

Jai Agnish - "Automota" CD 11/35:14

Flygirl magazine maven Jai Agnish's first full-length foray into recorded music is an odd, awkward bird, all off-sync chirping and low, lonely warble. Agnish's world-weary folk creaks out over stuttering Casio-fi electronics, striking a precarious balance between the organic and the artificial. Agnish plays the tension perfectly, allowing both the electronic and acoustic elements of "How You Dream" and "Deaf Today" waver along their own chosen course. Agnish is Will Oldham playing over an 808, Jason Molina strumming with an SK-1. Rather than using the beats to sound self-consciously slick (see: The Folk Implosion), Agnish allows the flat-out amateurish nature of the programming to accentuate the songs' fragility. "Automota" is hands-in-pockets shuffling to a jr. high crush, it's late lonely Fridays in search of a memory. It's nostalgia done right. *J Edward*

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