

The Sparrow and The Crow

American indie artist William Fitzsimmons returns with his third release, after achieving slight fame with his song "Passion Play" featured in an episode of the popular television drama *Grey's Anatomy*. Being compared to artists such as Iron and Wine and Sufjan Stevens, Fitzsimmons makes his own name with one of the finest break up records that I have ever heard. It's a quiet album that steadily floats along as easy morning background music, without changing too differently between tracks. His subtle melodies stray away from building up to bravado filled choruses, instead relying on his lyrics to drive the album along. Fitzsimmons lyrics are brutally honest, baring the kind of hurt in a similar style to Elliott Smith on his *Xo* album. The most moving track on the album, "After All" begins to chronicle the start of a break up that only continues to become more woefully defined as the album progresses. While "Please Forgive Me" and "You Still Hurt Me" poignantly reveal the consuming nature of hurt, this melancholy makes a sharp turn into retrospective musings. Fitzsimmons songs soon turn to a positive outlook with the track "They'll Never Take the Good Years" as the final track "Goodmorning" turns to a hopeful future: "You will find love". - by *Jamie Madden*