



Bluebottle Kiss – Revenge Is Slow (NonZero/Shock)

Bluebottle Kiss have returned with a new line-up and a more melodic focus – and this album makes their other three look like rehearsals for the real deal.

Now a four-piece, they produce a more layered sound. Singer Jamie Hutchings' and previous bassist Ben Fletcher's angular guitar riffs duel and complement each other by turns. And the intensity of this combination is boosted by a more ardent rhythm section – some of their build-ups sound simply enormous, but there's welcome subtlety to be found here too.

The singles – 'Gangsterland', 'Ounce Of Your Cruelty' and 'Hasten The Blows' – are faultless examples of the band's new-found confidence, but *Re-*

venge Is Slow deserves to be listened to as an entire album. It's all the songs in between, from colossal sprawler 'Prussian Blue' to delicate closer 'Love As Fiction', that highlight this band's ability to turn stories about ordinary people into beautifully intricate songs.

★★★★½ (Eileen Dick)

