

LUSH: For Love EP (4AD)

Merely because they aren't too fussy who they go drinking with, Lush have got themselves a bad name as one of the leading lights of the scene that . . . no, I can't bring myself to say it. This is a pity since those crazy Lush guys and gals are vastly more gifted than the weeds, no-marks and deadlegs who comprise that particular little enclave. Lush do have it in them to be all gormless and gooey but this is usually kept in check by a unnervingly brilliant understanding of tunes, chords and that sort of stuff.

'For Love' sets Miki's frankly effeminate vocals (joke) against a volley of great changes, cascading guitars, etc, etc, etc. You can actually carry the tune around in your head, something all the Tarquins and Dominics have not managed yet. Also included on this big value EP is a version of Wire's 'Outdoor Miner' where Miki sounds as if she's running to keep up with the arrangement.

On my copy someone has scratched "Emma From Lush. Dying for it, apparently," which is an ingracious slur on a charming and personable young woman. That new bass player, fancies himself though, doesn't he?