

LUSH

Scar (4AD LP only)

AFTER MONTHS of buzzing talk, Lush release their debut mini-LP and (almost shockingly) it lives up to the raves, like the unveiling of some unique New Pop blueprint.

Colourful, contrasting, crafty; it's a sudden shock of the old (the lightly strummed guitars) crashed headlong into the new (a chilled surge of chords and serene vocals). Consequently 'Scar' cuts it among the competition and, for me at least, puts an end to a few nagging misgivings about them.

Live their frailty has sometimes let them down, each song nervously falling apart at the seams. But 'Scar' has brought out the songs' textures – their scathing and soothing sides slamming up to each other with a contrasting brittleness.

Hence 'Baby Talk' is how The Banshees would have wailed if they'd formed today, a frantic 'Playground Twist' stab at naivety, while 'Scarlet' is as jagged yet pretty as the long gone Young Marble Giants.

The important bit is grasping the idea of Lush – the savaging of pop whimsy – once you've done that, they'll open up a whole new sparkling world for you, away from the straight and narrow of indie pop and into the crazed and devilish. A smouldering heaven.

(9)

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