

THE WORD PLAY

"The snap of a guitar string wound too tight. The deep sproing of a rubber band contracting and expanding.

The shouting voices of the couple who live one floor up.

These are sounds of tension. And so is this: How I Became Illustrated (SSM023), the full-length debut from Canton, Michigan's The Word Play. Pitched by guitarist/vocalist/songwriter Kevin

HOW I BECAME ILLUSTRATED

Mosser and drummer Brandon Sczomak. Think of How I Became Illustrated as 11 sequential games of tug-of-war. Somebody always ends up in the mud, but it's never The Word Play."

- Erik Adams

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Format: CD

Catalog #: SSM023

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(from L to R) Brandon Sczomak, Ian Rapnicki, Brent Mosser, Kevin McGorey.
Photo by Will Yates.

McGorey as a record that "focuses on themes of strained relationships in modern society," How I Became Illustrated is all push and pull, give and take.

McGorey chooses to play lyrical dress-up with his take on the relationship theme, while the band's other songwriter, ax-and-voice man Ian Rapnicki employs a more straightforward approach. Their songs alternate between fitted-shirt tightness and post-Pavement guitar scabble, McGorey and Rapnicki momentarily fleeing the pocket sewn between bassist Brent

Press Quotes:

"Let's see... horn-rimmed glasses? Check. Ash-gray peacoats over American Apparel hoodies? Check. Hair methodically swooped to the side? Quadruple check. The makings of emo's next big thing? Nope. Not in the case of suburban Detroiters the Word Play, who instead come correct with herky-jerky dynamics and unexpected melodies that recall early Modest Mouse — if they lived in the suburbs instead of the trailer park, that is."

- Detour

"This Canton, Michigan band has a sound that mixes together the angular guitar rock of the mid 90's emo band Braid and New Wave Dance Punk sensibilities of bands like Thunderbirds Are Now! and Les Savy Fav.

- Coffee & Cigarettes Music Factory

"The grooves do put an inevitable bounce into the songs, with McGorey sounding like a more desperate version of Mike Kinsella. Vocals aside, the most interesting moments on the album come from the strings of Ian Rapnicki and McGorey. The band infuses a jagged, dissonant post-punk rhythm section into a lot of songs that bodes just as well for them as the more relaxed, down-tempo songs."

- Punknews.org

Performed With:

Thunderbirds Are Now, Electric 6, Plastic Constellations, Colour Revolt, The Silent Years.



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