**CocoRosie - Put The Shine On**

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In the nearly five years since CocoRosie released their last album, sisters Bianca and Sierra Casady have been far from idle. In addition to composing for theater pieces, collaborating with legendary theater director Robert Wilson, performing with the Kronos Quartet, and, more recently, popping up on Chance the Rapper’s The Big Day, the duo have been heavily engaged in the messy business of life. Created in fits and starts over the course of four years, amidst the backdrop of death, divorce, mental illness, falling in love, and copious amounts of healing, CocoRosie’s 7th album — the aptly titled *Put The Shine On* — is a study in extremes, balancing some of the most fresh and adroit pop songs the band has ever crafted, while simultaneously exploring the most extreme states of human feeling and being — the result being an album that is both pristine and, at times, harrowing.

“I don’t even know where to begin,” says Bianca, of the album. “We started working on this record nearly four years ago. We were on our brother’s ranch in Hawaii, which is totally off the grid. It was a really beautiful place, but at the same time kind of brutal. We were making music, but also dealing with a lot of complicated stuff within our family, mental illness and alcoholism, which eventually started to weave in and out of the record thematically. There is such a taboo about mental illness, it felt important to talk about that in a really honest way. These stories about our family, about life and death and illness, were intertwined with a Wu-Tang-like way of mythologizing things. The whole record, and how and where and why it got made, became a wild journey of its own.”

The twelve tracks on *Put The Shine On* illustrate why, nearly two decades into their career, CocoRosie remain a truly singular band. Combining elements of sparkly electro-pop (“Smash My Head” “Burning Down the House”), tripped-out folk music (“Where Did All The Soldiers Go”), hip hop sing-speak-rap poetry (“Did Me Wrong” “Mercy” “Slow Down Sun Down”), warbly 70s funk (“Lamb and the Wolf”), not to mention the occasional animal sound — they remain resolutely and commandingly their own distinct creation. While *Shine* may very well be the most straightforward statement of their career, the same left-of-center sensibilities that made their earlier records so captivating (and often, polarizing) remain very much at play. Lead single “Smash My Head” is the album’s beating heart writ large—a propulsive missive that blends warped electronica with organic percussion, the sounds pushing up against lyrics that echo the album’s core concerns of brokenness and healing: “Smash my heart into bits, I am broken / Twist my soul inside out, I’m still breathing / Run across my burning heart, you can’t break me.”

Though the record was recorded at a variety of locations — including Hawaii and a several sessions at Sonic Ranch studios, just outside the border of Mexico near El Paso, Texas — much of *Shine* was put together in San Francisco, which became a working hub for a variety of reasons. “Our mother died in the middle of the process, so obviously that's another big theme here,” explains Bianca. “We recorded in a studio in San Francisco, which is for some reason where our mother decided she wanted to die. And she really encouraged us to stay busy with our art. She wanted the feeling of movement, the bustle of us coming and going and having exciting news. So nearly right up until she passed, we were still in the studio working.”

The lyrics of “Ruby Red” reflect both the beauty and the intensity of experiencing someone’s passing, proving the record’s emotional centerpiece: “‘Are you ready to walk me home? She said / ‘Tomorrow’s never promised and always be honest’/ Her breath is now our song.” According to Casady, the experience was both wrenching and ultimately cathartic for the duo. “Her death was the most incredible thing we ever witnessed. For us, it was undoubtedly intense but also idyllic in the sense that it was an empowered experience, at home, non-medicalized,” recalls Bianca. “She was very conscious and we were there, extremely close to her. And she was incredibly brave. That experience totally changed everything. She sang on the record — on the chorus of “Ruby Red” — 11 days before she died. She came to the studio with us and you could tell when she sang, it was with the complete awareness that this is the only chance she would have to do it. She gave it everything, but not in a sad way, but with this very generous consciousness that this was it, she put her whole heart into it. We were so lucky to be able to honor that. She gave us so much of who we are as artists, she is a great artist herself”

*Put The Shine* On is a record that luxuriates in extremes, reflecting the pain and confusion of mental illness (“They’re trying to Britney Spears me”) and the anguish of unpacking trauma (“Held the lamb in my hand, beheld its eyes / Shocked wide with death” Bianca sings on “Aloha Friday”), while also gleefully celebrating the possibility of newness, of wildness, and the ever-present potential for transformation. Nearly two decades deep into a career marked by experimentation and bucking convention, the duo has made what is arguably the most well-considered, emotionally complicated, and sonically adventurous record of their career.

“The last few years have been the quietest period in terms of performance or releasing material since our inception,” explains Bianca. “But we have been extremely active as artists and collaborators, so all of that work flows back into what we make as CocoRosie. I feel like we've been somehow gaining the ability to make more accessible music year by year, even if other people don’t always hear it that way. We’ve changed a lot. It took many years for us to be seen as adults, even though we were in our early twenties when we started. We were infantilized and put into this weird box of being seen as little girls playing dress up, which was tiresome. Thankfully, a lot has happened in the last ten years in terms of visibility and awareness around female artists. It feels good to be a part of that."

Put The Shine On / Tracklisting

High Road

Mercy

Restless

Smash My Head

Where Did All The Soldiers Go

Hell’s Gate

Did Me Wrong

Lamb And The Wolf

Slow Down Sun Down

Burning Down The House

Ruby Red

Aloha Friday

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Put The Shine On / Lyrics

**High Road**

Run run little girl

Man is hunting in the woods

Run run little girl

Man is hunting in the woods

Splintered into many pieces

Bruised at the hips and at the creases

I ran away and pray the breezes

Carry me beyond the treeses

Skinned my knees, a bloody warning

Run little girl, for man is hunting

A raven shot, a silver arrow

Run little girl, the path is narrow

On the high road

Never say "die"

Blind to the world

One over eight

Drunk as a lark

It comes to blows

Hard knock life

The story goes

Never cry wolf

Don't tell lies

Don't let the boys

Between your thighs

Run run little girl

Man is hunting in the woods

Run run little girl

Man is hunting in the woods

Hunter is a lonely heart

Guard me forest in your dark

Dodging hands I slip between

Slow motion just like a dream

Invisible I make escape

Run little girl, the voices say

A flash of red, a bloody warning

Run little girl, for man is hunting

On the high road

Never say "die"

Blind to the world

One over eight

Drunk as a lark

It comes to blows

Hard knock life

The story goes

Never cry wolf

Don't tell lies

Don't let the boys

Between your thighs

All in a row

Girls brown eyed

Face your demons with open eyes

High on the road, daddy don't go

Life knocks hard, when you're gone

**Mercy**

Who's the next batter up? Cat scratch the duck

Feathers will fly, good luck for passer by

Short ran yours, dream ends here

Over game, crying in the mirror

A melted face winks back

Made of drippin' candle wax, candelabra

You're trying not to slobber

You're sobbing on the inside like a broken ballerina

Voices of demons and laughing hyena

Dog pile gang bang, devil jump you in for life

Doing time in the hole, your black soul recites

Soliloquies of bible rhymes

Kids, cover your ears, cover your eyes

Daddy's telling lies yeah, he deceived you

With all that hoodoovoodoo, he deceived you

Oh your begging, your begging

Your begging, your begging

You'll be begging for mercy

You'll be begging, begging

All that hoodoovoodoo...

Shady shaman in the grass

Studying UFO's, seducing the you know who

Unicorn, still born, under this sun

Another world you tried to show us

Through tobacco stained sermons

Smoke and haze, horror show back in the days

You, lock up your wife, duck-tape and a butcher knife

Kids, cover your eyes, cover your ears

X rated horror flick make me sick, I do poetry

You're full of tricks, classic craft witches black

We race potato sacks, paddy cake, our daddy's wack

Wicked, butterfly guts, this guy is nuts

Traumatized by criminal eyes, mad doggin' paedophiles

Even evil has a code, fork in the road

You took the wrong turn every time

Swagger like your soul's divine

**Restless**

Her heart is restless and ready to fight

On a white horse all blue in the moonlight

She rides with grace in the wrong place at the right time

That's how she found you

But that's how she lost you too

She's got her shoes fixed with glue, sole like brand new

A stranger's place, that's where she takes her heartless rest

Her restless soul fell asleep at the wheel counting sheep

And dreaming of days out West

With her rodeo clown, her man, her best

She walks the streets with bloody feet preaching to birds

She lost head, voices of angels calling her name

Her loveless grace, the trial of her life, ready to burst her destiny ripe

It took this long for him to be gone for her to say goodbye

Dirty tricks, crucifix, had enough of this, life of cuts and nicks, ticks and fits

Alchemist of light and dark, tried to keep that little spark

Her love with blind, it shattered her mind

And now she's gone wild in the moonshine with no mother and no child

She had to leave her old man behind

A deadbeat dad, another clown sad

Traded their love for cheap wine

And now she hit the road without a Jack or a John

And the story goes on, one day she'll find her Don

The trial of her life, ready to burst her destiny ripe

Her love was blind, it shattered her mind

It took this long to leave him behind

She lost her way

She lost her way

She lost her way

She lost her way

And with no trace to find her way home

The trial of her life, ready to burst her destiny ripe

It took this long for him to be gone, for her to say goodbye

She lost her way

She lost her way

She lost her way

She lost her way

She lost her way

She lost her way

She lost her way

She lost her way

And with no trace to find her way home

**Smash My Head**

Smash my head on the rock, I barely feel it

Twist the hands on the clocks, time is slowing

Run across a burning bridge, we barely make it

Smash my face on the wall, Pa is calling

A murder of crows, the thunder blows, tears are falling

A murder of crows, the thunder blows, tears are falling

Smash my heart into bits, I am broken

Twist my soul inside out, I'm still breathing

Run across my burning heart, you can't break me

Smash my face, take my hand, twist my heart, run my man

Murder the crow thunder blow, I am broken

Murder the crow thunder blow, I am broken

Smash my heart into bits, I am broken

Twist my soul inside out, I'm still breathing

Run across my burning heart, you can't break me

Suck my soul into night, stars are falling

Rushing by a million mirrors, angels calling

Pull my hair into sky, I am flying

Pull my hair into sky, I am flying

Pull my hair into sky, I am flying

Pull my hair into sky, I am flying

Pull my hair into sky, I am flying

Pull my hair into sky, I am flying

**Where Did All The Soldiers Go**

It's my right to go

It may be unclear which way the water is running

It's the last dance, throw the bottle in the puddle, skinny legs and all

A mess of scramble, your skirt is torn, your tears tell it all

It's all or nothing, or nothing at all

The tears tell it all

It's all or nothing, or nothing at all

So where did all the sailors go?

So where did all the angels go?

So where did all the soldiers go?

Where did all the babies go?

When did all the mothers fall?

When did father stop to call?

The tears tell it all

It's all or nothing, it's nothing at all

The tears tell it all

It's all or nothing, It's nothing at all

The tears tell it all

So where did all the sailors go?

So where did all the angels go?

So where did all the soldiers go?

**Hell’s Gate**

From the cracking of the whip

Nanny worked down at the shop lifting hell's gate, she lifted hell's gate

From the cracking of the whip

Pappy worked down at the shipyard, jail mate, jail mate

Toss a penny to the sky, heads or tails, who knows, not I

False alarm, narrow escape, nearly got my cousin raped

Hell's gate, feathers ruffle hell's gate

Shoot the cat, shoot the crow, empty pocket seed to sew

Daddy wore his baggies low, stinky long john

From the cracking of the whip

Nanny worked down at the shop lifting hell's gate, she lifted hell's gate

From the cracking of the whip

Pappy worked down at the shipyard, jail mate, jail mate

Shoot the cat, shoot the crow, toss a penny, make it grow

Take the shine off, take the shine off

Toss a penny to the sky, heads or tails, who knows, not I

Time to pass on in them chips, if the shoe never fit

Toss a penny to the sky, heads or tails to live or die

Time to pass on in them chips, if you've given your last wish

My momma taught me how to pray

I didn't know who to blame or who to thank

I see her face in the clouds, pick a feather from the ground

Try to make my momma proud, what would she say to you?

Shoot the cat, shoot the crow, toss a penny, make it grow

Take the shine off, take the shine off

From the cracking of the whip

Pappy worked down at the shipyard, jail mate, jail mate

Toss a penny to the sky, heads or tails, who knows, not I

Time to pass on in them chips, if the shoe never fits

Toss a penny to the sky, heads or tails, to live or die

Time to pass on in them chips, if you've given your last wish

Time to pass on in them chips, if you've given your last wish

**Did Me Wrong**

Black and white, whole universe

White and black, paddywhack

Paddy cake, what's my little baby's fate?

Saw her name on the grave, didn't even misbehave

Never got to be a lover slave

Save her letters and her tears

Bad luck, broken mirrors

Daddy didn't want a queer, more than CIA he feared

Brittany Speared, made a monster, hiding in the zoo

Ate the keeper, singing opera, there was nothing left to do

I SAY HELLO AND YOU'VE GOT ME ALL A FLAME

YOU SAY MELLOW AND MY WATER'S COOL AGAIN

YOU SAY COME ON AND MY HEART IS BEATING FAST

YOU SAY GET OFF, GET ME OFF BEFORE I CRASH

Talk me down low, to the ground

I’m feeling blue, I never knew a love like this

I recognized his faceless face

Like a wound that won't erase

Like a tomb for me to groom

Switchin' on my granny's broom

This house I kept sheen and swept

He meant no harm

But boy did he do me wrong

BOY YOU DID ME WRONG

BOY YOU GET ME OFF

BOY YOU DID ME WRONG

I SAY HELLO AND YOU'VE GOT ME ALL A FLAME

YOU SAY MELLOW AND MY WATER'S COOL AGAIN

YOU SAY COME ON AND MY HEART IS BEATING FAST

YOU SAY GET OFF

BOY YOU GET ME OFF

BOY YOU GET ME OFF

BOY YOU GET ME OFF

**Lamb And The Wolf**

Z Y X and W V, U T S and R Q P, O and M and L K J, I H G F, E D C B A

Here's a little story I'd like to tell

I'm the sister of Lucy, the angel who fell

He walks with his guns, big black pistol

Doing patrol, hunting for trolls

He stepped on a snail, the pore thing wailed

I'm afraid he got killed

The lamb and the wolf, it's always the same

The little lamb dies and the wolf gets framed

The wolf gets framed

Shepherd, shepherd, count your wears

Shepherd, shepherd, mend your tares

Pray to Mary set you free

Close your eyes and count to three

Raise your glass and make a toast

Pour some out for all the ghosts

Oh it's always the same, always the same,

Always the same where the wolf gets blamed

It's always the same, always the same,

Oh the little lamb dies and the wolf gets blamed

It's always the same, always the same

Always the same where the little lamb dies and the wolf gets framed

I'm gonna have to call the FBI, at the grocery store there was a weird guy

He threatened my life not once, but twice

He's jealous of my piece of paradise

No more misses nice guy, they're trying to Britney Spears me

It's a conspiracy, conspiracy, conspiracy, conspiracy

I cut my hair, rusted buzzer and a Dutch lit mirror

I snagged my lizard in my zipper and I'm bleeding tears

The sun is hot, I need to take me shade

Like a southern dog droolin' over lemonade

I gotta keep my cool, 'cause I'm paranoid

Trying to wrangle all the tangles in this empty void

They talk back and my shadow laughs

The lamb and the wolf, it's always the same

The little lamb dies and the wolf gets framed

It's always the same werewolf gets blamed

It's always the same, it's always the same

Where the little lamb dies and the wolf gets framed

Oh it's always the same, where the wolf gets blamed

It's always the same, it's always the same

Where the little lamb dies and the wolf gets framed

**Slow Down Sun Down**

Break-down, China-town, come-down, count-down

Cross-town, de-crown, down-town, evening-gown

Go-down, hand-me-down, ho-down, low-down

Melt-down, mid-town, Mo-town, night-gown

Throw-down, put-me-down, re-noun, rub-down

Shake-down, shanty-town, show-down, shut-down

Slow-down, sun-down, slow-down, sun-down

Like a dead mouse in a flophouse

Nowhere else to go but up

Heavenwards is how it hurts

And even though my heart froze

I'm learning you're exactly what I chose

Boohoo, crying all into my witches' brew

Predisposed for heartache I suppose

Black and blue mom and pop juxtaposed

And it's just the way the story goes

She called me "Coco" called you "Rose"

Hand me down all your favorite clothes

Horseshoe tossed, all the fortunes lost,

Love, she flew away with the doves

Now it's my time, my time to shine

I got my own crimes to do, don't gotta pick up after you

But I just don't know what to do with all these empty rooms

When you first laid eyes on me, did you never want to put me down?

Was I worth more to you than any girl in town?

When you first laid eyes on me, did you never want to put me down?

Was I worth more to you than any girl in town?

Tear my hair, throw my shoes, make love to you, I'll make love to you

I love you, I do, I guess, and you're so handsome, I got to say "yes"

Tear my hair, throw my shoes, make love to you, I'll make love to you

You love me, you do, I guess, and you're so handsome, I got to say "yes"

Home is where you hang your hat, all of that, mouse and cats and dogs

What are the odds of finding love again, one that you can call your kindred spirit?

You want to hear it? Yeahhhhhhhhhh

I was humiliated, ill-fated, impersonated

Immigrated, manipulated, liquidated, medicated, dilapidated, isolated

I was alone in my own home, is where the heart breaks

When you first laid eyes on me, did you never want to put me down?

Was I worth more to you than any girl in town? Any girl in town?

When you first laid eyes on me, did you never want to put me down?

Ohhhh was I worth more to you than any girl in town?

Tear my hair, throw my shoes, make love to you, I'll make love to you

You love me, you do, I guess, and you're so handsome, I got to say "yes"

Tear my hair, throw my shoes, make love to you, I'll make love to you

I love you, I do, I guess, I got to say "yes"

When you first laid eyes on me did you never want to put me down?

Was I worth more to you than any girl in town?

Any girl in town?

**Burning Down The House**

bums rushed out the door

momma didn't want you anymore

a thornless rose in her side

a burden despite being bonded by blood lines

it wasn't the right time

she said "no more free load,

this is the end of the freak show"

half shaved and heart broke

half slewed and half snapped

a rat trap snapping back

hand bone, hand me down

baloney sandwich, lonely clown

smoke, laugh, toke, craft,

porn, blood, piss, grass

kiss, miss, heart, hand

tried to take a stand

down dropped sales low

the joys and woes

the curtains slowly close

burring down the house

to smoke them out

smoke 'em out, smoke 'em out, the dead girl shouts

I was on the verge like so many times

got children and wives waving forks and knives

the new sound circles round

slaughter raging, death dice fall, hot house burn down

foes upon foes, west to east it goes

the dead girl says "let’s just be friends"

in the glorious tone of marrow and bone

these days of ore

the chance we meet once more

the smoke lightening crack asunder

the boom of guns and the peel of thunder

**Ruby Red**

A sheep in devil's clothing

Wounded on her journey

Engraved upon her heart, she did

A solemn promise to be worthy

To be good by being bad

Working for the man

A different kind of Uncle Sam

Trading allegiance for power and power for sand

Lost the handle of the whip

Drinking poison in large sips

Can't catch the mockingbird whose words

Echoing mournful dirge

Paint the fable of her death

And how she resurrects

A secret hard to keep

On which no one will believe

Wolf crying of spilled milk

Little momma ruby red

With your wings made of lead

Hit the road and dust will fly

Black birds fill the sky

Let us now praise

The infinite loving ways

Known to all you touched

Butterflies exploding in the wake of you

Magical dust, lust, kept locked in a secret box

Fear of sin

You told me just before you died, the last December of your life

"Life is too short to hide, let in the love, let in the light"

We saw it in your eyes, when they went 'round the room one last time

Your face already smiling God from the other side

"Are you ready to walk me home?", she said

"Tomorrow's never promised and always be honest"

Her breath is now our song

Lady death is never wrong

Make no mistake, Lady Death is never wrong

**Aloha Friday**

I'm the forensic on duty

How slowly did he go

Breath of smoke to and fro

Drifting in the flowers

I'm the forensic on duty

Mothers of darkness, darkness of mothers

Brown magic, grey magic, it's Aloha Friday

Held the lamb in my hand, beheld its eyes

Shocked wide with death

Beheld its eyes, shocked wide

Shadow of burden, burden of shadow

Flowerless gardens of graves built to shallow

Worms dreaming eyeless, rainbows are weeping

Weeping, weeping, the sky is bleeding

Weeping, weeping

Shadow of burden, burden of shadow

Flowerless gardens of graves built to shallow

Worms dreaming eyeless, rainbows are weeping

Weeping, weeping, the sky is bleeding

Weeping, weeping, the sky is bleeding