

# S

## im not as good at it as you



Show-goers who witnessed Jenn Ghetto making her solo debut as **S** in Seattle a decade ago were quite nearly as emotionally invested in her performance that night as was she. It was well-known among the gathered crowd that the songs Ghetto was to play weren't really ever meant to have been heard publicly. This was material the former Carissa's Weird singer had written quietly, and recorded privately, over a period of

two years on a four-track in her bedroom. The club was pin-drop quiet that night, and the crowd hung on her every note and word as a visibly shaking Ghetto (who often broke out in nervous laughter mid-tune) stood alone on stage with her guitar and delivered an exquisite set, each song raw in inspiration and highlighted by turbulent tempo-changes and complex structures. The wild applause offered up by the audience at the end of the show took Ghetto by complete, somewhat embarrassed surprise. Her humbleness was wholly authentic and refreshing.

On a friend's label, Ghetto soon released an album of those fated four-track recordings called *Sadstyle*. It was critically-acclaimed, and copies sold-out quickly. Her sporadic live performances were always packed and her fans – international and devoted – had to wait four years for the next **S** record, entitled *Puking and Crying*. Released in 2004 on the Suicide Squeeze imprint, it was a stark difference in sound from that of *Sadstyle*. **S** had evolved into a three-piece featuring Austin transplant Josh Wackerly, as well as Ghetto's bandmate in her speed-metal (yes!) side-project, Crictor, drummer Creighton Barrett (now of Band Of Horses).

**S** played a handful of shows on the heels of *Puking and Crying*, and Ghetto then put down the guitar, thinking that would be her last record. Five years later fans can now look forward to a new **S** album, *im not as good at it as you*, coming out on the Luxembourg-based label Own Records. Much like *Sadstyle*, the songs are deceptively sparse, though Ghetto's breathy vocals are often layered with achingly-beautiful harmonies. The multi-directional guitar lines and break-neck tempo changes are again in effect, but it's the maturity of the songwriting as a whole that makes this collection stand out from its predecessors.

*im not as good at it as you* opens with "Wait," a collaborative effort with two of her former Carissa's Wierd bandmates: co-founder Mat Brooke (past of Band Of Horses and currently of Grand Archives) on banjo and ukulele, and Sara Standard on violin. Gorgeous doesn't even begin to describe this pledge to friendship, and ultimately, unwavering loyalty to one's self. (It's the only studio-recorded track on the album, done with the help of Ben Kersten.) The songs that follow are classic **S**, shining with Ghetto's singular ability to write lyrics that are devastating in their honesty and unfettered in their elegance. The issue of relationships, and whether they should be cultivated or abandoned (be they with people or substances), is the prevailing theme of *im not as good at it as you*, a smart, artfully-crafted new album for all the patiently devoted – and those soon-to-be – fans of **S**.

RIYL: Carissa's Wierd, Elliott Smith, John Frusciante, Lisa Germano, Built To Spill, Grand Archives, Low, Tiny Vipers, Beyoncé.

### ARTIST

S

### TITLE

im not as good at it as you

### OWN CAT NR

OWNREC#50

### MDM CAT NR

MDM 45402

### MDM PRICE CODE

PC 0861

### FORMAT

CD 4-PANEL GREEN WALLET

### TIME

42'54"

### RELEASE DATE

APR 08, 2010

### TRACK LISTING

- 01 wait
- 02 not a problem
- 03 away around this
- 04 save me
- 05 this is love
- 06 save you
- 07 we are not friends
- 08 the message
- 09 this way always
- 10 ~~r.i.p. calgon~~
- 11 through it all
- 12 outro (the agony)

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