

CURRENT REVIEWS

-  **Nada Surf**
-  **Super Furry Animals**
-  **Little Brother**
-  **The Dandy Warhols**
-  **Sigur Rós**
-  **Rolling Stones**

RATING'S KEY

-  fucking brilliant
-  phat
-  bland
-  toxic

MUSIC REVIEWS

NADA SURF
The Weight Is A Gift
Barsuk Records



After six zillion spins on MTV in 1996, Nada Surf's ode to high school social climbing, "Popular," seemed to guarantee the band one-hit wonder status with a future of occasional appearances on VH1. For a while that scenario seemed to play itself out, but *The Weight Is A Gift* is its second album in three years that threatens to blow the band's cover. Produced by Death Cab For Cutie's Chris Walla, it's a dynamic, emotional pop record. Frontman Matthew Caws flexes some healthy self-loathing as a nosy bass line pokes around the verses of "Do It Again," setting up an explosive chorus of driving riffs and abundant hi-hats. "Comes a Time" plays like a morphine drip, hazy and sweet, as Caws's bitterness slides toward resignation. But it's not all downers. On the near-perfect power-pop nugget "Always Love," despair makes way for optimism that's unabashed without being corny, while the crunch and buzz of "Blankest Year" turns bitterness and resentment into a reason to party. None of it is likely to return Nada Surf to its mid-'90s ubiquity, and you can pretty much bet there's nobody happier about that than the band is.

-- David Peisner

Past Reviews 



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"Comes a Time"

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