Oakland’s Madeline Kenney bounds toward the unknown on her iridescent third album, *Sucker’s Lunch*. The songs swell and lament, expanding the idea of a love song into something more grounded in self-awareness and philosophy than blind devotion. *Sucker’s Lunch* is the follow-up to 2018’s critically acclaimed *Perfect Shapes,* which Pitchfork described as Kenney “stepping onto the pedestal of her own design.” Her sonic world is that of colorful harmonies, dramatic lyrics, and thick layers of guitar, having shifted and become more astute in this most recent work.

Kenney has a history of fostering collaborative recording and touring relationships, notably working on projects of her own with both Wye Oak and Toro y Moi. Jenn Wasner (Wye Oak) and Kenney first collaborated on *Perfect Shapes* in 2018, and they teamed up again for *Sucker’s Lunch,* with Wye Oak and Kenney as co-producers. Chaz Bundick of Toro y Moi produced Kenney’s *Signals EP* anddebut record *Night Night At The First Landing,* putting both out on his label, Company Records. Kenney has also lent vocals on multiple Toro Y Moi projects, including 2017’s *Boo Boo.* In 2019 she released the split EP, *The Sisters / Helpless* in collaboration with Flock of Dimes (Wasner’s solo project). With a keen eye for visual narrative, Kenney also has provided direction for music videos for artists including Hand Habits, Boy Scouts, and A.O. Gerber.

Usually not one to write devotional love songs, a twist in circumstance found Kenney falling head first into love and music as if they were one and the same. The ten songs that comprise *Sucker’s Lunch* came together swiftly and decisively, often in bursts when Kenney was alone and gently losing her mind in her former home in Durham, NC. Between tours with Soccer Mommy, Wye Oak, Jay Som and Lord Huron, Kenney wrote and recorded *Sucker’s Lunch* in Durham, NC and Oakland, CA, finishing the album in a few compact sessions. The resulting record is a dedication to the rewards that supposed “foolishness” -- in art, love, and music -- can bring. Kenney’s determined visual sense for storytelling came into play in the direction of both the cover image and the accompanying music videos.

With every project Kenney pursues, she continues to shine in her ability to speak the strange, ambiguous, impossible truths — and *Sucker’s Lunch* is no exception, providing us with nothing less than a balanced meal for the wise fool in us all.