

LINKIN PARK- The Hunting Party, ALBUM REVIEW



If you don't know Linkin Park, they are an American rock band, formed in 1996, Agoura Hills, California and they have been without a doubt, the most successful rock band in the early 2000s. Linkin Park, quickly rose to fame after the release of their debut album Hybrid Theory. They fused Hip-Hop with hard rock, and the rapping was taken seriously, as opposed to bands like Limp bizkit. In 2003, It was followed up by their second record titled Meteora; this album shared allot of the same DNA. The band knew that they couldn't record the same music forever, so they teamed up with producer Rick Rubin, to expand their sound. Since then, Linkin Park have been producing all their albums with Rick Rubin.....UNTIL NOW! This is Linkin Park's sixth full-length LP and in my opinion, their best work to date. It offers a hard and visceral sound that the band hasn't been on since Meteora. Mike Shinoda (lead producer and writer) alluded to the fact that he's fed up with major label bands making music to appeal to the pop culture audience and that their not making anything new. (interview with Mike Shinoda link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWQxweq6AZk>

The album opens up with the track “Keys To The Kingdom” and it showcases the excellent drumming from Rob Bourdon; an electrifying performance. And don't forget, all the band members soon to be 40, and for them to perform like their 23 is incredible.



Lyricaly, the song is one about screwing up, and still, one fights “in futility”, even though he is his own enemy. Plus, Mike drops a line from the second verse that I enjoyed----

Y'all stuck in that same flow
I got that insane flow
High as y'all can get but you're
Never really in my range, though
Yes, I'm half Anglo
Half fried Panko
All prime-time rhymers
Let the bass bang low

And Chester (lead singer) has a menacing delivery; you can just hear the torture in his voice. This is proof that he can still sing, considering all his surgery treatment.

Like the rest of the album, it seamlessly transitions into the next track “All For Nothing”, which features Page Hamilton, (the singer from the band Helmet) who does the hook, while Mike gets busy rhyming. Mike is all over this track, throwing out some braggadocious rhymes, while addressing the Linkin Park ‘Haters’. It's nice to hear him being so aggressive again with his rapping. And it's also nice to see the band reaching out to Page, his voice matches flawlessly

with Linkin Park's sound. This track ends with some band chatter in the background, saying “drop the heavy stuff”. The stuff right here?”. Heavy is a nice way to put it.



The track is titled “Guilty all the same” and it's a ferocious song, 2nd longest song on the album, which has a great punk vibe to it. This track features legendary rapper Rakim, who raps the bridge of the song. This track is aimed at today's record companies, telling the artists “what they should be”. Without a doubt, the highlight of this song is in Rakim's verse. His rhyme pattern is so complex and there's no holding back the things he has to say. (

lyrics below + song link)

<https://youtu.be/cEaEdLQbAFM>

Yeah, you already know what it is
 Can y'all explain what kind of land is this when a man has plans of being rich
 But the bosses plans is wealthy?
 Dirty money scheme, a clean split is nonsense
 It's insane
 Even corporate hands is filthy
 They talk team and take the paper route
 All they think about is bank accounts, assets and realty
 At anybody's expense,
 No shame with a clear conscience
 No regrets and guilt free,
 They claim that ain't the way that they built me
 The smoke screen before the flame
 Knowing as soon as the dough or the deal peak
 They say it's time for things to change
 Re-arrange like good product re-built cheap
 Anything if it's more to gain
 Drained, manipulated like artists, it's real deep
 Until no more remains, but I'm still me
 Like authentic hip-hop and rock,
 'Til pop and radio and record companies killed me
 Try to force me to stray and obey
 And got the gall to say how real can real be
 You feel me, we'll see that green could be to blame
 Or greedy for the fame,
 TV or a name
 The media, the game,
 To me you're all the same
 You're guilty

The track "War" is also one of those songs that has a punk groove to it, but here it goes towards a hardcoar punk direction; I could picture this song coming out in the 90's , where there was a massive punk movement going on. The song kicks off with some classic fast-past drumming, which is topped off with chester's menacing delivery. And same goes towards Brad Delson and Mike Shinoda's guitar playing on this song, Brad lets off a blazing guitar

solo; It gives me eargasms every time.

And chester is fully capable of doing softer songs, like the track "until it's gone". which In my opinion, a good track. People may say it's Linkin Park playing safe, but I think it's them playing it smart. It shows that they can make a soft song, but at the same time, have a hard edge to it and it's a topic that anybody can relate to .

The 9th track "Mark The Graves". Which runs at 5 mins, the 3rd longest track.Plus, this track has a great pace to it as well; It switches tempos throughout. At the



beginning, it has a more fast paced tempo, then it switches to these bombastic heavyweight guitars, which felt like they were crushing my ear drums. Its fantastic. And Chester lets off some torcherous, depressing, throat tearing vocals. The song is about harming someone who you often take for granite, then when they're gone, you've realized there's nothing you can do to fix up the mistakes. <https://youtu.be/JVwCxq4-Eds>

There's a fragile game we play
With the ghosts of yesterday
If we can't let go, we'll never say goodbye

No trace of what remains
No stones to mark the graves
Only memories we thought we could deny

There was so much more to lose
Than the pain I put you through
In my carelessness I left you in the dark

And the blood may wash away
But the scars will never fade
At least I know somehow I made a mark

In the dark
In the light
Nothing left
Nothing right

In the dark
In the light
Nothing left
Nothing right

In the dark
In the light
Nothing left
Nothing right

In the dark
In the light
Nothing left
Nothing right

The album ends with “A Line In The Sand”, a song that encapsulates the essence of Linkin Park. It's the longest song off the record, running at 6:35. Once again, Mike and Chester are teaming up on this one, except Mike is doing the verses and Chester is doing the hook. The song is about taking back what used to be rightfully yours, and the lyrics to this song have a classic punk attitude. However, like the intro and outro, it's also poetic. I love Mike's tone of voice and style on the second verse, talking about how this person lied to him just so he could screw him over and steal his dignity. After Mike's verse, the guitars start blazing and Chester aggressively throws lines about how “your truth will come, and you'll pay for what you've done”.

The first half of the song is in past-tense and the last half is in current tense, like, instead of saying “your truth will come” instead it's, “and so today, your truth has come, your gonna pay for what you've done”.

It's a fantastic song, well crafted and produced. Just like the rest of the record. (Song link below)

<https://youtu.be/21NRrQEMfyk>

The Verdict

This was the album that Linkin Park wanted to truly make: there was passion, energy, and comfort throughout the entire album. By far, this is their best work and I'm Very Curious Of What's To Come next.

This the antithesis of a radio rock album, 10/10 .