



## HIGH WATER – CRUSH / ALBUM REVIEW

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The more I listen to music, the more I am confirmed that the “uncategorisable” releases are the most special ones. No initial formula, no limits to sound variations and most importantly, raw musicianship. These are attributes some artists really embody when creating their music, drawing inspiration from nature and their inner world having an impact on their outer life. Will Epstein, or High Water, feels most at home with a saxophone, but it doesn't take away from his gravelly voice or lovely piano-playing. After an enchanting debut EP, Will is back with his first LP *Crush*, ready to open our minds and strengthen our hearts.

The tracks are so careful with enabling you to understand the frequency of Will's creations – gradually becoming more and more chaotic and impossible to map out in terms of structure and layering. Just as the album is independent from a specific genre, tones are also independent from pitch, especially on the first track, "Moonlight Minds". One could say it makes everything more psychedelic, but I like to think of it as naturally imperfect, slowly transforming into a temperamental ballad.

Echoing all the way through to "Forecast", there's a drone that seems to be resembling rain or a storm. It's almost as if Will created the ideal weather conditions for his album *on* his album.

The most powerful minutes can be experienced mid-album – Will shows off his virtuoso saxophone skill-set on "Woman In the Dunes", making a perfect transition to a reggae cover of Lucinda Williams' "Changed the Locks". However, the only reggae aspect of the song is the syncopated guitar rhythm – the rest is High Water being High Water.

"Crush" is the crown jewel of the album. Its keys sway you from joy to sorrow and back, just like when you're saying goodbye. Will uses his voice to comfort us tenderly and sings about the sun, the rain, falling in love and gosh, it's beautiful. It resonates in your ears a while after you're done listening and you feel like you discovered a whole new level of appreciation for self-expression. Nothing is ever perfect, yet we can all try to reflect the things we have learnt, through the talents we acquired. Will is most certainly a great example.

9.7/10