



JAGJAGUWAR

SMALL BLACK

LIMITS OF DESIRE

Free At Dawn
Canoe
No Stranger
Sophie
Breathless
Proper Spirit
Only A Shadow
Limits Of Desire
Shook Loves
Outskirts

CATALOG #: JAG208
RELEASE DATE: MAY 14, 2013
FORMAT: CD/LP/ DIGITAL
CD BOX LOT: 30
LP BOX LOT: 25
GENRE: ALTERNATIVE/ INDIE ROCK
KEY MARKETS: NEW YORK, CHICAGO,
AUSTIN, SEATTLE, BALTIMORE, DC,
MINNEAPOLIS, INDIANAPOLIS, LOUISVILLE,
SALT LAKE CITY

VINYL NOT RETURNABLE

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The cover of Brooklyn-based **Small Black**'s second LP, *Limits of Desire*, features a photo of a man and a woman embracing on either side of a ladder, completely naked, divided by its triangular arc. They're close, but they can't get any closer. It's a moving depiction of connectivity and interaction in the 21st century and it serves as a sort of source code for the record.

Limits of Desire is Small Black's most accomplished album yet. It's a crystalline realization of a sound they've been building toward since their self-titled EP in 2009. Now a full-time four piece, Josh Hayden Kolenik (keys, vocals), Ryan Heyner (guitar, keys, vocals), Juan Pieczanski (bass, guitar) and Jeff Curtin (drums, percussion), the band have moved way beyond the hazy home recorded sound of their previous releases toward a full-fledged, but still self-produced, clear approach. Where 2010's *New Chain* was a lesson in maximalist pop, *Limits of Desire* finds the band trimming their sound to the essentials, yet hitting new and unexpected heights with the addition of live drums, electric guitar and trumpet to the existing Small Black palette.

Tonally the songs sweep and glide over lush keys, bolstered by lyrics that illustrate the semi-abstract moments of lost opportunities and misread signs, hinted at by the cover image. The title track whirls softly, and channels luminaries **Tears for Fears** and **The Blue Nile**, anchored by Pieczanski's punchy bass as Kolenik sings: "Other lives droned/ far from the grass where I lay/ each eye stared out the opposite way." As much as the record is about looking for deeper connections, it's also about avoiding real life, if only for a moment—getting out of your own head just long enough to calm down and find perspective.

"Free At Dawn" and "No Stranger" do what fans have come to love Small Black for, only better. They're smart pop bangers tinged with a specific brand of melancholy that slowly build to night-affirming climaxes. While "Breathless" ups the tempo, over synth stabs, with lyrics that tackle apathy and uncertainty with catchy grace: "I'm standing in tomorrow's way/ future's fine/least it seems okay." It paints a concise portrait of a generation struggling with unlimited freedom and malaise.

The band builds on a rich history of synth pop by making a thoroughly modern album, on both the front and back end. One that seeks out cohesion, connection and calm in a world that won't sit still. *Limits of Desire* doesn't attempt to provide any solutions, but coming to terms with not finding the answers feels infinitely more fruitful.

SELLING POINTS

1. The follow up to their critically acclaimed debut *New Chain* and mixtape *Moon Killer*.
2. Robust touring schedule around release date.
3. Substantial marketing and advertising campaigns.



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