



Lydia and Clint: real ale enthusiasts and a curry after the pub

SONIC LUNCH

"Two thousand years have passed since the death of Christ and the world is going mad. Occult prophets, nihilist kids, born-again and liberal humanists are united in their belief in an imminent global catastrophe. What are the forces lurking behind this mass delirium?"

THAT'S THE big question being asked by *Apocalypse Culture*, a wild, weird book from New York-based publishers Amok Press that closes in on humanity's darkest side just before the lights go out... for good!

If a book, like a film for the mind, deserved a soundtrack then Lydia Lunch's latest offering 'The Crumb' is the perfect accompaniment to this vital read, even though they are not connected... except in spirit.

'The Crumb' is the sound of things shaking themselves apart, an earthquake on your turntable which plans to turn your soul into jelly. It's one of four projected projects for Lydia's revived Widospeak label, the others being the long awaited Lydia/Birthday Party studio confrontation 'Honeymoon In Red' (two tracks of which can be found on the other side of 'The Crumb'), a limited edition 'bootleg' live melt-down of the recent Lydia/Henry Rollins ULU spoken-word performance entitled 'Lock 'N' Load'

and the long promised 'Stinkfist' brain burner.

Meanwhile 'The Crumb' just won't shut its mouth, one noisy brat of a record that features the guitar of Sonic Youth Thurston Moore locking horns with the poisonous production technique of Clint Ruin and the tortured howl of Lydia. A perfect NME Single Of The Week and Lydia is delighted when I phone her in New York to tell her the good news.

"Perfect!" she purrs. "It's about time that *real* 'Noise Rock' was happening out there, I've heard this term bandied about for so f—ing long."

Is 'The Crumb' a new project or have you had it caged up for a while?

"Thurston, Clint and myself did 'The Crumb' about six to eight months ago, just to get the ball rolling with Widospeak in America for the upcoming year.

"I just wanted to put out a few tracks from 'Honeymoon In Red' as a pre-empt, hence the B-side of 'The Crumb', but I didn't want to put them out by themselves... It just needed something extra, it needed 'The Crumb' to kick in the new year... Set 'em up, knock 'em down, bury 'em."

Who or what is 'The Crumb'?

"I think it's music to kill your parents by basically, if not yourself. Take it for

what you will... 'The Crumb', I think it suits that particular record because it's just a small sign of what's to come as far as the entire global situation is concerned as I see it. The sound of dust settling on the rubble, the sound of things to come.

"I only wish I could take responsibility, or claim, for the decline of civilization but unfortunately I really had nothing to do with it. I'm merely a journalist *not* a politician."

The difference being that Lydia prefers pushing her apocalyptic visions to the masses through more artistic means as opposed to pushing the real thing in the shape of a big red button.

Apocalypse? ... Wow!

Edwin Pouncey