

Fall 2011



**DUM DUM GIRLS**

***Only in Dreams***

SUB POP

**83%**

L.A.'s Dum Dum Girls have been up to some hardcore music housekeeping this year, furthering their collaboration with producer/songwriter Richard Gottehrer ("My Boyfriend's Back," Blondie) since their *He Gets Me High* EP, which previewed a considerably polished sound. Thankfully, *Only in Dreams* isn't merely an updated version of the EP, and that's mainly due to singer Dee Dee fully shedding her studio mic shyness and showing off her robust, snarling live delivery. Some of the band's signature buzzsaw sound has been traded in for clever production, especially on the confrontational opener "Always Looking," yet the Girls are as badass as ever with a fierce rhythm section offset by ballads like "Coming Down" and mixing in '60s girl-group harmonies on "Teardrops on My Pillow." The track represents what's so great about this band—while they're always performing in full black garb, their music is invested in the tension of both lightness and darkness that's now audible when listening to each one of the Dum Dums. TALEEN KALENDERIAN