

THE HOUSE OF LOVE**The House of Love****(PolyGram)**

Guy Chadwick, the leader/singer of Britain's The House of Love, comes across like a demon-possessed Sting. The themes of the twelve songs on House of Love's eponymous debut deal with the dilemmas of human existence and interaction. However, lush arrangements soften the album's bitter lyrical tone. Guitar is at the heart of these pieces, by turns rich and majestic, as on "I Don't Know Why I Love You," and hushed and woe-ful on "Blind" and parts of "Hannah." The album standout is "Shine On," a remix of the band's 1987 career-launching hit.

Fans of bittersweet British guitar pop will enjoy this selection of mid-tempo rockers and ballads.

—Bryson Dean