

## Everything Girl

On her new solo album, Tracey Thorn is out of the woods—but don't expect her home by dark.

Near the end of Everything But the Girl's propulsive 1999 album, *Temperamental*, Tracey Thorn pledged her allegiance to London nightlife, suavely announcing, "I'm not going home again / Tomorrow will never come." Of course, tomorrow did come, and in a certain sense, Thorn broke her promise when she and EBTG's other half, DJ-producer Ben Watt, stopped making records together and Thorn left clubland behind to raise their three children.

The duo is still on hiatus, but now Thorn has released *Out of the Woods*, a collection of collaborations with underground electronica experts like Ewan Pearson (who produced seven *Woods* tracks) and Gabriel Andruzzi of the Rapture. The doyenne of polished English pop has also joined the MySpace generation, tirelessly promoting the album's first single, "It's All True," and blogging entries about everything from her power walking playlist to her humorous encounter with Lady Sovereign. "I sometimes used to feel that the record company and radio stations were in charge of it all," Thorn says. "You made a record, and then they kind of took it over and determined what would happen to it. I like the fact that on my MySpace page I can

tell people directly what I'm up to, what I'm thinking about, and play them new songs."

Though certain moments of *Woods*—such as the pastoral, Nico-inspired "Here It Comes Again"—seem to reflect her retreat into domesticity, Thorn hasn't lost her affinity for the dance floor, as evidenced on "It's All True," a seductive throwback to '80s New York City synth-funk, complete with a trippy video in which office workers engage in stylized monochromatic choreography.

Meanwhile, urban culture gets a salute on "A-Z," a track about gay teenagers fleeing to the city to escape school bullies. "I read an article in the paper about how common this [harassment] still is," Thorn says. "It's a really big cause of teenage suicide, which is horrifying. I've always had this romantic, idealized image of London as being the place that welcomes everyone, and where you can find your life and be yourself."

JASON LAMPHIER



## REVIEWS

### THE FEELING

#### TWELVE STOPS AND HOME

(Cherry Tree/Interscope)  
Led by gay front man Dan Gillespie-Sells, The Feeling dominated U.K. radio last year with this uncommonly tuneful debut. Evoking such smart and quietly subversive '70s softies as 10cc, Gillespie-Sells sounds discreet but blatantly sings to his "Danny boy" lover in the VH1 hit "Sewn." Download: "Sewn"

### BRIGHT EYES

#### CASSADAGA

(Saddle Creek)  
Indie-rock icon Conor Oberst reaches for the sky and grabs it on a vibrant and strikingly dense disc that captures both the timelessness of classic folk rock and the pains of contemporary life during wartime. Huge violin-drenched arrangements storm around the singer in clouds of drama and abstract dread. Download: "No One Would Riot for Less"

### VICTOR

#### KRUMMENACHER

#### THE COCK CROWS AT SUNRISE

(Magnetic/MVD)  
This Anderson Cooper look-alike and out bassist for Monks of Doom combines country, blues, folk, and rock on a languid but lyrically intricate concept album that weaves his family history with the Stagger Lee myth as he sings in first person both male and female sides of the story. Download: "He Gave Me a Diamond"

### BEBEL GILBERTO

#### MOMENTO

(Six Degrees)  
The daughter of bossa nova pioneer João Gilberto shifts on this subtle disc between the electronics of her 2000 debut and its largely acoustic 2004 successor while celebrating the swaying rhythms and gentle inflections that are her birthright. Madonna and Björk producer Guy Sigsworth and the Brazilian Girls separately contribute. Download: "Bring Back the Love"

### ELECTRELANE

#### NO SHOUTS, NO CALLS

(Too Pure)  
This all-female English quartet with an out rhythm section falters when pushing its wobbly vocals to the fore on the most conventional tunes of its fourth album. Elsewhere the foursome generates droning guitars, humming organs, and locomotive drums that evoke the hypnotic and propulsive early output of Stereolab. Download: "Tram 21"

BARRY WALTERS