

Avenged Sevenfold's "Nightmare"

-A Ritik Edition



Formed in California, USA, in 1997 Avenged Sevenfold is one of the most famous and well known heavy metal bands in the industry with millions in album sales and in music video views. The band is comprised of, Matt Shadows - Vocals, Synyster Gates - Lead Guitar, Zacky Vengeance - Rhythm guitar, Johnny Christ - bass, The Rev - Drums, 1998-2010, Mike Portnoy - Drums, 2010-2010, Arin Ilejay, 2011-2015, Brooks Wackerman - Drums 2015- Present.

“Nightmare” is American heavy metal band, Avenged Sevenfold’s fifth official studio release. The album was released in 2010, and falls in the heavy metal/alternative rock genre. Clocking in at 66 min and 49 sec with 12 songs and one bonus song; “Nightmare” is known for its heavy and mysterious vibes that its songs emit. Nightmare can be categorized as Avenged Sevenfold’s most divergent album as their late drummer Jimmy Sullivan died halfway through the production of the album. This album has been said to have one of the strongest line up of songs with little to no album “filler songs.”





Track 1- Nightmare

This self titled track is the grand opening of the album and portrays a hard rock and heavy intro to the album with a bang. The song is about six minutes long with a catchy chorus and tear jerking bridge that refers to the death of their late drummer The Rev. This song's music video also consists of a theme that the dead still live on, and is based in a mental asylum where the nightmares of the patients come to life. It is truly evident as to why the band chose to base the entire theme of the album off this song and the death of their late drummer.

Check out (4:40)

Track 2 - Welcome To The Family

My personal favourite song on the album consists of the most insane shredding guitar solo by Synyster Gates. The song is about 4 minutes long. The bridge of this song must be the best bridge of any song in my opinion; gives me chills every damn time. The song is one of the singles of the album alongside "Nightmare." The song also can be considered as one of the heaviest of the album in terms of metal arpeggios and licks.

Check out (2:40)

Track 3 - Danger Line

A song that bases its theme on war and its heart melting sacrifices, in which a father is missed by his family and is killed on the front lines, thereafter. The song is about five and a half minutes long with different sections. The song opens with a hard metal/ marching band mix that

gives the song a badass, alpha theme to it musically. The song then proceeds to a section where the tone is dropped to a more sad and ballad like ending, where M. Shadows duets with Synyster gates in a vocal, solo ending.

Check out (2:37)

Track 4 - Buried Alive

Released as another single of the album alongside “Nightmare”, “Welcome To The Family, ” “Buried Alive” is the “Metallica” song of the album in which the outro resembles songs from the album “Ride The Lightning.” The opening of this song is slow and ballad like, then progresses with two different guitar solos into the hardcore, thrash metal section which gives the song a badass ending and vive to the listener to want to make them listen to it over and over. Truly, another personal favourite.

Check Out (4:57)

Track 5 - “Natural Born Killer”

The fifth track of “Nightmare”, “Natural Born Killer,” is probably one of the weaker songs of the album in my opinion. This is not because of the fact that this song is lacking of anything lyrically, and musically, but is simply overshadowed by the other amazing songs of the album. This is one of the downsides of having a “packed” album. However “Natural Born Killer” consists of a catchy and hard progressive metal sound that can be seriously addictive.

Track 6 - “So Far Away”

The sixth song of the album, “So Far Away,” also released as a single alongside “Nightmare,” “Welcome To The Family,” and “Buried Alive.” Clocking in at 5 minutes long, “So Far Away is the alas tribute song that is dedicated to the late drummer of the band who passed near the time of the production of the album. The heart melting youtube video has almost 200 million views. The song is a straight ballad with an amazing guitar solo alongside ominous background vocals that makes “my skin crawl”..... Nevertheless, “So Far Away,” is one of the most well known songs of the band is a tear jerker in every listen.

Check out (4:52-End of Song), for actual chills!

Track 7 - "God Hates Us"

The seventh song of "Nightmare." Elongating to around five minutes long this hard rock song stands alone in the album. Opening up with soft acoustic guitars, the song quickly swan dives into a hard melodic metal breakdown, and maintains it though to the very end.

Check out (3:07)

Track 8 - "Victim"

The eighth song of "Nightmare". Stretching to around seven and a half minutes, this underrated song consists of many Pink Floyd vibes and is a cross between sci fi metal and softer rock ballads. The theme of this song refers to the fact that many people who have nightmares wake up to find that they are alone in the battle, and are the victims of the crime. The song also has a very melodic guitar solo near the end of the song that is actually played by the father of lead guitarist Synyster Gates, "papa" Gates, which is actually one of my favourite guitar solos of all time. Near the end of the song, a choir can be heard humming the melody of the song, only adding to the overall theme and power to the song.

Check out (5:08)

Track 9 - "Tonight The World Dies"

The ninth song of "Nightmare". Coming out to almost five minutes long, "Tonight The World Dies" is another collection to the softer ballads of the end of the album. The soft instrumentals alongside the almost "dead" sounding vocals in the beginning transitions to the most passionate singing that can be possibly sung by M. Shadows. This song also consists of even more ominous background vocals that only further add to the frightening theme of death that is inevitable to all, and how the surroundings and environments of one hollow out when a loved one is lost; in their respective case, The Rev.

Check out (3:12)

Track 10 - "Fiction"

The tenth song of the "Nightmare" This piece of art is about five minutes long. "Fiction," the song that gives you goosebumps, chills, tears, every type of indication of heavenly organization. This song is a REAL tearjerker as the late drummer The Rev actually sang in the beginning section preceding the recordings before his death. The scary and most debated thing though, is the fact that The Rev talks about his own death and the band talks about how they would miss him. But, this happened BEFORE he died which is why many critics and even myself find this song a real sad one as the band couldn't prevent The Rev's ultimate death, which was from an overdose. The song opens up with a melodious piano and drum mix. M. Shadows sings the verses while the Rev angelically sings the chorus and bridge of the song. I'd recommend listening to (1:50) - Where The Rev can be heard singing the chorus.

Track 11 - "Save Me"

The eleventh song of "Nightmare." In my opinion, this is the band's best song by far. No song comes close to this beast of a song. This song has it all, from belting and grooving vocals, to speedy drumming, insane guitar shredding and chords. This work of art is almost eleven minutes long, in which the song can be broken down to different sections like wise unto "Stairway To Heaven;" however this song starts in a fast in your face, metal pace, then into a slower ballad like song, then with an awesome rock, grand ending to finish off both the song and the album. A section to listen to, (10:47- End of the song)

Track 12 - "Lost It All" - Bonus Track

The bonus song to "Nightmare." A hard rock song that is a real headbanger. Around three and a half minutes long with a catchy chorus and bridge. "Lost It All" really portrays the musical talent of the band and the session drummer Mike Portnoy from Dream Theater to help finish the recording of the album with the passing of The Rev. The intro of the song jumps between 2/2 time to 7/8 time then back to 2/2 time all while the guitars and bass are maintaining a 4/4 time simultaneously.

