

STUDENT LIFE

Arctic Monkeys get chilly

By Joshua Lane
student life editor

The Arctic Monkeys can easily be considered the darlings of the UK. Last January their album *Whatever People Say I am, That is What I am Not*, sold 306,631 copies in its first week making it the fastest selling album of all time in the UK. As a matter of fact, they sold more copies of that album in the first day than all the rest of the top 20 did in the first week combined. This amazing run didn't exactly translate across the pond in the US. One month later they released their album here in the States and they sold 34,000 copies the first week, a mere fraction of the damage done in the UK.

The Monkeys hail from Sheffield, England, a working class neighborhood which is reflected in lead singer Alex Turner's lyrics. The first album was a fast paced gritty album that rarely let up. The Monkeys are back with *Favourite Worst Nightmare*. This time, the Arctic Monkeys are just a tad older, but a lot more confident. They have kept the great energy that makes them what they are, but this time they trade their two minute bangers for three minute anthems.

Alex Turner takes his stripped-down straight-forward singing, and adds some complexity to it. There are more layers to the vocals, and drummer Matt Helders gets a bigger part on the vocal action. Turner sings with an extremely thick Yorkshire accent often using "du'nt" instead of "don't," "frew" instead of "threw", and never shying away from using double negatives. They even use the old English way of spelling "Favourite" with the "ou."

This album is most certainly darker and not as poppy as *That is What I am Not*, but it is still very listenable. They have replaced the relentless song energy with the occasional melodic sing-along, which you

can tell Turner has a knack for writing. "Only Ones Who Know" has a slow dreamy melodic sound that truly lets Turner show off his singing ability as well as his great writing. "Well all the little promises they don't mean much/When there's memories to be made/And I hope you're holding hands by New Years Eve/They made it far too easy to believe/That true romance can't be achieved these days."

The Monkeys do some exploring with their sound, without sounding uncomfortable. The track "Do Me

A Favour" has a 70s surf vibe, while the song "If You Were There, Beware" takes on an almost industrial sound with overly distorted guitars, and heavy synth breakdowns.

The best song is saved for the last track and it just may be the best song of the year. "505" is a song about returning home to a lover and is the most straightforward song on the album. "What did you expect/I probably still adore you with your hand around my neck/Or I did last time I checked/Not shy of a spark/A knife twists at the thought that I should fall short of the mark/Frightened by the bite though it's no harsher than the bark/Middle of adventure, such a perfect place to start." The song is in the same vein as Phil Collins', "In the Air Tonight," beginning with just vocals and low synth



contributed photo

The Arctic Monkeys new album *Favourite Worst Nightmare* is darker older and better. Every track is now on the top 150 singles list in the UK.

chords. It all culminates to a two minute guitar solo worthy to be compared to Weezers', "Only in Dreams."

Favourite Worst Nightmare doesn't feel like the Arctic Monkeys are trying still trying to find their sound, it feels like this is the new Arctic Monkeys. **A**



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Top Five Last Tracks

by James Jagger

5. "Hurt" - Nine Inch Nails - *The Downward Spiral*
4. "All Apologies" - Nirvana - *In Utero*
3. "MIB" - Will Smith - *Big Willy Style*
2. "Champagne Supernova" - Oasis - (*What's The Story*) *Morning Glory?*
1. "Only in Dreams" - Weezer - *Weezer*

Number One Singles

1. "Girlfriend" - Avril Lavigne
2. "Give It To Me" - Timbaland
3. "Don't Matter" - Akon
4. "Glamorous" - Fergie
5. "Buy UA Drank" - T-pain
Featuring Yung Joc