

MO KENNEY | THE DETAILS

With her third album, *The Details*, Mo Kenney traces her own strange, devastating, and ultimately hopeful trip through the trials and tribulations of booze-fuelled breakdowns, clouds of depression, and disintegrating relationships. On each of its 14 tracks, she unflinchingly confronts her annihilation and eventual redemption, leaving nothing out. The concept album is her most personal and cohesive work to date—combining elements of bruising rock 'n' roll, vivid psychedelia, and haunting, left-of-the-dial pop, Kenney navigates the darkest waters in her life with self-deprecation, genuine soul-baring, and typical black humour. It opens with a calm before the storm as the eerie sadness of "Cat's Not a Cake"—about splitting a beloved pet in half as a relationship falls apart—provides a deceptively gentle beginning to a ride that swiftly steers into self-destruction.

Following up with the off-the-rails overdrive of "On The Roof," *The Details* explodes out of the gate, finding Kenney unable to escape the dangerous spiral she finds herself in. Before and during writing the album, Kenney was en route to rock bottom: depressed with dark blues and drinking like a fish, unable to hold herself or her relationships together, alienating the people she loves, and living hell-bent on oblivion. She comes to terms with her own toxic behaviour while channeling the late Elliott Smith through spectral atmospheres on "June 3rd." With "Maybe I Am"—a reverb-soaked tune that turns to punchy guitar riffs—she realizes in the midst of trying to hook up with someone that she can't interact with humans properly. The hazy, laid back calm of "Counting" finds her worried she's fallen so far into despair that she's losing her mind. And the vicious, rollicking "If You're Not Dead" shows her playing warped mind games over feral guitar solos and biting hooks.

Somewhere along the way, Kenney finds herself dazed and broken in a place that not many people find their way back from. "Unglued," with its breezy sway, is likely the most summery song put to tape about being fed up with your own messy self. "I Can't Wait" recalls the gauzy dreamscapes of *Yo La Tengo* with a hushed and grateful understanding that as bad as things are, it's not the end of the world. But it's not necessarily smooth sailing from there, as Kenney struggles to stay optimistic with "Lights Out," and sings about getting clocked in the face at a bar by some meathead during "Punchy." Still, she can't help but find the hilarity in getting slugged, slyly laughing through her bloody teeth the whole time.

Finally, she arrives in less troubled seas, closing softly on the sparse, clear-minded "Feelin' Good." The storms weathered to get there may be the kind that leave lasting scars (or at least a few post-bar stitches), but with clear skies on the horizon, Kenney wears those scars as a reminder of what she's been through, and the kind of seasons in hell she's capable of enduring. Her latest is a record of all those storms and the routes and detours and trials of pushing through them while keeping her sense of humour gracefully intact. By turns rowdy, reflective, brave, funny, and deeply honest, it signals an already accomplished songwriter coming fully and completely into her own as an artist. *The Details* vividly documents Kenney's fight to survive her own worst enemy—herself.



1. Cat's Not A Cake
2. On The Roof
3. Details
4. June 3rd
5. Maybe I Am
6. Counting
7. Out The Window
8. If You're Not Dead
9. Unglued
10. I Can't Wait
11. Video Game Music
11. Lights Out
12. Punchy
13. Feelin' Good

management

—
Sheri Jones
Jones & Co.
sheri@jonesandcompany.ca
Phone: 902-429-9005
Cell: 902-483-9005

publicity

—
Grace Russell
Jones & Co.
gracelouiserussell@gmail.com
Phone: 902-223-1460

www.mokenney.com