

Nearly two years after NOBRO released *Set Your Pussy Free*, their debut full-length record that was shortlisted for the Polaris Prize and won them the JUNO Award for Rock Album of the Year, the Montreal punk band returns with “DOOMTOWN,” a garage-rock adrenaline-blast single that marks a vulnerable new era for the band.

Centered around vocalist/bassist Kathryn McCaughey and guitarist Karolane Carbonneau, NOBRO have made their name with riotous, liberatory party-punk mayhem, middle fingers to the world. But there are some pains you can't party your way out of. Right before they won the JUNO Award, half the band quit. Carbonneau lost her father; McCaughey began the difficult journey of watching hers struggle with dementia. At what should've been one of the highest moments of their lives, NOBRO were confronted with existential terror: *What the hell is this all for? Where is this all going?*

These devastations are interpreted on “DOOMTOWN,” which maintains NOBRO's tornado of energy and sharp songwriting. This time out, though, they're not rocketing away from the weight of loss, grief, and dread; they're sitting with it, exploring it with curiosity and openness. “DOOMTOWN” externalizes some of the reality-check questions McCaughey has been forced to ask herself: *Will I be singing about pussy and drugs in the nursing home?* The thought might scan as comedic, but it's serious as a heart attack. Her voice shouts the opening verse: “What if one day I get old/What if one day I forget/All the words to the songs I love/Remember nothing/And if I do, will you be there?/Sing to me while my eyes are closed/Don't let me disappear.”

NOBRO can't laugh their way out of this one. Like all of us wrestling with the stinging, senseless pain of existence, they have to feel their way out—and that's exactly what they're going to do.

The single's artwork was created by Mi'kmaq artist Christopher Grant (@xoradmagical), whose work interprets his lived experience with schizophrenia.