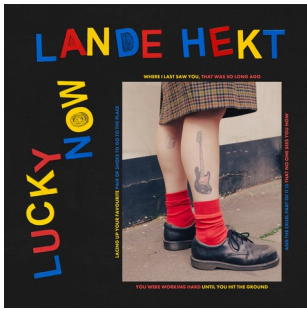




Lande Hekt Lucky Now

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LP / CD / Digital



Lande Hekt has quietly become one of the UK's best underground songwriters. On her 2021 debut full-length *Going To Hell* and 2022's *House Without a View*, she explored her queer identity, sobriety, and childhood trauma through the lens of heartfelt, conversational indie-pop, which led to spots opening for the likes of *Alvvays*, *Throwing Muses* and *The Beths*. Her new album *Lucky Now*, written and recorded with producer *Matthew Simms* (*Wire*, *It Hugs Back*), reflects the most mature and confident version of Lande Hekt yet. "I'm not as concerned about how I'm presenting myself," Hekt says. "I've tried to think less about how things are coming across, and just write songs that make me feel connected to myself and what I value."

Hekt's musical touchstones — *The Wedding Present*, *The Sundays*, *The Replacements* — remain the same, but at the same time she's delved deeper into other influences. *Lucky Now* is indebted to 1980s twee-pop and jangle-pop like *The Pastels*, *Tallulah Gosh* and *The Bats*, plus more modern iterations of the sound such as *Autocamper* and *Jeanines*, in its ecstatic, soaring melodies and gorgeous, tactile guitars. The sound is fitting for Hekt's new lyrical outlook, where, though despair and anxiety rear their heads, she digs deep to find the gratitude. "I wanted to try and push for something slightly more positive, which I'm trying to do more of generally — just to not fall apart," Hekt says.

In keeping with that, opening track "Kitchen ii" is a love song about sharing simple, domestic moments with a partner, while "Rabbits" is a song about hope inspired by one summer solstice spent on Glastonbury Tor. Meanwhile, the slower, acoustic-based "Middle of the Night" is about "reeling from a realisation of being properly happy for the first time in my life," Hekt says. Hekt also returns to more politically-based songwriting, after largely avoiding politics in both life and music during a disillusioned period, on "Circular" ("they change the law like it's a game and we're the pawns getting played") and "A Million Broken Hearts". "If you get swept up in the notion that being politically engaged in any way is embarrassing, that is so dangerous," Hekt says now. "It's really important to try and find a way to reject that."

During the process of making the album, Hekt also moved from Bristol back to her hometown of Exeter. She wrote *Lucky Now*'s closing track, "Coming Home", about the experience of returning there after a long tour; smelling the familiar smells, spotting the familiar faces. In a lot of ways, *Lucky Now* is about return — return to joy, return to places and parts of the self once left behind. Who you once were can seem unreachable, but sometimes you can build a bridge.

Tracklisting

A1 Kitchen II
A2 Lucky Now
A3 Rabbits
A4 Favourite Pair of Shoes
A5 Middle Of The Night

B1 Circular
B2 A Million Broken Hearts
B3 My Imaginary Friend
B4 The Sky
B5 Submarine
B6 Coming Home

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