



FRUSTRATION Our Decisions

Label

BORN BAD RECORDS

Format

CD

Catalog Number

BORNBAD 172CD

EAN

3521383480922



Store Price

\$9.39

Release Date

03/29/24

Territory

NORTH AMERICAN EXCLUSIVE

Genre

FILE UNDER - F - ROCK



DESCRIPTION

The relative classicism of **Frustration**'s sixth album, *Our Decisions*, quenches the thirst of fans whose reputation is well established. Their music is driven by an initial desire that is sufficiently complex that its expression is never a repetition. Frustration doesn't teach music history, but that doesn't mean they don't know where they come from. One of the great joys of listening to a band that's had time to figure out what it wants is that it plays together. The keyboards have six strings, the drummer has a mediator, the bass sings, no one's pulling their punches, and it shows. No doubt there are plenty of presets on his synths, but **Fred Campo** had to rip out what wasn't being used, and the result: no lasagna of layers, it's played like a scraper. If this is your first knife, be confident: the quintet crafts its blades with the savoir-faire of a **Thiers** cutlery factory. For snobs who roll on the floor when English is sung on the wrong side of the Channel, two tracks in French, "Omerta" and "Consumés," remind listeners that **Fabrice Gilbert** sings in an interlanguage that has kept the best of both idioms. It's the perfect way to savor his acid, no-holds-barred rants, which cut a swath through this "generation of apathetic truffles/fantasizing about assholes full of money." Produced in-house at Mains d'Oeuvres, premixed by guitarist **Nicus**, mixed by **Jonathan Liefroy**, with **Krikor** on mastering: there's been a bit of a shift to port since their last album, *So Cold Streams*. The sound is less radically cold wave, and seeks a balance close to the instruments (the guitar plays inside your face, closer is in). There are traces of **Indus** on the drum skins of "Riptide," tunnel produced like a banger, and sung like new wave. **Anne**, from the Rouen combo **Hammershøi**, sings in German on "Vorbei," a rare moment of pause in this very intense record. The cardio-packed drums of "Catching Your Eye" recall the joyful drone of "Shades from the past," an instrumental from their first album, and confirm, if confirmation were needed, that **Mark Adolf** forms a formidable tandem with **Pat Dambrine** on bass. "Secular Prayer," which closes the album, confirms that Frustration are as much in the **Ian Curtis** family as they are in the **Ian Dury** family: it takes great care not to take themselves so seriously with such success.

TRACKLISTING

01. Path of extinction
02. State of Alert
03. Omerta
04. Catching your Eye
05. Pawns on The Game
06. Riptide
07. Pale Lights
08. Vorbei
09. consumés
10. Secular Prayer

HIGHLIGHTS

- *Our Decisions* is **Frustration**'s sixth album, and quenches the thirst of fans whose reputation is well established.
- Produced in-house at Mains d'Oeuvres, premixed by guitarist **Nicus**, mixed by **Jonathan Liefroy**, and with **Krikor** on mastering.
- RIYL: **Hammershøi**, **Ian Curtis**, **Ian Dury**.

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