



"The Domesday Pay-Off"
The Fall
Big Time Records
 ***1/2

Not many bands defy classification or description as much as The Fall. The band has a sound that is distinct and easy to recognize, but at the same time is different from that being produced by any other rock or pop band.

The group's latest domestic release is "The Domesday Pay-Off," a collection of singles that were previously available only as imports. On this record, as on previous releases, the band shows influences from the Modern Lovers, a group that featured Jonathan Richman, as well as Jerry Harrison before he joined the Talking Heads.

The music combines elements of industrial, new wave and punk music. Lead singer Mark E. Smith's vocals are sharp and cutting and are probably not destined for the turntables of any top

40 radio station. The guitar work by Brix E. Smith is excellent and largely responsible for the Fall's distinctive sound.

The band has been together since the late 1970s and has released several records in England, but only a few have been released in the United States. This is largely due to the band's refusal to compromise its lyrics or sound for commercial success. The Fall has released some great albums, including "Grotesque," and some equally good singles, the best one being "No Bulbs."

Exposure for The Fall has increased lately, mainly due to the improved distribution of American independent record companies, including Big Time Records. "The Domesday Pay-Off" is The Fall's first release on Big Time.

The best song on the album is "There's a Ghost in My House." "Hey! Luciani" and "Shoulder Pads (Version 1)" are also very good. All of the music on this record is very subtle and it takes a few listenings for one to be able to fully appreciate

what's going on, but the time it takes for that is well spent.

The Fall is a band that is not for everyone, but those that like something a little different with a hard edge should enjoy "Domesday Pay-Off."
 -Review by Tom Reinarts

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