

# “Dealer” burns quietly



Courtesy | merchdirect.com

**SLOW BURN:** “Dealer” is not only one of the most atmospheric records of the year, it is one of the most emotionally direct.

Morgan Mitchell and A&E Editor Christian Davis discuss Foxing’s latest record.

By **CHRISTIAN DAVIS**  
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Morgan, now that “Dealer” is out, there has been such a noticeable buzz about Foxing outside of the standard “emo revival” scene. What’s your experience been like listening to this sort of stuff in a community? For music that stresses emotional catharsis, I feel like people that live in places outside the standard Midwest, East Coast locales have a harder time connecting with fans of these sort of bands.

Morgan Mitchell: I’ve found though that these bands are aware of that and have a huge online presence. Everything I’ve learned about Foxing, I’ve learned through their tumblr blog. I feel really connected with the emo revival community online, so much so that it almost makes up for not having a stronger one here in person. We are all so tight knit and it starts with one band and then you’re exposed to all these other bands through the community and it feels like home and I love it.

CD: I love what you said about this scene feeling like home. The Hotelier put out “Home, Like

Noplace is There” during a really formative and tough year for me, and I remember belting the lyrics to the first track when I saw them live. “Home” is really the only word to describe that feeling.

Let’s talk about “Dealer.” I feel like “Dealer” is another example of how bands in this scene are constantly growing and changing. How are you feeling about the record right now?

MM: I was nervous about “Dealer” because “Albatross” has to be my favorite album of all time and like you sort of mentioned, bands in the emo revival scene like to experiment and mix it up like Empire! Empire! (I Was a Lonely Estate) did with “You Will Eventually Be Forgotten” and The World is a Beautiful Place did with “Between Bodies.” Sometimes it goes well and sometimes it goes not so well.

“Dealer” definitely went well. They wanted to produce an album that was in their words “a record full of songs that mean a lot to us; every song speaks to a specific part of our souls. A record about loss. A slowburner; a night record.”

Unlike “Albatross” that has a feeling of frustrated despair and almost uncontrolled anger, “Dealer” has a feeling of slow sadness and hopelessness. Instead of raising your fist up, you want to just sink into the floor.

The lyrics are more personal and I love that they mentioned exposing their souls because I feel Foxing on a soul level.

CD: I get the nervousness thing. I think we were all on edge in terms of how TWIABP was going to follow up “Between Bodies.” The scene reacted pretty visibly to that change of direction,

too.

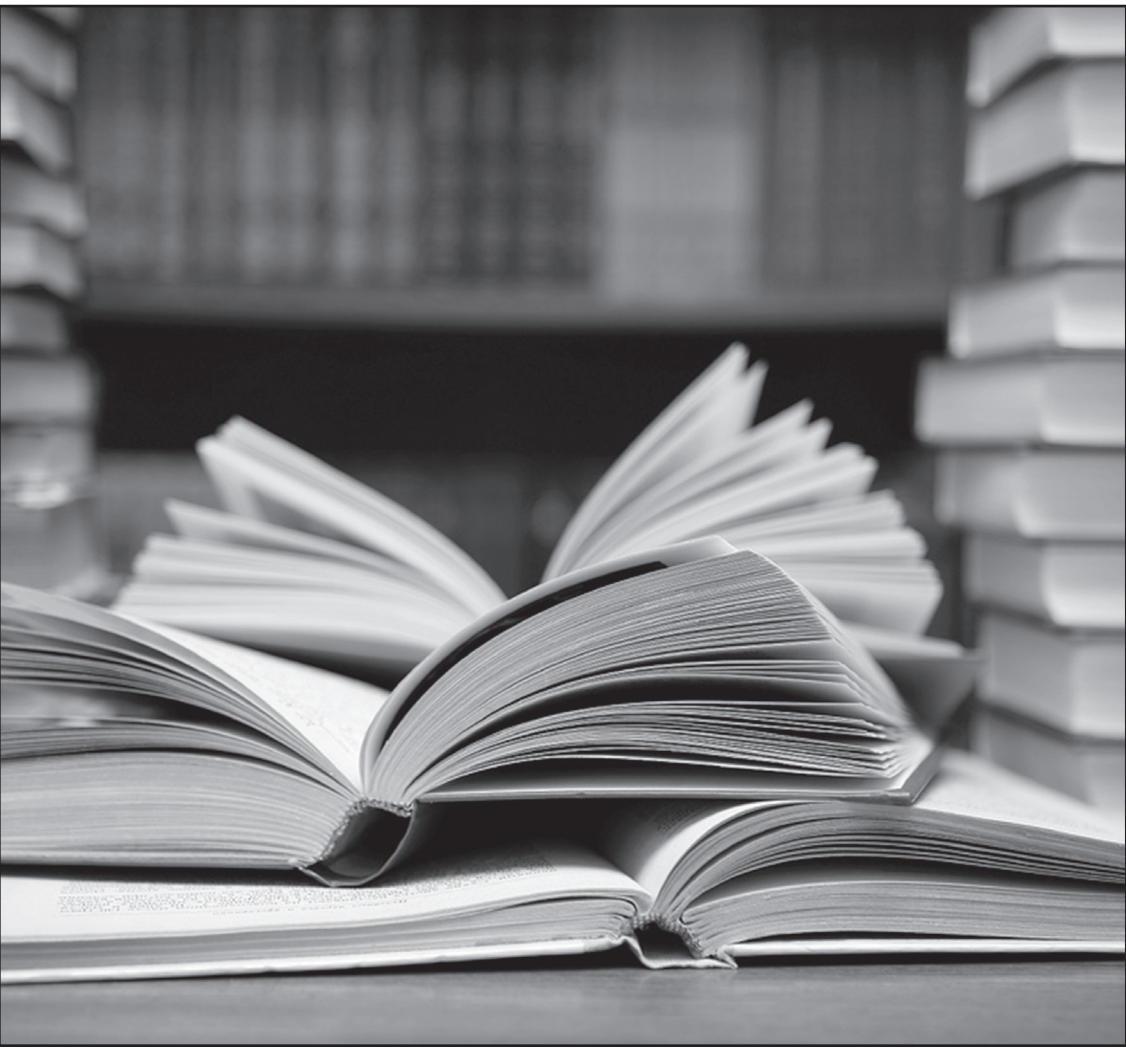
I love that quote, and I think the term “slowburner” is really telling. Before we had even started messaging, I had actually thought about bringing up the album’s pacing. I feel like “Dealer” ebbs and flows in this really natural, almost glacial sense. I think of “Winding Cloth” and how it just slowly evolves and shifts, and it totally reminds me of Sigur Ros, and even some Sufjan Stevens.

“The Magdalene” is so crushingly sad, and discusses the guilt associated with losing one’s virginity. This is one of the other ways that I feel Foxing has evolved — the stories told on “Dealer” strike me with so much more clarity.

MM: I saw another fan also say that “Dealer” reminds them of Sigur Ros!

It’s interesting that you mention that the lyrics strike you with more clarity. Foxing formed a week and a half after bassist and backup vocalist Josh Coll got back from serving in Iraq and a lot of the lyrics he wrote for “Albatross” are about his experience, albeit vague. But for “Dealer,” he decided to explicitly talk about it in the song “Indica” and that song rips your heart out and stomps on it. With lyrics like “The frames and faces I’ve mistaken / for kids whose lives I may have taken / and if so, do I haunt their parents’ dreams? / And in so, am I summarized by young lung screams?”

The lyrics in “Dealer” exposing such personal and intimate moments and fears of Connor Murphy and Coll is what makes this album so influential for any young artists. This is what bearing your soul into your art looks like.



Courtesy | staticflickr.com

**GENERATIONAL GENRE:** Young adult novels deal in authenticity, documenting the difficulties young adults face daily.

# Storytelling that validates

Young adult literature becomes increasingly popular due to its inability to shy away from hard topics.

By **HAYLEY LANGDON**  
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Like most children of the ‘90s, I grew up with Harry Potter. Alongside the students of Hogwarts I learned the lesson of doing what is right amidst a world doing everything it can to convince you that yours is a lost cause. We read about the trials Harry faced that at times led him toward depressive states as seen in “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix” or “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.” We grew up with a series that taught life lessons so humbly we did not realize Hogwarts was our classroom as well, until we were

older.

On some level of consciousness, we became prone to expect a book to give us more than an imaginary world to which we could escape. Literature had become the medium by which we found our unspoken fears and desires clearly laid out for us — lived out through the lives of the characters we read.

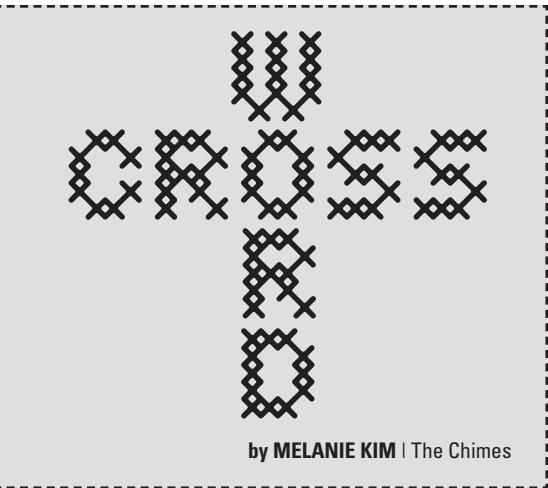
The authors of young adult literature perpetuated this expectation by writing stories that did anything but shy away from the ugly side of life. We learned the lessons, next we needed to know we were not alone in the pain and headache we would experience in our formidable teen years.

When people discover my ambition to become an author, the question afterward is always the same and so is the answer — what type of books do I want to write? I want to write books like John Green’s and do so with a Christian perspective. Green’s novels deal with cancer, love, death, mental illnesses and the existential crisis teens face at one point or another. My desire is to write a story that captures the instability of life while also providing my reader with the light of the gospel. Like Green, I want to affirm, not trivialize the feelings of those who

read YA literature.

Stephen Chbosky’s novel “The Perks of Being a Wallflower,” which is written in journal entry format, confronts depression head-on and the effects it has on all those connected to it. The novel’s portrayal of adolescent sexual abuse is raw and empathetic, allowing any reader who has experienced such trauma to silently and confidentially be told “you are not alone in your pain.” Green’s novel “The Fault in Our Stars” captures the thrill of your first love as well as the heartache of losing someone you shared “a small infinity” with. Each novel is merely a snapshot of the work YA literature does in the lives of its readers. While the world may tell them it will all be okay in a few years, authors tell young adults everything they are living is real and valuable.

When told the emotions and heartaches they face are simply part of their stage of life, young adults might as well be told what they are experiencing is not valid and does not measure up in comparison to the issues they will face when they are older. Where adult figures fail, YA literature excels by creating stories validating everything about the years that ultimately shape who we will become.

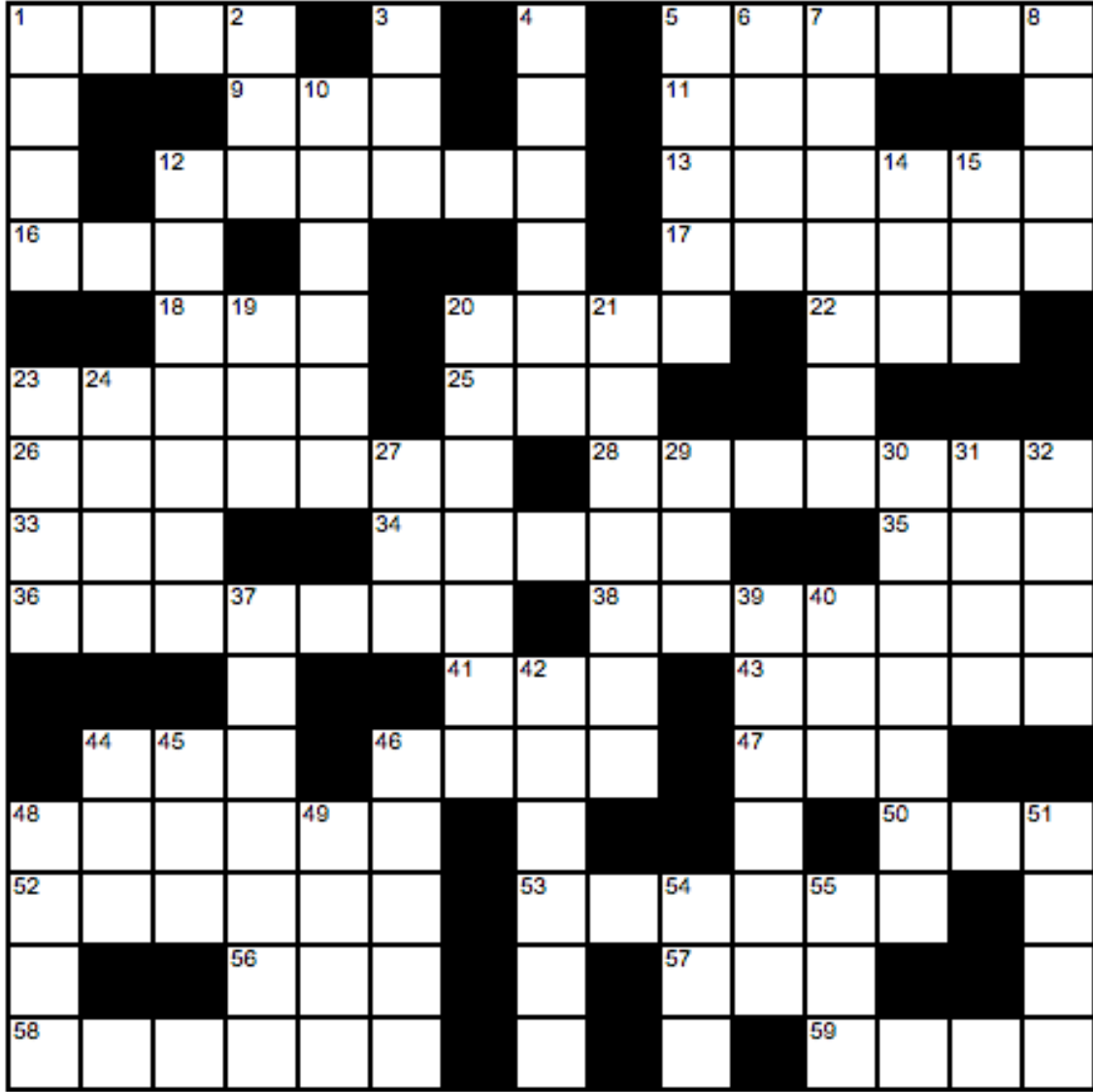


by MELANIE KIM | The Chimes



# Key to last week’s puzzle

Answer to this week’s puzzle online at [chimes.biola.edu/ae/](http://chimes.biola.edu/ae/)



## ACROSS

- Steve’s dog in a Nick Jr. show
- Tech blog; one who stares
- As opposed to the South American League of baseball, abr.
- Locale of 2016 Summer Olympics
- He sold his siblings for Turkish Delight
- Police duty before taking to jail
- A hurried measure of time
- As in fibrosis
- LG Display’s stock symbol
- A mood, or aura
- Attains, possesses
- Logical explanation for whereabouts
- Simple cooling agent
- As in Tony, or a choir section
- What you’ll find students doing after an all-nighter

- A statically typed programming language
- What students want but rarely have time for
- “\_\_\_ can’t do that”
- Introduction to a book
- A piece of pillow substance
- The Knights of \_\_\_ in Monty Python
- One of the One Direction members
- A type of evergreen
- Surgeon’s call for “quick”
- In the South, a young woman, informally
- He said, “Hey, hey, hey!”
- Common US language, abr.
- A fleet of armed ships or vehicles
- Standard text for Biola classes
- A fish — snake, one might say
- Ship or sub prefix
- To arise from
- Former pencil filling

## DOWN

- Work authority
- Cease
- One of the most common viruses
- Regarding Moses and Abraham’s culture
- A gospel singer may say it is amazing
- Full of fluff
- A fledgling business
- Military training program
- Earhart, or Bedelia
- Third installment of Stephenie Meyer’s saga
- Your GPA offers this, helpful for scheduling
- Bro, etc.
- Rodeo org.
- What Call of Duty is accused of being
- A helpful trait
- Term used in urgent or deadline scenarios
- Infamous fantasy books and movies, abr.
- Alt. to University of

- Nevada
- Another term for gorilla
- Must be done before one exhales
- A popular Christmas carol about the first
- A young female
- They say diamonds last this long
- Anaheim’s MLB team
- Aunt, in Acapulco
- Pattern of Shakespeare’s sonnets
- Progressive’s leading lady
- CNN’s Indian — English news network associate
- A recent moody Taylor Swift hit
- Pain, can be dull
- British director of “The Witches” (1990)
- What you write crossword answers in
- Not by works, \_\_\_ by faith
- A type of class a non — speaking foreigner would take in America