



MERGE
RECORDS

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TRACK LISTING:

SIDE A

1. Walking in the Dark
2. Lonely at the Top
3. Rome Wasn't Burnt in a Day
4. Iron Curtain

SIDE B

5. Almost No One (Can Have My Love)
6. They Took the Waves
7. The Stars Get in the Way
8. I Don't Remember You
9. Crime Wave Rock

MRG 613

Escape-ism

Introduction to Escape-ism



Indie LP



LP



CD

2017 November 10
vinyl is non-returnable

Box Lot: CD 30 / LP 50
UPC: CD is 673855061320/ LP is 673855061313
Indie LP is 673855061306
Format: CD is 4-panel CD wallet
LP is single jacket + black vinyl + LP3 coupon
Indie LP is single jacket + white vinyl + LP3 coupon // Limited to 300
File Under: Alternative
Export: World excluding North America

Introduction to Escape-ism by Escape-ism isn't a typical record.

Oh, sure, it looks like one, with a label in the center and mysterious grooves etched on a sleek, black disc that glints in the light with a perverse air of knowing treachery.

And sure, when a diamond needle is dragged through said groove, it shrieks and sputters with the familiar range of "rock 'n' roll" sound effects: low-frequency bass, high-end hi-hat stutters, and a middlebrow voice that gasps and cries for love, justice, redemption, insurrection, everything.

And yes, *Introduction...* reacts like a normal record to direct sunlight; it suffers silently until giving evidence of its agony with an awful "warp." Its cover is even like a normal record jacket: glossy cardstock with a cool design, group name, song titles, record label information, and the like.

But this disc is different. It shouldn't only be reviewed in the music press but in the "world affairs" column of a conspiracy-minded newspaper, on a hot-rod review TV show, or possibly at an important conference by a renowned astrophysicist. It's that important!

Why? Because it's the first "solo" record by Ian Svenonius—of groups The Make-Up, Chain & the Gang, XYZ, Weird War, etc. and author of underground bestsellers such as *The Psychic Soviet*, *Supernatural Strategies for Making a Rock 'n' Roll Group*, and *Censorship Now!!*—and as such, it's profound, prophetic, perverse, and poetic... It's introverted glitter, violence against the state, obsessive desire; it stomps on convention, shreds constitutions, clobbers pre-conceived notions of what a record can be.

Yes, that's right: a single-person performance by I F Svenonius—recognized by *Performer Magazine* as the "greatest performer on the planet"—*Introduction to Escape-ism* is a bite into a one-banana bunch.

A drum box, a guitar, a cassette player, and a single slobbering, sinful voice singing out... for a way out. Live, it's a new paradigm of performance: raw, gestural, idiotic, sublime, revolutionary, poetic, faux naïf, unknowing, a drainage pipe that leads to who knows where.

Escape-ism's *Introduction to Escape-ism* isn't just the soundtrack for a late-night drive on a lonely interstate, or a platter played to incite abandon at a pajama party with one's pals. It's also a tunnel to tomorrow. It's a mineshaft to the motherlode.