



when I was listening to this disc and I couldn't tell which sounds came from Sightings and which were the sounds of the workers sawing through each other's leg bones. Brilliant.

JENNIFER MAERZ



Beat Happening 7

Music to Climb the Apple Tree By

In the early 80s, Beat Happening took the Velvets on a picnic and found indie-pop under their blanket. A collection of hard-to-find singles from the band that made kids from all over the country move to Olympia, walk up and down the same street, and perform their pouting tunes for each other in a handful of basements.

JOHNNY ROULETTE

Alexander McGregor 8

Part One: Aguirre Returns

Eskimo Laboratories

Everyone has seen one of those douchebags who rides around on the subway with his acoustic guitar cases thinking, "Cool, man, everyone's looking at me. I'm really awesome." Well, I'll let you in on a secret. He's bluffing. He doesn't have a guitar in there, and if you were to request a tune, even something simple like "Old MacDonald," I guarantee that the motherfucker would spontaneously combust. And that's the case with all of those guys except Monsieur McGregor here. He's onto some dark, pensive,

WORST COVER OF THE MONTH: TABLETURNS

dreamy shit, and if you saw him with a guitar case and asked him to play something like "Under My Thumb," he'd turn around and freak you out with some beautifully finger-picked sullenness.

MATT EBERHART

Mr. David Viner 8

S/T Dim Mak/In the Act

Viner is the guy skwonking around on his geetar to a Robert Johnson poster in your college dorm—only he does it well. Super-trad blues à la pre-freakout Fahey with English elegance and Detroit-revival triple-A members (the Von Blondies, the Kills) for backup and chatty ambience.

DAPHNE CARR

David Byrne 1

Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Thrill Jockey

This is distracting at best. I'm warning for the David Byrne album where he experiments with goregrind and anarcho-crustcore. Maybe he could even do backing vocals on the next Drop Dead record or something. Why not? He's into "world music," right? That doesn't just mean bongos and flutes.

ARTIE PHILIE

V/A 4

Primavera Sound 2003

Red

Well, if you couldn't make it to this year's edition of the Primavera Sound Festival in Barcelona that you didn't even know about and probably wouldn't have attended anyway, then you're in luck. Here's a nice little

collection of tunes by some of the performing artists. I mean, the tracks weren't recorded live or anything. And if you're even considering buying this album then you already have all the shitty CDs that the songs came from...but, whatever.

MATIAS

Town & Country 7

5 Thrill Jockey

This record sent me sailing back to a time when mankind was in its infancy; somewhere deep in what is now the Brazilian rain forest. It was a primal and somber time, and shapeless beasts howled out from the darkness while naked, big-titted tribeswomen served me mojitos on golden platters, resplendent with priceless jewels and sex toys.

MARK VON PFEIFFER



Denison Witmer 5

Recovered

Fugitive Recordings

This joint is all covers by cats like Graham Nash and Jackson Browne. It's so chilled out that if you put it on repeat you'd probably fall into one of those really bad comas that you wake up from all sweaty and neutered. And don't even think of playing this album for some chick who you want thinking you're all sensitive with feelings and shit: I'm pretty sure she'll just call you a pussy before riding off on her chopper for a night out on the town with some guidos.

PEEPERS

Hans Appelquist 6

Att Möta Verhligheten

Häpna

Holy shit! Either this is the demo tape some little girl recorded with her dad for the big end-of-year school recital, or this is the demo tape some little girl recorded with her dad in training to become the next Björk. Whatever the case, I don't think I'd want to be the little girl if she made a mistake. Weird as fucking weird can get, man.

ELVIN SORCERER

Mark McCoy/Mark Telfian 9

Split EP

Gloom

You'd be hard-pressed to find two more controversial figures in the NYHC scene today, but on this record, scores are settled and debts are paid. Nazism? Homosexuality? Czechoslovakia? The two Marks take all comers and put the allegations to rest. This album is as essential as a kidney. Buy it now or get the bootleg next year!

ARTIE PHILIE

Flowchart 9

Pre-2000 Singles and Comp Tracks

Part One

Fuzzy Box

Sweet blissed-out naïveté! Girlie shoegazer pre-set jamboree! Used-bin take-a-chance-since-wasn't-indie-rock-so-great-at-one-time nostalgia! Swirlie velour 1,000 chocolate USA pre-chic Mercury Rev bashing children's toys, tuning in alien radio stations and covering Spaceman 3. Reason to further drone on.

DAPHNISS