppy garage punk debut album in the best way. Openness and honesty are key traits for lead singer and songwriter Elizabeth Stokes, as is her versatile vocal range. Bright power chord progressions and ebullient harmonies somehow befit the dark topics and complexities explored throughout the album, beginning most vividly with the overwhelming sense of self-deprecation that pervades the title track and packages its earnestness in a distinctly peppy tone and jangling instrumentals.

Despite obvious pop and punk roots, current members of The Beths studied jazz at a university level. All three members frequently draw on this knowledge throughout the album to incorporate unique progressions and tones that juxtapose well against the overall sunny disposition, punk-angst, and lyrical frankness that sets this infectious collection of glittering self-destructions so far above others of its kind.