

“Lush” by Snail Mail – indie rock eclecticism in action.

“Lush” is a visceral beauty, brimming with obvious sincerity, depth, and a unique culmination of bubbly ferocity. Snail Mail’s debut album combines solo artist Lindsey Jordan’s appreciation for indie rock giants of the past with powerful vocals and clean, decisive playing, despite the ambient tonality. “Lush” curates a sub-genre all its own, together emotionally transparent and modestly complex in its technicality. Jordan has a background as a classically trained guitarist, apparent as she ensures that each note resounds with clarity. Each song is layered in heavy, yet lighthearted, chords and multiple tracks, but the vocals and instrumentals are clearly preserved and passionately delivered. Despite being labeled as an indie rock album, the wide range of musical influences is apparent throughout the writing.

Though lyrically the album is reminiscent of the diffidence of adolescence, the frustration of unrequited love, and the abashed veracity of “teenage” melodrama, it can hardly be overlooked, even by those unconvinced of its relevance. Jordan’s talents are not impressive for her age; they are simply impressive. Contributions from touring bandmates, drummer Ray Brown and bassist Alex Bass, allow Jordan to set her creative stage with driving bass lines and high-tuned drums, complimenting the vibey reverb that colors much of the guitar tones. This punk-inspired Baltimore-born electrifies sound and expels wisdom with a candor relatable to teenagers wading through uncertainty with smiles on their faces, and to those who remember being those teenagers themselves. As the album concludes with the lyrical *Anytime*, Jordan singing, “I want better for you”, one doubts that her vibrance, or that of Snail Mail’s, will be fading any time soon.