

BUZZ by NIKI —review by Felicity C.



Buzz

Too Much Of A
Good Thing

Colossal Loss

Focus

Did You Like Her
In The Morning?

Take Care

Magnets

Tsunami

Blue Moon

Strong Girl

Paths

Heirloom Pain

Nothing Can

"Something NIKI does really well is get to the emotional heart of the matter."



Nicole Zefanya, widely known as NIKI was born on January 24, 1999. She is an Indonesian singer and songwriter but is now based in the United States. At age 9, she received her first guitar and independently started to learn how to write and play music. She actually won a contest to perform as an opening for Taylor Swift's concert in Jakarta at 15. NIKI moved to Nashville in 2017 to study music in a university but eventually dropped out two semesters to sign in with an American record label, *88rising* along with some famous artists like Joji and Keshi which are two of my favorite artists.

ALBUM

"I think it's going to mark a new era for me musically. Personally, it is my favorite thing I've ever done."



NIKI started writing songs for this album two years ago while having her tour for her album before BUZZ which is the album 'Nicole'. Album Nicole is also my favorite album and NIKI said that BUZZ and Nicole are kind of connected. She said *"I have fondly nicknamed Buzz Nicole's older, wiser sister. Nicole walked so that Buzz could run. Nicole was a very diaristic window into my past and Buzz is very much rooted in my present."*

According to NIKI, Buzz was the first album that she made that didn't actually have a concrete vision in mind. She tends to see things as black and white and was raised to think that way, with her Indonesian upbringing. She said, *"So I think this album is about unlearning a lot of that stuff, taking*

what serves you from childhood and letting go of what doesn't, and embracing that things will feel messy very often. Buzz was her first real, true exercise in just writing and making art just to make art for herself versus to fulfill expectations. She found a lot of artistic healing through making this album. She said "It was the first time I really kind of put my head down and was like: *I'm going to make an album for myself in a way that I want and that feels authentic.*"

Songs

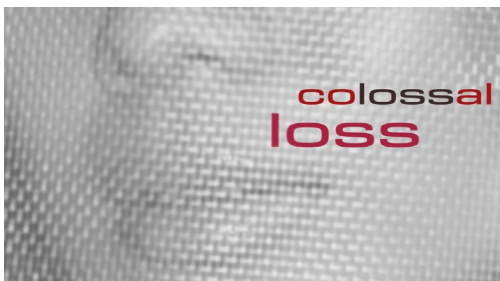
- *Buzz - 4.5/5*

"The song's about to sta(can you hear it?)"

The title track. The queen; BUZZ. Buzz is the first track in the album. NIKI wrote the entirety of this song in a random corner of the Vancouver airport and she finished it right away there because she was so inspired. This song is about the exciting and short-lived feelings of a first crush or love. This song describes the thrilling rush of infatuation with a mix of vulnerability and excitement. The lyrics use metaphors to convey the buzz or thrill that love can bring, almost like an electric charge coursing through someone. I love the mix of dreamy guitar, relaxed beats and NIKI's smooth vocals.

<https://youtu.be/VNbTlaxk1iY?feature=shared>

- *Colossal Loss 5/5*



The anthem of betrayal. NIKI was inspired to write this when she was back home in Indonesia after a very angering experience. This song is one of my favorites in this album especially when NIKI said that this album gives Cancer vibes, which is my zodiac sign. Colossal Loss has more of a

rage or angry feel to it. I honestly think that this song gives a Avril Lavigne or Paramore kind of vibe. This song is more on the rockstar side with guitar and drums and also NIKI's rock voice.

<https://youtu.be/ExOabWapTQ0?feature=shared>

- *Did You Like Her In The Morning- 4.5/5*

"I know it'd be easier if I just didn't ask"



NIKI wrote this song back in 2019 and shelved it but brought it back for this album. She produced this song all on her own. It's a song of all the questions that I guess you're too afraid to ask in person. The song captures the feeling of vulnerability that comes with seeing someone you care about move on. This song

features a blend of soft melodies and smooth touching vocals.

<https://youtu.be/bHoJRzaEJWk?feature=shared>

- *Heirloom Pain - 5/5*

"People fall in love and fck up and have kids who fall in love and fck up, who have kids that fall in love and have you"

This song is about intergenerational trauma. The song delves into how pain and struggles can be passed down through generations, much like an heirloom. NIKI poignantly examines how the burdens carried by her ancestors have shaped her own identity and experiences which somehow

explains the lyrics above. With the lyrics, “ *Now I'm always afraid to take up space, I'm doing it anyway*” you CAN always choose to be the cycle breaker and heal. Pain can be passed down, so too can resilience and the power to heal. NIKI named this outro as the most legendary outro she ever wrote. I love how smooth NIKI's vocals are here which added to the emotion and meaning to the song.

<https://youtu.be/8UOQshfBncc?feature=shared>

● *Take Care 5/5*

This song is one of my favorites in this album as it reminds me of my favorite song in the album *Nicole* which is the “*The Apartment We Won't Share*”. The song beautifully portrays the act of releasing someone from your life not out of anger or resentment, but out of care and understanding. It's about prioritizing someone's well-being over your own desires. This song gives mixed emotions like saying goodbye, pain, love, and acceptance. NIKI produced this song all on her own. This song is also the last one to make the album. NIKI also incorporated a little bit of Javanese Pelog scale. I love how I can feel the emotions with NIKI's vocals.

<https://youtu.be/l94X674K1iA?feature=shared>

- *Nothing Can* - 5/5



"No one'll ever save you, No one and nothing can. But you still smile at a stranger, And you still make your weekend plan"

After all the emotional heartbreak songs of the album,

NIKI ended it with a hopeful one, *Nothing Can*. This song

is about resilience and strength. My personal favorite. This is actually the song that I cried to when I was breaking down because I wasn't able to attend her concert in Vancouver last October 19. This was the song that comforted me. *"There's a freedom of accepting that even life will suck and it will be really hard sometimes and there are things that you literally cannot change and that are out of your control, life can still be really good in the small, tiny, little moments"* NIKI said about this album. *Nothing Can* is about finding moments of joy and meaning amidst the chaos, pain, and struggles, reminding us that even in tough times, there are things that make it all worthwhile.

https://youtu.be/8SP7_4C4HaM?feature=shared

SUMMARY

The album shows themes of change, identity, and acceptance. Through its 13 tracks, the album captures moments of emotional intensity and personal growth, addressing experiences like heartbreak, identity crises, and the uncertainty of young adulthood. NIKI describes the record as embodying "intensity, expansion, freedom, and acceptance," emphasizing the process of embracing life's unpredictability and learning to let go .

My favorite part of this album review is getting to know each song. I really love the songs and lyrics on this album. I can really tell that NIKI really worked hard for this like she always does in every

album or song. I can tell by the way she writes the lyrics of each song. I learned that it's all about self-acceptance and resilience like the song *Heirloom Pain* and *Nothing Can*.

My overall rating on this album is 4.5/5.