

Welcome to the commentary document for Nothing's Unexplainable With The Power Of Science!! Once again, I feel like an egomaniac for doing this, but I am still going to. But I've made tabs and sheet music for everything this time! They are also linked to on the webpage for the album.

So this is our 4th album! (If you count Exit Slip as an album, which I do, and don't count ELECTROMILK, which I don't.) Exciting! I started writing it basically immediately after releasing Shiny Plastic Teeth because I don't have much going on in my life. I didn't have a theme in mind at all (I never really do) so I think the songs are kind of lyrically and musically all over the place. I considered calling the album "Locked In The Junk Drawer" for a while, because of the random nature of it but I think it's a little too on-the-nose and kind of stupid. When I thought of the current title I realized there is a bit of a theme: SCIENCE! Because the more light-hearted songs are mostly about sci-fi type of stuff, and the serious songs have an underlying medical tone, or at least I feel like they do. This time I tried a little harder with visuals and everything, I literally made the album cover for Shiny Plastic Teeth in like 10 mins. Anyways enough of my rambling, onto the rest!

TRACK 1: False Introduction

God this is gonna sound so pretentious but I really like just putting a CD into a CD player to listen to it so that's what this is simulating I guess.

TRACK 2: Hello Earthlings

For a while I was just thinking about aliens a lot. Mostly in a fun way, but also in a metaphorical way (because I feel like an alien). Same goes for the song, but Hello Earthlings has some of my favourite lyrics on the album. This was also my first try at using a vocoder (not a real one, just a plugin. I used TAL vocoder btw.) That was such a pain to set up oh my god! I am not great at that sort of stuff. The guitar on this song also has a bunch of modulation effects that I had never tried before.

TRACK 3: Electric And Shocking

Okay first off, I need to be honest. I could not play the main guitar riff cleanly at full speed, I had to play it at half speed and speed it up. Shameful. I won't say much about the lyrics because I don't think there's much left to say about them. The only thing I'll say is the verses were so hard to sing! I kept tripping over the words. Also the drums were very fun to record, which is weird because that's usually the part I hate doing the most.

TRACK 4: Hey Tiger

I only wrote this song because I had the phrase "hey tiger, where'd you get those stripes" stuck in my head for some reason. I think it was stored deep in my memory from a webkinz thing? I don't really know what it's supposed to mean, but I like the way it sounds. So I just wrote a song full of phrases that don't have much meaning but sound nice. There's a little bit of a theme about how sick of words I am. The chaos at the end of the song was super fun to make. The clip of all the chatter was just recorded in the hallway while I was at school. I also took one of the vocal parts and reversed and sped it up. And the rest of the noise was the product of seeing what weird screeching noises I could get out of a guitar. That part is the first time I've experimented with noise(?) music. Would that be noise? I don't know, but I definitely plan on trying it again.

TRACK 5: Who Are You And What Do You Want

Even though this song is connected to Hey Tiger by the chatter recording, they don't have anything to do with each other. Hey Tiger isn't about anything, but Who Are You And What Do You Want is probably one of the most miserable songs on the album. The synth line that runs through the whole song was written first, just by messing around on a keyboard while I was in a weird mood. This was also made to try and break out of the verse-chorus-verse-chorus-bridge-chorus formula I find myself falling into a lot, so that's why there's a bunch of different parts. I'm not gonna talk about the lyrics because I don't feel like it! The whole reason I write music is so I can say that sort of stuff without actually saying it.

TRACK 6: Wait For Me

This was my attempt at writing one of those mid 60's semi-psychedelic pop-rock songs. It might sound a little too close to She's Not There by The Zombies but oh well. The lyrics are once again about feeling like life is going too fast. I try not to write about the same subject over and over, but at least this one is musically different. Oh and there's some more vocoder stuff in this one! I really like the way that Polysics uses vocoders on their backing vocals so I wanted to try it out.

TRACK 7: I Thought You Were Dead!

Just a little 8-bit track. It ended up sounding a little vampire-y so that's what the title is about.

TRACK 8: Party On Mars (And I'm Not Invited)

Another song about aliens! Well kind of. I don't think I need to say anything about the lyrics they just are what they are. This song was sort of inspired by The B-52s even though it doesn't show at all in the music. It's more the concept of the song that was inspired by them? I don't know if that makes sense but yeah. Just a fun happy(ish) song to break up all the misery songs. If I was patient enough to animate a cartoon music video for this I totally would.

TRACK 9: PUSH/PULL

When I sat down and started writing this one I was intending to write a sort of eurodance-y song but yeah it did not come out that way. It also came out really short. Whoops. Anyways this is sort of similar in subject matter to One Two Three Dimensional, but instead of escaping self-hatred this is more just wallowing in it. My favourite part of this one is the waltz sort of sounding part in the verses. It's not actually in 3/4, my brain isn't big enough for that, theres some extra notes at the end of each segment to make it an even 2 bars. At least it's something new though. I enjoyed having every third 8th note be accentuated instead of my usual beat 1 and 3 or 2 and 4. Yeah alright this is getting a little bit nerdy.

TRACK 10: One Two Three Dimensional

This song is about escaping self-hatred. Funny enough, repeating all that stuff over and over did help me a little. Anyways the funny thing about this one is the chorus was written for a completely different song that I ended up scraping, and the verse was written for another different song that also got scrapped. So from the ashes of those two songs arose this one! I was trying to go for punk with that guitar part in the verses, but somewhere along the way I think that got lost in translation because this is clearly not a punk song. I really do like punk rock but I cannot make punk rock. I don't have the voice for it lol. If I was capable of scream-y vocals I would absolutely use them but I'm not so oh well. The guitar in this song is really fun to play it makes me feel like a real guitar player!

TRACK 11: Hajimemashite

Yeah sorry about this. It may be a stupid idea to put this basically 2 min of pure noise on an album comprised of mostly pop songs, but whatever I do what I want. Anyways the whole point of this song was to capture an emotion that I have never been able to express with words. Also I don't think my voice is very good at expressing emotion just because I never sing very loudly. All the little tts clips are "nice to meet you" in a bunch of different languages (french, spanish, hindi, arabic, japanese, russian, mandarin, and english). I chose hajimemashite for the title just because I really like the way that word sounds, I just find it a very smooth and satisfying word idk.

TRACK 12: Skin

Yet another song about cutting! Sorry. But there is something new about it: it's kinda jazzy! I would have never thought of going that direction but I was messing around with playing over the pre-made backing tracks on my keyboard, and I tried a jazz one. I thought it sounded pretty cool so I just stuck with it and made my own jazzy song. The drums could be a little more... smart? But I'm honestly really proud of the bassline, I think it sounds good. And in the spirit of jazz (lol), the keyboard parts were mostly improvised. (Definitely not just because I forgot to write that part!)

TRACK 13: Starry-Eyed

With this one I was trying to write a super over-processed sparkly 80's pop song. Don't know if I was successful or not but it was fun! I say that a lot but it's true, music is fun! I don't really have the voice for this sort of music which ruins it a bit but that's alright. The lyrics aren't about much, just shiny city lights. The bass (pretty clearly) isn't real. I wish I could play slap bass but I can't so I just used a plugin. Here's some more of my shame: I couldn't play the guitar solo in one take, I had to record the tapping separately and then splice the parts together. I actually have to do that a lot, because I end up writing solos that sound cool but I'm not actually skilled enough to play.

TRACK 14: A Very Convincing Halloween Costume

This one was sort of maybe completely inspired by the vampire DLC for the sims. I was playing it a lot so I had vampires on the mind. So I wrote a song from a vampire's point of view, but then I had another thought: What if it wasn't actually a vampire, but a kid dressed up for Halloween pretending to be one? So that's what it's about. I was also listening to a LOT of AFI at the time (seriously like an obsessive amount), so it's pretty inspired by them. But I don't know if it shows or not. Maybe it sounds a *tiny* bit like late 90's AFI? This was another one of the guitar solos that I had to surgically put together. BUT the only thing I had to do was record the tapping separately from everything else because I couldn't cleanly switch from tapping to picking. I've been putting a lot of effort into improving my guitar skills and I hope it shows at least a little!

TRACK 15: The Only Thing On TV Is New Year's Eve Specials

I think this is the first song I wrote for the album. I started writing it in November(?) 2022 but then sort of put it away for a while because I didn't know what else to do with it. I picked it back up on New Year's Day of 2023. It was originally just about insomnia but after having a super miserable and lonely New Year's Eve I had something else to write about. I guess this one is the token slow song.

TRACK 16: Shattered Glass

Great another song about cutting! Well I guess it's about not cutting. It was originally going to be a guitar song but I was listening to Capsule and Blaqk Audio (both electronic bands) a lot at the time so I was just in that sort of mood. I had fun messing with chorus and phaser effects on the vocals (instead of distortion for once). I think I did pretty well hitting the good spot right in the middle of metaphor and literal with the lyrics (I hate myself for being proud I'm sorry)

BONUS TRACKS

TRACK 17: I Just Blocked All Of My Friends/Fangirl 2023

These are two songs from our "debut EP" that I re-recorded. Honestly I think they needed a facelift of sorts because the original recordings are not very good. I felt weird when I was doing this because even though I only wrote them a couple of years ago I feel very differently than I did back then. You might notice that I changed a couple of lyrics I thought were kind of cringey and slightly altered the instrumental, but they're mostly the same except for being a little better produced. Also they were so hard to sing, I used to force my voice really low where I honestly don't sound very good, but lately I've just accepted that I don't have a low voice. I also found it difficult to just sing as loud as I did back then, not sure why.

TRACK 18: Lollipop

An Aqua cover, of course. I've covered this song before! But the video is unlisted because it didn't sound great. This is actually mostly the same recording, I just redid the main vocals and the drums. I think I managed to make the drums pretty crisp on this one! It's always a struggle for me to find the right mic position and EQ combination where the bass drum is audible, the snare isn't overwhelming the rest of the drums, and the cymbals aren't really tinny sounding.

TRACK 19: Please Mr. Postman

Another cover, this time of the Marvelettes. I did the vocoder on the background vocals thing again here. I don't wanna be a one trick pony, but I can't sing very well--and that's alright for some songs, but on a song like this where most of the focus is on the vocals I think it would be boring if I didn't add something extra. (Sorry for butchering this awesome song lol)