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MUSIC

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## CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Bethany Cosentino is back. Older, wiser and with a lot less reverb.

Given Best Coast's debut album, *Crazy for You*, was one of 2010's most breezy, laid-back records, it comes as a surprise when Bethany Cosentino says she finds it hard to chill out. "I tend to be very tense and uptight sometimes," she says. The band's quick success did nothing to ease the anxiety. "I was really homesick spending time away from home. That's why this [latest] record is called *The Only Place*. Once I get back to California and my zone and my house in LA is when I start to feel the best." She describes the record as a maturation of the Best Coast sound and it's evident that this time around, the cats and stoner angst have given way to a more confident, if melancholic, mood. We spoke to her about the album and her Stevie Nicks obsession.

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**You've described this album as more grown up. Can you elaborate?** I think the subject matter is definitely different. The record is about me having a little bit of an existential crisis and trying to figure out who I am. I've done a lot growing up since the first album. I used to get really stressed out and anxious when the band first started getting popular. It's not something that I expected to happen. I figured I'd be going through life in my twenties just partying and being carefree and not really have people watch me while I'm doing it. I didn't really know how to handle it. I feel like I have a much better grasp on the chaos of my life and everything that's going on around me.

**You said this isn't how you imagined your twenties. What did you imagine?** Oh man, I imagined myself working a retail job forever and not really doing much! It's funny because when people ask what would you be doing if you weren't doing this, I honestly can't answer. I have no idea. I just imagine myself drinking with my friends and working at a vintage store or something.

**You're doing a bit of fashion design too.** Yeah, Urban Outfitters approached me. It was cool to do something different creatively. It's a line that was inspired by the clothes that I wear, but also the girls that come to Best Coast shows. My biggest style influence is Stevie Nicks. She's somebody I look up to and admire. Everything from her hair, to her voice to her lyrics. So much about her has been an influence on me, everything but her drug use! 🍓

*The Only Place is out now.*

WORDS ANNE FULLERTON

