

***Aftermath* (1966)** – The Rolling Stones Album Review-by Alora Lusty



Mick Jagger (vocals born July 26, 1943) Keith Richards (guitar, vocals born December 18, 1943) Ian Stewart (piano born July 18, 1938, died December 12, 1985) Charlie Watts (drums born June 2, 1941) Bill Wyman (bass born October 24, 1936) Brian Jones (guitar, vocals born February 28, 1942, died July 3, 1969) Mick Taylor (guitar born January 17, 1949) Ron Wood (guitar, vocals born June 1, 1947)

Growing up, my dad was obsessed with bands like The Rolling Stones, The who, AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, and Aerosmith, but I, was not. I liked artists like Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber as most common 7-10 year olds did. So whenever we were in the car together we would constantly be arguing over which stations to play and he would always end up winning. So there I was 9 years old and my dad blasting “mothers little helper.” I hated any of the music he played, but today I thank him because I’ve grown to love all his favorite bands. It might of took a while but hey, I finally got some good taste in music. So today I will be reviewing my by far favorite album by the rolling stones, called *Aftermath*. Oh how I love *Aftermath*. It seems to change every day but I think this will be my favorite Rolling Stones album for a while. In this album the group begins to experiment with different arrangements and instruments, which in turn created some radically different sounding recordings compared to the Stones songs/albums that came before *Aftermath*, but there is still tough blues, rock to be found here as well.

The album opens with still the most haunting intro to a song ever, the sitar riff to the legendary “Paint It, Black”. I always wondered how people reacted when they first heard that in 1966... This is easily one of The Rolling Stones greatest songs, and it was very popular back then apparently, reaching number 1 on the charts. Next is the B-side to the “Paint It, Black” single, “Stupid Girl”, a tune with some great organ playing. This is where the different instrumentations come into play, resulting in a very different sounding song, sounding nothing like any Rolling Stones tracks.

“Under My Thumb”. I don't know why, but this is my favorite Rolling Stones song, and it always has. I don't know why that is, maybe that xylophone, or the catchy lyrics. The song is just so good that its always the only song always on replay on my phone, and no matter how many times I hear it, I will never get sick of it. One of my favorite songs ever, a true gem.

The last two songs on the A-side “Doncha Bother Me” and “Think” are typical Stones in that they are more of the blues, rock that made them famous in the first place, and while they are not as memorable as the first four songs, they are still very good. Besides, those first four are some of the best songs the Stones ever recorded.

Side 2 is more of the basic, bare bones Stones that ended the 1st side, (except “I Am Waiting”, again with the different instruments and style of the song) compared to the first four songs of the album. There are still some underrated gems on this side, like “Flight 505” and “High and Dry”.

But for me, the song that best sums up this album, is the last song, “Going Home,” clocking in at eleven minutes and fifteen seconds of pure perfection. This is probably the only time everything the Stones knew musically was pumped into one single song. “Going Home” is played in the low range, a finer bass you will never hear, with some great harp, fantastic vocals, a steady rolling beat that totally embraced R&B. The guitars seem to move in and out as if by magic (of course Brian), sounding for all the world like an extended jam, a jam that would be repeated on “Midnight Rambler,” one where the engineer must make a decision and find a place to fade it all out ... otherwise the song could go on forever, and for me, that wouldn't be a bad thing in the least.

Aftermath has not only become my favorite Rolling Stones album (it helps to have “Under My Thumb”), but one my favorite albums by any band. This was a transition album for the group, in terms of the style and music being more outreaching compared to their early material, and they would go even further with the experimentation with their other studio albums. If you are just getting into The Rolling Stones or just dying for more Stones if you are already collecting, put this one at the top of your list, you won't be disappointed.

All of the songs were amazing, all of the songs were more than well thought out. Making these some of the most personal, real and heartfelt tunes of their entire career. So when I'm listing my favorite Stones songs, my favorite Stones moments, or my favorite Stones memories... and all is said and done... this is the album I take with me... EVERYWHERE.