

= The Reputation =

The Reputation was an indie rock band from Chicago , Illinois . The band was fronted by former Sarge singer @-@ songwriter Elizabeth Elmore , with other positions filled by various members .

The band , which formed while Elmore was attending law school , released two albums between the years of 2001 and 2006 , both of which were met with generally positive reviews . The band has toured the United States and the United Kingdom .

= = History = =

Following the disbanding of her old band , Sarge , Elmore enrolled in law school at Northwestern University . She embarked on a series of solo tours between classes , but after growing tired of performing solo Elmore recruited ex @-@ Sarge drummer Russ Horvath and ex @-@ Chisel bassist and law school classmate Chris Norborg to tour with . The group toured together and recorded a five song demo , but after a while Horvath and Norborg were no longer able to tour due to schooling . Elmore recruited friend and ex @-@ Moreno guitarist Sean Hulet , ex @-@ Moreno drummer Scott Rosenquist , and ex @-@ Andiamo bassist Joel Root . The new group completed a tour of the East Coast .

Elmore requested a leave of absence from Northwestern Law School in 2001 to focus on the band . After ex @-@ Nymb drummer Ben Kane replaced the unavailable Rosenquist , the group signed to Initial Records . Kane left the band , and former Sarge drummer Chad Romanski joined the group after several weeks of Elmore begging . The band completed a fall West Coast tour and began recording their debut album with Romanski . The band took on the name The Reputation at this time .

= = = Self @-@ titled debut = = =

The Reputation , the band 's self @-@ titled debut album , was released in 2002 after the band spent much of the fall and winter of 2001 in the recording studio . The majority of the album was recorded in Chicago at Atlas , with the exception of a cover of Elvis Costello 's song " Almost Blue , " which was recorded with then @-@ Wilco guitarist Jay Bennett on piano and production duties , as well as extra arrangements and recording on other tracks . Elmore , as she did with her work in Sarge , wrote all of the original songs and lyrics , and assisted with the production along with Matt Allison .

The album was well received critically . The Los Angeles Times gave the album 3 @.@ 5 out of 4 stars , with reviewer Kevin Bronson saying that " [ Elmore 's ] streaming anecdotes give the listener the feeling of walking right into the middle of life @-@ altering events . " The College Music Journal 's Amy Wan called the album a " showcase for Elmore 's powerfully biting lyrics and her passionate voice , dancing deftly between little @-@ girl sweet and outright roar , " and The Village Voice gave the album an A- , with famed music journalist Robert Christgau praising the debut , saying that " Elmore left a great band to go to law school . Now she leaves a great law school to start a better band . "

Along with the positive feedback for the album , the band was able to secure its first permanent drummer in Matt Espy . The band would tour the United States and parts of Canada a number of times following the release of the album . Along with the performance agenda in 2003 , Elmore balanced touring , songwriting for their next album , and a return to law school while the band suffered the loss of yet another drummer , as Espy was forced to leave after a tenure of nearly a year and a half for personal reasons .

= = = To Force a Fate = = =

The band settled on their second permanent drummer , Steve Van Horn , shortly after Espy left following their round of touring . At the same time , the band began negotiations with Lookout !

Records to release their follow @-@ up . After a marathon run of shows and songwriting toward the end of 2003 , the band recorded their second album . The sessions were difficult , with 14 @-@ hour recording days being balanced with Elmore attempting to finish remaining law school papers , combined with weekend tour jaunts to the East Coast . The album was unique compared to other Elmore projects in that other members of the band assisted in the songwriting process .

To Force a Fate was ultimately released in April 2004 on Lookout ! Records . The album received generally positive press , including favorable reviews in Spin Magazine , calling the album " a bang of power pop epiphany . " Blender Magazine gave the album four stars , stating that " Elizabeth Elmore , a law @-@ school graduate with boy trouble to match her student loans , writes songs that are as much legal briefs as diary entries . " Entertainment Weekly called the album " muscular yet lush , " and gave the album a B + . The album would eventually reach No. 58 on the CMJ charts .

= = = Post @-@ album touring = = =

The band spent 2004 and 2005 touring the United States for over nine months , including opening slots for Ted Leo and the Pharmacists and Grammy nominees The Killers , Modest Mouse , Death Cab for Cutie , and the Donnas . The band 's performance at South by Southwest in particular was covered positively in Entertainment Weekly .

2005 took the band overseas to tour the United Kingdom for the first time , as well as two separate two @-@ month United States tours . In June 2005 , bassist Joel Root left the band for personal reasons . They completed their summer tour with Stereo South bassist Greg Mytych , and planned to record a new album in 2006 , but came to a halt due to mitigating factors , including the issues with Lookout ! Records . In September 2005 , the band performed at North East Sticks Together . Elmore , in November 2006 , posted a message to the band 's official mailing list noting that the band had dissolved and no further plans had been announced . Drummer Steve Van Horn has joined former Chicagoan and current Austin , TX based singer / songwriter Che Arthur 's touring band .

= = Musical and lyrical style = =

The Reputation 's music is influenced by that of Elmore 's previous band , Sarge . The band also drew comparisons to the Fastbacks , Liz Phair , Neil Young , and Elvis Costello , the last of which the band covered with their version of the song " Almost Blue " . Elmore drew influence from a wide variety of music , including post @-@ hardcore , alternative country , 1970s singer @-@ songwriters , indie rock , classical music , country music , bluegrass , and 1980s pop music . While the band 's first album used conventional punk rock instruments , To Force a Fate included more diverse instruments such as piano , strings , and horns . According to a review in Allmusic , To Force a Fate 's contains " thoughtful songwriting and dashes of indie rock anthemics " .

The subjects of the band 's songs are frequently related to Elmore 's relationships . She stated " as far as I can tell , I am too brutally honest and opinionated for most people . "

= = Members = =

The Reputation 's lineup changed numerous times during the band 's existence .

Final members

Elizabeth Elmore ? vocals and guitar

Sean Hulet ? guitar and vocals

Greg Mytych ? bass guitar

Steve Van Horn ? drums

Former members

Matt Espy ? drummer

Ben Kane ? touring drummer

Chad Romanski ? recording drummer on The Reputation

Joel Root ? bass guitar  
Scott Rosenquist ? touring drummer

= = Releases = =

Albums

The Reputation ( 2002 )

To Force a Fate ( 2004 )

Compilations