



XL MIDDLETON

Things Are Happening

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Past release "Tap Water" received great press locally from LA Weekly/LA Records, nationally from Washington Post, internationally from The Wire magazine (UK)
- Has toured Europe, Canada & Japan multiple times
- Planned domestic touring including dates in Portland, New Orleans, Memphis, St. Louis, Chicago, NYC & more
- Features from Zackey Force Funk & Moniquea
- XL is one of the organizers behind the ongoing event series Modern Funk Fest which has hosted Egyptian Lover, Battlecat, Brian Ellis & more

DESCRIPTION

Things are happening. It's a perpetual truth and something of a mysterious, even ominous, sentiment as it applies to XL Middleton's follow up to "Tap Water." Fittingly, the content of "Things Are Happening" strays down darker or more cynical paths than its predecessor, and in doing so takes the modern funk ethos as a whole beyond tried and true formulas such as love songs or spiritual anthems. The grooves remain uptempo; the synth work is still warm and percussive. But, there's a heavier story to tell, and greater truths to face.

The album opens with the uptempo, lowrider-ready "Never Have Too Many Freaks." Upon first glance it's a hedonistic ode to maintaining multitudes of willing women for carnal conquest, but further listens reveal the story of a man in search of love, let down too many times and thus led away from the pursuit of romance. "Look Who's Talkin'" details the strenuous nature of socializing as an introvert, with tongue-in-cheek lyrics seated atop a warbly electro-funk instrumental. This theme is explored again, in a more introspective fashion, on the album's closer, "They Don't Wanna Leave." On "Better Friend" (feat. Moniquea), XL plays witness to those who would invade social circles for personal gain - an all too common sight in the music business, perhaps foreshadowing a future hip hop album by dropping a few bars before the song sizzles to a close. Him and Zackey Force Funk team up on "Paradise Of Pavement," an anthem for the highs and lows of living in LA, framed by cosmic chords and grinding synth bass tones. "Purple Sheets" resonates with a slow Linn drum bounce as XL's vocoder finally offers a moment of unbridled love/lust, adding a dimension to the album more akin to "Tap Water" than anything else on the project.

Some might argue that the internalized nature of "Things Are Happening" is badly timed, with the hyper-politicized environment we are now living in almost demanding social commentary in art above all else. However, this album is a reminder that, no matter who the president is or what global woes we are facing, we also exist outside of the collective mind and have our own individual stories to tell.

ARTIST:	XL Middleton
TITLE:	Things Are Happening
CATALOG:	I-MOFUNK019 / cd-MOFUNK019
LABEL:	MoFunk Records
GENRE:	Modern funk
BARCODE:	602573429112 / 602573429105
FORMAT:	LP / CD
HOME MARKET:	Los Angeles
RELEASE:	10/6/2017
LIST PRICE:	\$21.98 / CX / \$11.98 / AK

TRACKLISTING (Click Tracks In [Blue](#) To Preview Audio)

1. [Never have Too Many Freaks](#)
2. [Look Who's Talkin'](#)
3. [Ice Level](#)
4. [Purple Sheets](#)
5. [Paradise Of Pavement \(feat. Zackey Force Funk\)](#)
6. Better Friend (feat. Moniquea)
7. Prelude To The Invasion
8. Enjoy The Ride
9. Gotta Let You Go
10. They Don't Wanna Leave Me
11. You're So Different*

*CD Only Bonus Track