

Love Collapses

The House of Love
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Polygram Records

This album starts off with the tunes "Hannah" and "Shine On;" the minimalist guitar phrasing, thin but emotional vocals and driving bass makes these two tracks elegant and textural "Maybe we have something here" I thought to myself. How naive we record reviewers can be! The rest of the album collapses under the overbearing weight of sheer derivativeness.

There are times where the fine guitar work of the band creates a lush, dreamy atmosphere. The album is also well produced, allowing the instrumentation to stand out.

Unfortunately, the House of Love is too similar to other bands. At times, they sound like U2. At times they sound like Echo and the Bunnymen. Most of the time they sound like the Velvet Underground. What they don't like is anything remotely original. None of the songs are bad, but for the most part, the album is an exercise in bland homogeneity.

If you're not looking for anything new or challenging, you could certainly do worse than The House of Love. But with all the great new bands out there, why settle for the same old thing?

—Michael Sylvie