

The Girls of Summer

DADDY ISSUES

Interview with Jenna Moynihan, Emily Maxwell, and Jenna Mitchell by Brendan Hilliard

On *Deep Dream*, the debut album from the Nashville grunge punk pop trio, Daddy Issues, released May 17 by Infinity Cat Recordings, the group transform from a band learning to play their instruments to a straight-up punk powerhouse. Vocalist and guitarist Jenna Moynihan, drummer Emily Maxwell, and bassist Jenna Mitchell spent the last two years developing a fuzzy, grungy punk sound that ventures lightyears from their 2015 EP, *Can We Still Hang*, recorded only months after they first started playing together.

"We definitely took our time and wanted to perfect things that we didn't take the time to really pay attention to on *Can We Still Hang*," Moynihan says. "It was our first time recording in general and all together. We didn't know what we were doing, and it was quick. This time, we wanted it to sound perfect."

Deep Dream's sludgy first single, "In Your Head," starts with the

line, "Fuck you forever / I said leaving"—an excellent putdown for any deserving party—while other songs stand out like the raging, sunny rocker, "Lemon." There are also poignant moments like the arresting "I'm Not," which details sexual abuse and assault.

In addition to these originals, the album includes a rendition of Don Henley's 1984 hit, "The Boys of Summer." It's recast as a downtempo, slow-burn power ballad. "We really liked it, and when it came time to record, we did not have any more finished, full-band songs," Maxwell says of the inspiration behind the cover.

The band says that their producer, Infinity Cat label head and JEFF The Brotherhood member Jake Orrall, enjoyed the song, because it was completely new to him. "He'd never heard any versions of it before!" Moynihan says. "We kept asking him questions, and he didn't know what we were talking about."

Daddy Issues have been developing their chops on the road with Diet

Cig and Tacocat, bands Maxwell says they've drawn inspiration from. "I think it's easy for us to spend time with likeminded people," she says. "The cool thing about touring with them is helping them spread their message and seeing the reaction of the crowd, seeing who is in the crowd, and knowing that those people—especially young women—are coming to the show and hearing that it's OK to be

yourself and say how you feel and not back down from that."

With the release of *Deep Dream*, Daddy Issues are ready to get back on the road. "We're going to do more touring," Mitchell says. "We have a few summer dates booked right now. We're hoping to see a lot of people again this year, hug a lot of people, and pet a lot of dogs."

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