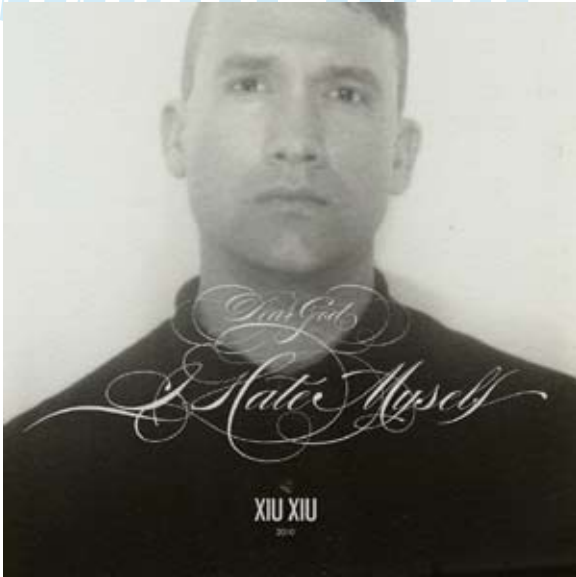


# DEAR GOD I HATE MYSELF

XIU XIU



**XIU XIU**  
**DEAR GOD, I HATE MYSELF**  
**(Kill Rock Stars)**  
Release date: February 23, 2010

\*press materials can be found at  
[fourpawsmedia.com/xiuxiu](http://fourpawsmedia.com/xiuxiu)

#### Track List:

1. Gray Death
2. Chocolate Makes You Happy
3. Apple for a Brain
4. House Sparrow
5. Hyunhye's Theme
6. Dear God, I Hate Myself
7. Secret Motel
8. Falkland Rd.
9. The Fabrizio Palumbo Retaliation
10. Cumberland Gap
11. This Too Shall Pass Away (for Freddy)
12. Impossible Feeling



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This is **Xiu Xiu**'s seventh proper studio album. Seventh. It's a heartening—if almost incomprehensible—that an enterprise of such challenging, seemingly precarious design has managed to endure for so long amongst the astonishing homogeneity of contemporary independent rock music. And not only endure but thrive—having done so solely on the merits of a near-flawless, six-strong run of uncompromising, increasingly demanding experimental pop records.

But that's enough back patting—let's be pragmatic for a second. You have, over the years, likely exhausted all conventional synonyms in your undoubtedly nuanced appraisals of **Xiu Xiu**'s curious allure—there are, after all, only so many pages in a thesaurus dedicated to "confrontational," "abrasive," and "hysterical"—and so for the sake of expediency, allow us to propose an adjective that may have heretofore escaped you: subtle. It goes without saying that **Xiu Xiu**'s singular idiom is a haunted amalgam of narrative intimacy and aural violence. But for as much as is made of **Jamie Stewart**'s sonic sadism and horrorshow narratives, what really sets **Xiu Xiu** so powerfully apart from their would-be contemporaries isn't the open-wrist assault, but the obsessive attention to every detail buried within the band's devastating squall. So it's with no small curiosity that **Xiu Xiu** deliver their most spell-bindingly subtle record to date—here under the decidedly unceremonious banner of *Dear God, I Hate Myself*.

Written and recorded in Oakland, CA, **Jamie**'s recently adopted home of Durham, NC, and at sundry points in between (**Stewart** has developed a peculiar fondness for the Korg DS 10, a Nintendo DS sequencer that serves as the basis of four songs on the record), *Dear God, I Hate Myself* eschews the disparate/desperate schizophrenia of its many predecessors, and in doing so arrives at the group's most focused collection to date: an unequivocally candid Goth-pop clarion call for the forever disaffected. Calling upon his ever-enviable company of collaborators (renowned percussionist **Ches Smith**, **Deerhoof**'s **John Dietrich**, and new full-time member **Angela Seo** among them), **Stewart** once again shares production duties with **Deerhoof** mastermind **Greg Saunier**—an inspired partnership whose spoils have successively sharpened over the course of the group's last two records. With *Dear God, I Hate Myself*, **Stewart** and **Saunier** have perfected a kind of staggering economy of sound—managing somehow to encompass and distill so much of what makes **Xiu Xiu** extraordinary into a package more acute and seemingly effortless than ever before. There's nary a wasted squelch or superfluous drum trigger throughout the record's harrowing 37 minutes.

With familiar themes of both the sweeping and the mundane—fear ("House Sparrow"), heartbreak ("This Too Shall Pass Away"), compulsive infatuations with cartoon characters ("Apple For a Brain"), self-loathing ("Dear God, I Hate Myself"), and of course, chocolate ("Chocolate Makes You Happy")—it's tempting here to stoop to misleading platitudes like "back to basics" or "return to form." Fact is, **Xiu Xiu**'s far-flung discography has scarcely charted much of a form to return to. Instead, *Dear God, I Hate Myself* takes all that is so resonant and subtle and startling and beautiful about **Xiu Xiu**, and does with it the one thing you can always expect **Xiu Xiu** to do: it makes it something new altogether.