

They've Gotta Be Atletico Fans: Madrid's Hinds Brings the lo-fi Charm on Their New Album, *Leave Me Alone*

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Hinds

Leave Me Alone

Mom + Pop/Lucky Number

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Written by: Joe Mitchell

Just gotta yell it: Straight outta Madrid! Here come the artists formerly known as [Deers](#). Yeah. I hear ya. I know what all you good, decent folks are murmuring to yourselves right now: “Fuck Madrid, their Fascist history, Francisco Franco, their suppression of the great Catalan spirit, and their little Christiano Reynaldo, too.” I know, I know. I feel your pain. I’ve read [Homage to Catalonia](#) and root for the [Blaugranes](#), too. But wait up just a second, okay? Take a breath. No matter how hard you try, you just can’t judge a band by their hometown. For all we know they could be Atletico fans. So giv’em a break. Plus, you’ve gotta take into account how they’ve recently been under siege and fucked-over by the forces of corporate darkness.

As you may have noticed, I just referred to them as the artists *formerly known* as Deers. This is all [thanks to the mechinations of some nefarious legal \(is that redundant?\) minions working on behalf some moody black clad Quebecois indie rockers](#) who just happen to call themselves The Dears. These minions, convinced beyond any semblance of doubt that music fans (or maybe it’s just The Dears’ fans?) just aren’t smart enough to distinguish between “Deers” and “The Dears,” extra word, letter “A”, and definite articles be damned, wrote a nice letter to Deers sayin’, “Hey man, like you’re confusing people, and stuff, so you’d better like change your name and stuff or like we’re gonna get all like Louis Quatorze on your ass, and stuff. Okay, man?” I can see the raven-locked Madridistas rolling their eyes upon reading the letter. But being a class act, assuming of course that they are Atletico fans, rather than point out the bat-shit crazy absurdity of this assertion and get tied-up in legal knots in god only knows what kind of transatlantic legal proceedings that may have landed in the Hague for all anyone knows, Deers just said, “Hey, cool, we’ll change our name to Hinds”, a Hind being a female red deer – pretty clever, huh? They even posted a cheerful handwritten letter about the imbroglio on their website and [Facebook page](#). Class all the way. They’ve gotta be Atletico fans.

Hinds have just released their first full-length album, *Leave Me Alone*, which happens to be the band’s seventh release since guitarists/vocalists Ana Perrote and Carlotta Cosials formed Deers in 2011. They released *Demo* as a duo in 2013 before promptly disappearing for more than a year then reemerging as a quartet with Ade Martín on bass and Amber Grimbergen on drums. The new lineup then proceeded to release a barrage of singles over the next year as Deers before changing the name to Hinds in January 2015. All previously releases appear to be re-branded as Hines.

Not everything on *Leave Me Alone* is brand new. Five of the twelve songs, “Garden”, “Bamboo”, “Chili

Town", "San Diego", and "Castigado en el Granero" were previously released as singles. The seven new songs signal a band that's found its footing, "Walking Home" and "And I Will Send Your Flowers Back" leading the way. Though the production here on what sounds like a new version of "Bamboo" and the new songs is cleaner and brighter than their previous efforts, Hinds has in no way given up their lo-fi and garage band charm. There are no studio tricks, samples, or auto-tuning. It's raw, clanging, organic, and has absolutely no pretense of being anything more than just four friends singing about their lives and having fun doing it. It leaps, runs, and jumps headlong in its enthusiasm, stumbling a time or two, but never failing to get right back on track. The vocals and musicianship may not be the most refined around and probably won't win any Grammys anytime soon, but where it counts, in its heart, it's about as real, or, cough..cough, should I say, Atletico, as it gets.