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November 11, 2011

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Album Review: The Fall - 'Ersatz GB'

The Fall still stand alone and aloft

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Album Info

- **Release Date:** November 14, 2011
- **Label:** Cherry Red
- **Fact:** This is The Fall's 29th studio album.

8/10 "*I'm so sick of [Snow Patrol](#)/And where to find Esso lubricant*", growls a phlegm-riddled throat atop of a riff so caustic it could corrode asbestos. And there's not even the faintest chance that such a stonking non sequitur could have germinated anywhere but the noggin of **Mark E Smith**. For while lesser mortals still pilfer from [The Fall](#)'s handbook, he remains forever several pages ahead. Of all the things that could be deemed ersatz – a German word for 'substitute' used mockingly by British POWs in WWII for the piss-poor imitations of bread and coffee they received in captivity – [The Fall](#) are not among them.

Like 2010's '**Your Future Our Clutter**', '**Ersatz GB**' sees Smith and co perpetually moving forwards. The rumbling riffs of '**Mask Search**' and '**Taking Off**' are Fall-like, yet elsewhere they continue to lob the occasional hand grenade into the mix and revel in the resulting chaos – just witness '**Greenway**', which sees aimless piano explode into mushroom cloud-heavy

guitar, while Smith blindly chokes through billowing fugs of brown smoke.

Yet it's his words that are truly inimitable – jumbled images with snatches of meaning floating amidst the din, with disparate nods to gum-healing ointment Bonjela (**'Taking Off'**) and US teen drama *Gossip Girl* (**'Nate Will Not Return'**). Perhaps most oddly of all, on **'Greenway'**, he's confronted with his own doppelgänger staring back at him from a Danish TV station before he surreally barks: *"I had to wake up the cat just to feed the fucking dog"*. It's hard to decipher fact from fiction; or, as he grumbles on **'Laptop Dog'**, *"Life was there but life disappeared/Searches all the bins"*, the remnants of lucidity buried amongst the litter. But then, there's really only one salient truth about **'Ersatz GB'** – that The Fall, even at nearly 30 albums old, still stand alone and aloft. Sometimes, however much you meddle with the ingredients, you can't improve upon the original.

Ben Hewitt

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6.	Latch Key Kid	The Fall

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James Green · Taipei, Taiwan
Haha the lyrics on Greenway are actually, "I had to wank the cat just to feed the fucking dog".
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 9 December at 04:05



Nathan Jon Jupe · Top commenter
Welcome back to The Fall.
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 16 November at 17:58



Steve Hill · Works at Who knows
Yeahman
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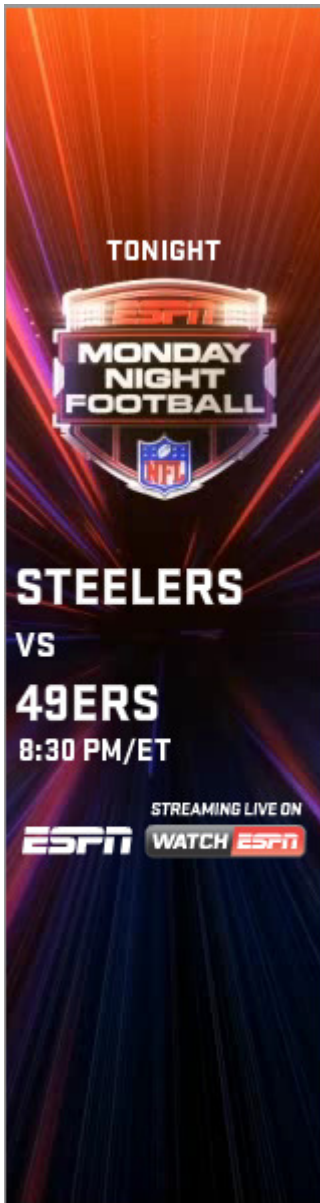
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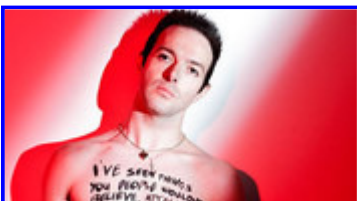
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