Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No. of albums reviewed:\_\_\_\_

The Dentals – Attention! (2019/Indie)

1. **Act My Age:** Good drum and guitar intro. Vocals are a little iffy, lyrics are alright. Lyrics actually could use some work as the song progresses. Good change for the solo, sounds pretty nice. It’s an ‘eh’ song.
2. **Time:** Great guitar intro, sounds very good. Lyrics and vocals are not all there. Musically good, lyrically and vocally bad. Generally bland, the guitar style and riff remains relatively unchanged.
3. **I Don’t Want to Die:** Nice intro. Vocals are okayish, but lyrics need some work. Bland. Baby sings at the end.
4. **Digital World Hero:** The chord progression in the intro is nice. Vocals and lyrics are not the best. I dig the music, but the vocals kill it.
5. **Lake Tahoe:** Vocals from the start are eh, but not the worst. Drums come in. This one actually sounds playable. It’s not too bland, it has variety in instrumentation. The vocal style changes too. Includes sort of a chiptune synth. If you get past the accent then the vocals are okay. Maybe play this.
6. **1000 Miles:** Nice guitar intro, good echo effect. Vocals are eh, song is overall rather bland.
7. **The Girl Who Hunts in the Snow:** Starts with vocals. Upbeat guitar and drums. Vocals and lyrics are a nope. The Swiss accent is off the charts. Nice brass section though. Mentions the KKK, immediately disqualifies this track.
8. **Matt Sharp is Making Me Mad:** Vocals start the track, guitars and drums are bland. It’s unremarkable and bland. F bomb would need censoring. Trick ending too. Don’t worry about playing this one.
9. **How to Fix a Broken Relationship:** Droning guitar intro which turns dark and heavy metal-ish. Sick guitar riff, sounds like dark metal. Brief metal scream. Ends abruptly. Barely a song, don’t worry about playing it. Shame though…
10. **Slow Songs:** Jazzy snare intro. Bluesy melancholy guitar. Vocals are not the best. The style of the song is okay and the accent isn’t too extreme. Lyrics are not the best. Uses “gay” as an insult. Vocals progressively get worse.
11. **Soulmate #5:** Hard rock riffs match vocals. Vocals are okayish as are lyrics. Kinda bland.
12. **The Devil is Sleeping In:** Vocals only, some instrumentation. Guitars come in. Sounds like a lullaby. Vocals are not that good, but the lyrics are actually kinda nice. Guitars come in stronger. Heck, maybe play this.

**Summary:** Overall, *Attention!* is a bland and unremarkable album. The instrumentation hardly varies from track to track and the singer’s accent makes the vocals sound iffy.

Feef & the Folkies – Refugee Soul Part 1 (Radio Version) (2019/Folk)

1. **Refugee Soul:** Okay folksy guitar intro. Relaxing. Vocals song sorta odd, a few bad notes here and there. The instrumentation is great though. Vocalized emphasis is not good. Lyrics aren’t that good either.
2. **Flatlands:** Nice jazzy folk intro. Some guiro and melodica I believe. The vocals are not fully there. Has a tavern-y vibe. It’s interesting, but the vocals kinda kill it. The refrain is the best part. Maybe play it.
3. **Light of the Moon:** Upbeat folk guitar intro. Maracas and melodica. Vocals are too high and wavery. Lyrics are on point though.
4. **Missing Peace:** Nice intro, killer sax. Bluesy/pop vocals. Vocalizations and pitch are bad. Good guitar solo though.
5. **Slow Ride:** Fast-paced intro. Vocals are actually kinda nice so far. Lyrics are good too. Attempts at low vocals are iffy. High vocals all of a sudden, some whispers. The instrumentation is brilliant though. Maybe play it.
6. **The Refugees:** Alright intro, faintly tropical vibes. Vocals are okayish. The lyrics are nice and the song itself is actually alright. This is also a maybe, a better option than track 5.

**Summary:** An interesting album with a few nice tracks. My biggest issue with the album are the vocals, some of which just sound awkward and a bit too forced.

Kitchen Dwellers – Muir Maid (2019/Bluegrass)

1. **Shadows:** Very bluegrassy intro with the twang and the pluck. It sounds good though. Very country vocals though, we’ll see how it goes. Hella bluegrass! Sick acoustic and banjo breakdown. Play this.
2. **Broken Cage:** Bluegrass instrumentation, but not necessarily sounding like bluegrass. Shifts between typical bluegrass style and a more contemporary style. Vocals are nice. Harmony is sensational. Definitely play this!
3. **Woods Lake:** Typical bluegrass intro. Vocals are nice too and the lyrics don’t necessarily feel too bluegrassy at times. Sick mandolin picks. Amazing contemporary solo! Play this.
4. **Muir Maid:** Contemporary-sounding intro. Vocals sound a little heavy-handed, but the accompaniment is a bit sparse. Accompaniment improves. Much more bluegrassy. Lyrics are pretty nice, more nautical than countryish. Pickin’ time! Solo/bridge is pretty nondescript, but still nice. Definitely play this!
5. **The Living Dread:** Interesting intro, more contemporary but with bluegrass instrumentation. Sick picks and some wild effects. It’s only an instrumental, but by golly play this!
6. **Hell to Sunday:** Country intro. Blend of contemporary and bluegrass. Vocals are nice. Lyrics feature southwestern themes. I’m less interested in this one. Interesting solo though.
7. **Phaedrus:** Good intro, typical pick ‘n’ grin bluegrass. Vocals and lyrics are good. Fades into next track.
8. **The Quail:** Strange warping noise. Warping sounds like a cello, accompanies some distorted picking. Plucky synth picking with some bass. Sounds kinda cool, but very avant-garde. Synth buildup turns into regular bluegrass picking. I really like this, but is it too strange?
9. **Comet:** Nice acoustic riffing intro with some synth bwoings. Good vocals and lyrics. F-bomb needs censoring. “Take my ass to the bar and drown in booze” censoring? Nice and upbeat.
10. **Covered Bridges:** Very bluegrassy intro. Vocals and lyrics are nice. The harmony is great too. A nice simple bluegrass track. The solo is unique, some synth. Definitely play this!
11. **Foundation:** Nice intro. Turns bluegrass super quick. Vocals are nice. Lyrics sound slightly amateurish. Amazing solo time. Definitely play this.
12. **Driftwood:** Plucky intro, nice mellow fiddle. Nautical theme again. Gets bluegrassy real fast. Simply phenomenal! Definitely play this.

**Summary:** A downright amazing album, Kitchen Dwellers’ *Muir Maid* is a brilliant combination of artful styling and bluegrass dexterity. The album is filled with harmonies like those of Mumford & Sons with a unique blend of bluegrass instrumentation and the stylings of other genres. It succeeds in sounding like no other bluegrass album without losing sight of the original genre. *Muir Maid* is not afraid of delving into the mysterious with the almost exotic sounds of **The Living Dread** and the avant-garde “synthgrass” instrumental **The Quail**. It was so difficult to pick my favorites from this album and I cannot suggest it enough.