

TAMAR BERK

TINY INJURIES



Tamar Berk - *tiny injuries* (Self-released)

Tamar Berk's wonderful 2022 release, *Start at the End*, was an intensely personal musical statement written and recorded in the wake of the death of the Southern California singer/songwriter's father. Her follow up, *tiny injuries*, once again finds her laying her cards on the table (emotionally speaking) and setting more personal yet completely relatable lyrics to artfully crafted, easy to digest melodies.

Many of the lyrics on *tiny injuries* deal with the uncertainties of day-to-day existence and are self-reflective; on the beautifully downcast "Cash Out," for example, Berk sings, "I don't know what I want/no words can define it/I don't know what to do/no plans can design it." On the punchy, new-wavey "Walking Hurricane" (which is maddeningly catchy and fortified by Farfisa organ and handclaps), she refers to herself as "...a wasteland with a rock-n-roll attitude."

The hooks are plentiful throughout: often they strike quickly ("Sunday Driving" kicks off a power poppy guitar riff that helps propel the tune and features some sneaky synthesizers in the chorus), but sometimes they're more subtle. (The stark, piano-based confessional "I Was Saved by the Beauty in the World" finds Berk in search of truth and builds to a beautiful, calming climax.) Other noteworthy numbers are the slightly raucous "Gonna Call It" (dig those '80s-inspired synth flourishes and Joe George's marvelous lead guitar breaks) and the short and sweet, poetic "'Til U Get Home," which recalls Emitt Rhodes' "Someone Died."

"If I Could Fix One Thing" brings to proceedings to a close: it's another starkly gorgeous tune with some almost eerie undertones as it winds to a close with Berk reciting a journal entry from 1985 detailing her desire to "be a new person" over a rising wall of churning guitars and feedback. It's a unique and perfect close to a top-shelf record that is both inspired and inspiring. **Grade: A**



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