



GOONS OF DOOM

The Story of Dead Barbie and Ghost
(VOLCOM)

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PUNK SURF SKA MISCHIEF: The Goons of Doom was originally a fake band, built for the movies in their native Australia. On their full-length debut, they certainly prove that they weren't brought up to respect genre rules. Ostensibly a punk band, the Goons of Doom mix in a rollicking blend of ska, surf rock, garage rock, and Violent Femmes leaning prankster pop. For listeners unrestrained by genre expectations, *The Story of Dead Barbie and Ghost* is an enthusiastic addition to the party playlist—or, perhaps more accurately, the after party playlist. Despite being recorded during a whirlwind four day session, their full-length boasts 16 tracks and a decidedly un-punk runtime of almost an hour. The album plays out like the product of ADD; slow drinking dirges about break-ups (“It Stinks”) collide with amped-up, sneering odes to hooking up (“Fingered”). The latter is the jubilant closer and first single, despite being built atop a chorus of “Every motherfucker’s gonna burn alive!” But while they earn their Parental Advisory sticker, it’s achieved with a harmless glint. *The Story of Dead Barbie and Ghost* will be too abrasive at points for some listeners, but is ultimately a good-natured album that wisely embraces its unpolished spirit and its schizophrenic variety of influences. ~ Adam McKibbin