

Benedict is the new musical alter ego of Martijn Smits. While suffering from a crippling broken heart, Smits wrote amongst 50 songs that he turned into 25 demos with his friend Mart Jeninga. In the Summer of 2018, Pieter Vonk was brought in as producer and together they handpicked 10 songs that resulted in the forthcoming debut album.

The album became a quiet personal one that feels dark and melancholic with occasional glimmers of hope. Smits' often nearly mumbling voice layers the lyrics over an old piano accompanied by some gracefully arranged horn and string arrangements. You can hear the artist subtly filtered his favourite elements from bands like The National, Nick Cave and Radiohead. Steady drums, painting like lyrics and deep and sometimes hectic layers of synthesisers.

Sonically and story wise, each song has its own hook, dividing the album into little chapters. Smits delivers these hand-picked cherries intimately to your willing ear so you can cry all night, dance all day or rest in peace if you really want to.

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