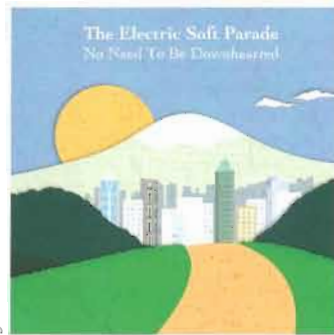


## Electric Soft Parade *No Need To Be Downhearted*

EAST WEST



by Kendra Desrosiers

After quite a few name changes and three rounds of band mate musical chairs, the dream of brothers Alex and Tom White manifested into the British alternative band, the Electric Soft Parade in 2001. Three albums, a Mercury nomination and six years later the Electric Soft Parade released yet another LP, *No Need To Be Downhearted*, named after a song lyric from The Fall's single "Fifteen Ways."

The album starts off smoothly with the title track "No Need to be Down Hearted Pt. 1" a soothing empowerment message on staying true to one's identity, laid

over a soft ballad. Following the title track are "Life in the Back Seat," "Woken by a Kiss," and "If That's the Case, Then I Don't Know." These kick up the speed of the album with additional odes to enjoying life and overcoming its ups and downs.

As the album proceeds it takes an interesting romantic turn. Almost as if the songs were part of a linear narrative, listeners learn the tale of a love lost, rekindled and lost once more. First it's the intimate beginnings in "Shore Song," followed by a rash break-up and bitter heartbreak in "Misunderstanding." The

romance is briefly set aflame in "Come Back Inside" but takes a turn for the worse in "Appropriate Ending." Ironically after the emotional rollercoaster, *No Need to be Downhearted* ends with a part two to its title track, implying that it is better to have loved and lost than never loved at all. The LP is the perfect soundtrack to love and life's enduring turbulence.

