

# Letters from home

*After a busy schedule following the release of debut Lush, Snail Mail's Lindsey Jordan is heading home for some Xbox and chill (and no silly business)*

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Despite being on the road relentlessly with her band Snail Mail, Lindsey Jordan is a bit of a home bird. You only need to head over to the 19-year-old guitarist's Instagram (@snailmailband) to find proof - a candid snap of Lindsey's Mum reclining on a sunny hammock in the garden cradling their dog Emilia with the caption "#updates from #home a la #Mum" complete with wailing sad face emoji. She lights up when she thinks about heading back even for a short while to catch up with friends, the animals, and her Xbox.

Things have certainly picked up for Lindsey since her journal-scribbling days making music in the quiet suburbia of

comparison syndrome and grappling with self-identity, and Jordan's first EP 'Habit' perfectly documents this. Her debut album, *Lush* continues this idea, marking her shift through adolescence with a world both simultaneously infinite and hopeless. It's quite a lot to have laid bare. "It feels vulnerable having the record out in the open," she admits, rearranging herself and crossing her legs beneath her on the black plastic chair. "To me, it was a really sacred thing that felt like, when it was done, it was so done and perfect. It's weird to be publishing all of that for other people to now have an opinion on." It's clear that the Maryland native is well-rehearsed

*"It feels vulnerable having the record out in the open... it was a really sacred thing"*

Maryland. "Guitar was always my big thing," she states matter of factly, painting a picture of herself as the eager student at school. It's not far from the truth. Lindsey picked up classical guitar at five years old but it wouldn't be until much further into her teens that she shuffled into a more electrified sound. Shooting up from the Baltimore underground, her allies included Washington DC punks Priests and her guitar teacher, Mary Timony (of Helium and Ex Hex fame).

The transition from teen to adulting is always a difficult one, with constant

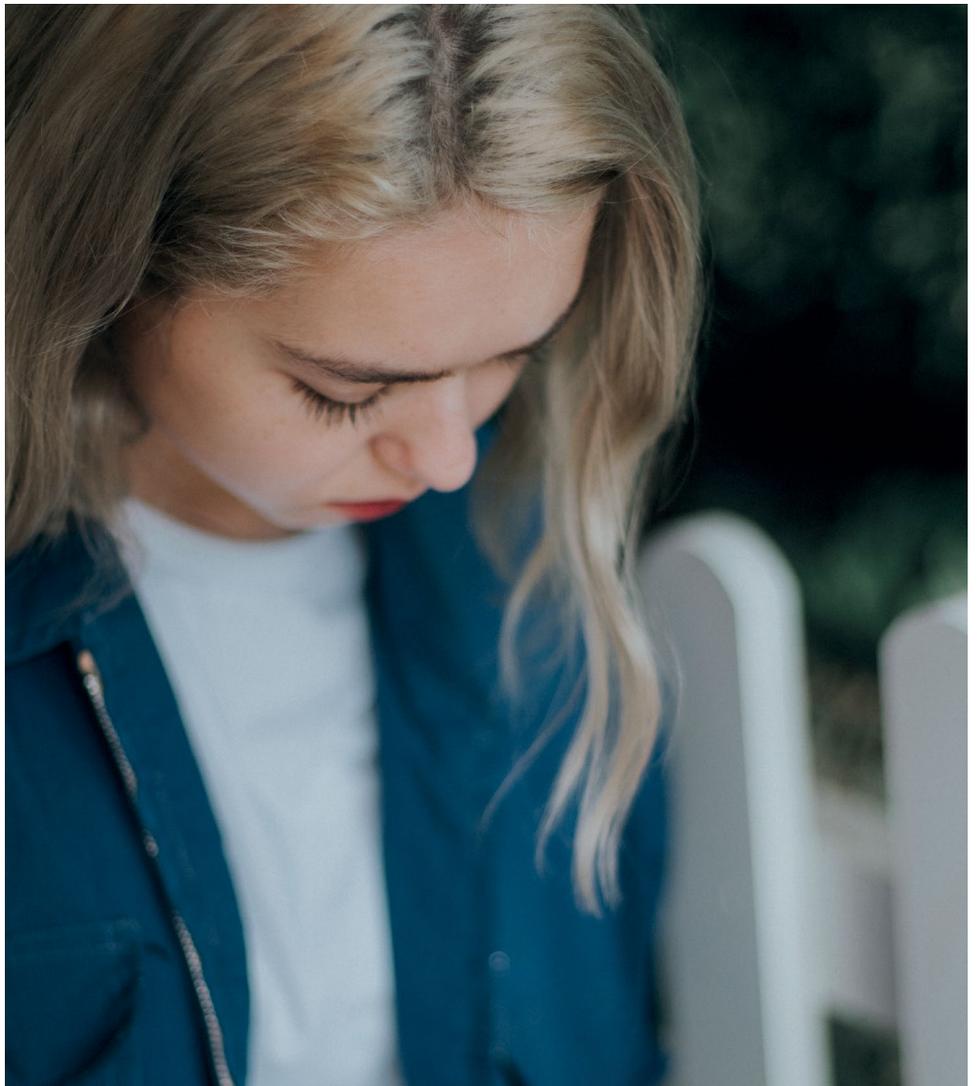
in talking about this kind of stuff, which makes sense. She's probably spent more time touring and doing press over the past year than she did studying for her exams.

Now openly gay, Lindsey feels the strain of unlocking that intimacy and dishing it out so readily. "It takes away the personal special element of it saying 'Well, this is about... Kelly'". Because as she's quick to point out, "I don't consider it part of my musical identity." It does take her back to the sick-to-the-stomach crushes of her bedroom walls though, another mainstay in growing up that is played out in →



the record. She fiddles with her watch. “Growing up I wasn’t all that in touch with myself,” she admits. There’s also another common change-factor from teens to your twenties; making more time for those who count and less for those who don’t. “I’ve definitely flipped as a person. I used to go out every night and now I just want to be by myself all the time.” So no more awkward house parties? “I really like going to parties, I always have. But I go to bed earlier now,” she jokes.

At this point, Jordan’s manager puts his head around the door to remind her that she has that “Rough Trade thing” soon. She nods and follows up quickly asking for the Wi-Fi, keen to stay connected. Perhaps, that’s the key as we grow older. It’s not about earth-shattering heartaches or mad blowouts anymore; we yearn for the grounding moments that matter the most and, as Lindsey insists, those are hard to come by. So, she keeps the important things close. Whether that’s speaking out on the topics that matter (as part of a recent women in punk discussion for *The New York Times*) or hanging with your idols over brunch (“Meeting Liz Phair was just weirdly normal and fun”), Lindsey Jordan doesn’t seem to sweat the small stuff.



With another US tour and “a bunch of festivals in 2019” already planned, it seems that there’s no rest for the talented. Or as Lindsey puts it on those social channels again, she’s “a haggard sea captain, depleted of resources and adrift”. Home remains her anchor and is beckoning her back. Focused on her upcoming break, we’re back to the furry family as I ask if there’s more than just Emilia. “Oh, I’ve got two dogs and three cats. There’s one anti-social cat that lives in the basement.” She leans into her seat, stretches her arm across the back of the chair and settles in. “Then there’s an outdoor cat who doesn’t really interact with the others and then there’s my cat. She kinda hangs out in my

room.” The cats are fine with the dogs at home? “The dogs sort of chase ‘em around but they all co-exist.”

It’s definitely something we can all learn from Lindsey Jordan. The fragments of our awkward teen selves will always co-exist with the more together-versions of now. It’s why we feel both old for going to bed early but young knowing we still have miles more adventures ahead. It’s the inevitable cycle of change and we should take comfort in the fact that, much like Lindsey, home is where the hammock-lounging pets are. And that’s worth a thousand selfies from Mum just to preserve it. ♦

*Lush* is out now. Hear it at [snailmail.band](http://snailmail.band)