

eleventyseven

adventures in Eville

The scene is small town South Carolina where in the distance local teens rush to hang out at the newly opened Super Wal-Mart. Football practice lets out as teams make a mad rush for the town's only pizza buffet. Scents of backyard cookouts, pickup truck exhausts and Camel cigarettes permeate the air. The picture pans to a quaint apartment complex where junior high girls can be heard cheering through the windows to the latest American Idol episode. Two blocks away, unknown to the police, skaters from the local high school have broken into the abandoned Lowe's warehouse where they have constructed their own makeshift skate park. Traffic is beginning to back up at the town's center intersection as a farmer tries frantically to break his tractor's 15 mph speed. Outside of the county limits, three friends have turned one of their parent's living rooms into a practice space for their band. As they break for a dinner of leftover pizza the mood becomes solemnly foreshadowing. The singer turns to his comrades and distinctly but quietly declares: "The only way to make it in this town, is to make it out of this town." This is how eleventyseven was born.

The powerpop trio of friends known as eleventyseven has been rigorously churning out insanely catchy songs and high fructose live shows since they met in high school. Now, on the eve of releasing their 3rd studio album "adventures in Eville", the boys gear up for another round musical mayhem. The album content ranges from fictional silly songs that include cyborg robot squirrels and a sidekick dog named Grover Cleveland to the real-life topics of relationships.

"Over the last year, we have been able to spend more time with friends and family at home," shares frontman and songwriter Matt Langston. "We got to sort of reconnect with the real world again, and slow down long enough to really focus on what we wanted this record to be. We want the music we make to mirror what we are and what we are genuinely passionate about. As a band we are pretty diverse, and as a writer sometimes I'm inspired to write about emotionally personal things, and sometimes things that mean absolutely nothing at all. They are both parts of who i am, and i love them just as much.

Thats sort of where the title comes from. "Eville" is about that place in my head that i go to just be myself, where its all ok. Sometimes its dark and scary, and other times its super positive. You have to embrace all ends of the spectrum to appreciate and learn from all of them".

Staying true to who they are on this album, eleventyseven has continued to keep an element of ridiculousness in their music, while also retaining the ability to create a personal connection with the listener. Musically influenced by the pop-punk greats such as Weezer and Blink 182, the guys endeavor to carry the next torch of music that just fun to listen to.

“There is something magical about silliness. People need silly. They need songs that don’t always make sense, songs that can just let them breathe and enjoy life. I’ve found that having that silly element in life can mean absolutely nothing on one level, but mean everything on another level if you don’t have it.”

Such a song would be “Evil Genius,” which was the byproduct of one of Matt's close friends having a crush on a girl and not knowing how to tell her. *“Kelly doesn’t know that I’m an evil genius with a sidekick dog named Grover Cleveland, and she’ll never know that we could take over the world with robot squirrels.”* Langston admits that he didn’t even worry about what the lyrical content was as long as the words rhymed. “Every kid in high school walks around thinking something like: “man, if all these kids knew how cool i looked at home playing Metalica solos, everyone would know how truly awesome i am.” That’s what the song is trying to capture”. Other songs that highlight the band’s love for life would be the “Prom Song” penned for Langston’s younger 17-year-old sister. “I had horrible prom experiences” says Langston, “so even if she has a really bad one too, at least she’ll have a song to show for it.”

Songs like *Lonely Word* capture that first moment of attraction between two people. “I love this song because of how it tries to paint a picture of how so elated on all levels when you are when you meet someone you have a connection with, whether it is chemically, emotionally or physically. It is like all the colors in a Lisa Frank notebook -- hopefully this song sonically captures that idea.”

Although eleventyseven is known for their pop/punk/electro sounds, the band still addresses some serious topics. Songs like “Best I Can,” which touches on the subject of relationships. *“We both feel the pain, we just say it different ways / Hear my heart before you hear my lips. The song concludes with an important message Love is holding on when all the world is telling you to leave.”*

“I wrote this song after talking with a friend of mine who’s parents were divorced. No matter what the situation, kids of divorce carry that burden of a broken home forever. It affects their sense of self-worth, identity and views of future relationships. Most relational problems i witness or encounter all stem from the smallest things. Simple disagreements or disappointments can morph into gaping holes between couples or even friends, if we forget to just communicate, and put others before ourselves.”

Throughout "adventures in Eville", eleventyseven delivers each song with a passion. Relating directly to the song "Trying," the band wants to continue this path they've been on to wake up everyday, enjoy what they do and go for it. "We want fans and listeners to know that they can be part of something so much greater than just a fan base. We want our music to be a direct vehicle for friendships to form, for stories and experiences to be shared, and for fun to be had." says Matt. They want to let their fans know that nobody's life looks the same, but to just believe and show up ready for whatever comes their way.

"The greatest peace in life comes from resting in who we are, and doing what we love to do, not in pursuing an image of who we want to be or what we think will make us happy. I've learned i have no clue what is going to make me happy. But who cares? If all i care about is what makes me happy, i've missed to point of life. So many times we equate happiness with the fulfillment of a dream or goal we have, and it never is. The second we stop chasing happiness, it will crawl out of the closet its been hiding in and let us wear it everywhere."