

ANY KIND

O T H E R

Readymade Records

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On “My Brother”, the fourth track of Austin and Chicago-based **ANY KIND**’s new album *O T H E R*, frontman Dan Duszynski sings, “Right as it’s getting fun, cemetery here we come! Soon you’ll be right next to me, my brother.” On first listen, it’s a carpe diem-like refrain — grab hold of life’s reins, and enjoy the moment because soon enough it’ll all evaporate. But, this is where Duszynski shines. On the surface, there’s the immediate reading of “seize the day,” but in fact, there’s much more at play. There’s the wry indictment of current society’s trivialities, the longing for deeper connection and alienation from those closest, and then a crooked smile with a “que sera sera” flip, embracing the jaunty melody of the infectious track.

Dan Duszynski has released music for the past decade, in bands such as This Is Me Smiling (signed to Columbia/Sony), Gold Motel and, mostly recently, ANY KIND. However, his latest offering, in the form of ANY KIND’s newest album *O T H E R*, is the clearest distillation of his deft ability to craft multi-layered pop songs that seamlessly vacillate between despondency and heart-on-sleeve affection, tied together with a searing wit that makes listens to these new songs so rewarding.

O T H E R also showcases Duszynski’s talent at building instrumental works that deepen the overall feel of the album while simultaneously creating their own narrative space. Many of the lyrics on *O T H E R* come off as straight-forward, but as the album continues, they often devolve into dystopian-tinged open-endedness, and the instrumental tracks help intensify that schism. The soundscapes amplify the progression from upbeat, cheerful pop songs at the beginning to the more cinematic, languid and eerie experimentation of the second half of the album.

“Hold Please” features storm sounds with a rapid cycling guitar line, ushering in Side B of the record, as it fades into “Loving You For So Long” — a song constructed around a lyrical couplet: “Babe, how does it feel now to be out on your own / I’ve been loving you for so long, but it’s time to go on.” These two lines are direct and seemingly unambiguous, but their narrative weight begs the listener to develop a richer backstory leading up to this relationship’s dissolution. If this couplet were to end a longer poem about these two characters, what would those lines say? What more is there to explore?

ANY KIND’s sophomore album *O T H E R* runs the gamut, with early influences of Elvis Costello, The Beatles and Ben Folds to later dips into the unorthodox and avant-garde with The Cure, Ride and Radiohead, all mixed with a whimsy and grit that create a lithe, compelling collection of songs from the Austin and Chicago-based band.