

## **Unknown pleasures by joy division review**

### **by Elijah merrett**

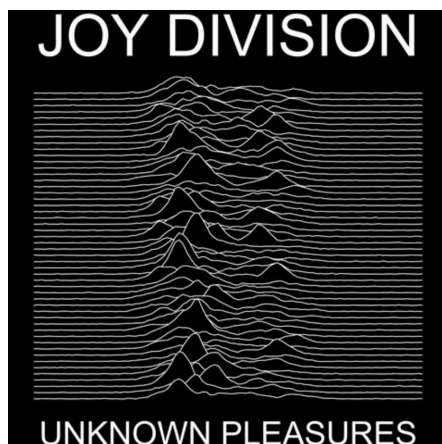
#### **Joy division, and their background**

Joy Division is a band that was formed in Salford 1976. The lead singer, Ian Curtis, is the most recognizable from the band. He wasn't in the band for long, only about 4 years due to his death in 1980. Joy Division was signed with factory records that was founded by Tony Wilson, Alan Erasmus, Martin Hannett, and Rob Gretten. Tony Wilson was a TV host before starting factory records, and after he had created the record label he opened a club that made history. The band got together after they watched a famous Sex Pistols concert. In the audience of the concert there was Tony Wilson, Ian Curtis (vocals and guitarist for Joy division), Bernard Sumner (guitarist and keyboardist for Joy Division), Peter Hook (bassist for Joy Division), Stephen Morris (drums for Joy division), and about 30 other people. It was a small concert but it inspired lots of people and bands. After the concert Sumner and hook had the idea of the band and formed it with Curtis and Morris. And from there the band took off.



#### **The recording of the album**

The album includes lots of new noises at the time and was very experimental, the producer helped them record the album, Martin Hannet being the producer and a co-founder of factory records, wanted Joy Division to find their true sounds and to experiment to find it. He also liked to have clean sounds and so you can distinctly hear each part. From his efforts, Joy Division's iconic sound that heavily inspired goth rock and Joy Division later on was known as one of the best goth rock bands there is. A Lot if not all of the songs on the unknown pleasures album sound distant and echoey. It gives it a strange feeling. Some of the songs were recorded in unique ways to achieve the sounds they wanted, like how in the song "She's Lost Control" they record the drums from the roof to get the distant



tinny noise. By the time they finished the new album they had 10 new songs to put out and would later become some of their best and well known. Out of all the Joy Division's songs I think that their best come from this album. So many of the songs sound similar but at the same time wildly different, it all works perfectly together.

My rating out of five stars- ★★★★★☆☆

My personal favorite on the album- ☀

The most famous song on the album- ♥

**“She's Lost Control”** ★★★★★☆☆♥



Like I mentioned earlier this song was recorded in a unique way, they had their drummer, Stephen Morris, go on to the roof to play the drums to create a tinny distant sound. But for what the song is about, it's about a girl who had epilepsy and died in her sleep from a seizure. Curtis knew the girl in real life, so it was written about something personal to him. He worked as someone who helped people with special needs and or conditions find jobs, and he had this one girl he was working with that has epilepsy. She didn't show up to work for a few days and he was wondering why. Later on he found out that she died in her sleep due to a seizure. After that tragic event happened Curtis started to notice he has similar symptoms that people with epilepsy have. He got checked to see if he had it and he ended up having it. His epilepsy made his mental health worse and he ended up committing suicide because he couldn't deal with it anymore.

**“Shadowplay”** ★★☆☆☆ This song uses unique sounds just like every other song but it has its own sounds. There is a washing sort of sound during the chorus a few times. The amazing thing about Joy Division is all of their songs have unique noises that give them their iconic sound. For what the song is about, the song seems to be about helplessness, the line “to the depths of the ocean where all hopes sank, searching for you” and the line “I was moving through the silence without motion, waiting for you” prove that. The lyrics give the feeling of wanting to do something but you can't. And how the song sounds amplifies the feeling. It feels as if he's singing about wanting to find or help someone he loves but he just can't.



**“Disorder”** ★★★★★

“Disorder” is probably one of their most famous songs on the album, second to “She's Lost Control”. Disorder is about the chaos of civilisation, in the lyrics “It's getting faster, moving faster now, it's getting out of hand” “On the tenth floor, down the backstairs, it's a no-man's land” “Cars are crashing, lights are flashing, getting frequent now” you can see how it is talking about that. The song starts with the drums and then comes in bass, the

song also has the washing sound that gives a wave sort of effect, like other songs seem to have. Throughout the song you can hear it quite a few times. The guitar and drums sound like they are stuttering a bit and it helps with pulling all these strings having sounds together.

**“New Dawn Fades”** ★★★★★☀

This song isn't as popular and I think it's pretty underrated. The song sounds like you are in a movie walking through an alleyway alone and you're a mysterious character. The song has a prominent guitar part and low vocals. Along with the drums sort of laying more low and the strong bass line. The song is about not being able to be yourself and the sound fits it so well. Some people also think it might be about suicide, and that would make sense from it being written by Ian Curtis and what ended up happening not even a year later.

## “Wilderness” ★★★★★☆



This song is about organized religion. It's about how people can stray away from logical thinking due to religion. The lines "I saw the one-sided trials" and "I saw all knowledge destroyed" show that. The song has a strong bass line throughout the song and has echoey drums. The bass and drums go very hand in hand together because they just blend together and seem like one. The echoey drums and vocals give a distant sound and a more of an empty feeling. His voice also has a slight echo to it and it just blends into the music and it all just becomes one. It's sort of like the wall of sound created by Phil Spector. From the bass being constant. The echo from the instruments sounding distant fills all of the empty gaps. At the end of the song everything just stops abruptly and it makes you realize it's over but from it being a sudden change it throws you off a bit.

## “Interzone” ★★★★★☆



Interzone has faster pace drums than most of their songs but yet it is still so subtle that it isn't whelming. At the beginning of the song there is a strange noise you hear that is hard to describe. It's sort of like a distorted distant yell but also slightly sounds like an alien noise. It's hard to pinpoint noise but it keeps you interested, like most of the experimental sounds in their music. There is also echo singing, not like the distant sound but more of a call and response sort of thing. Where the main voice says a line and a deeper voice says another one like a response. The song has a very strong guitar part and even has a few guitar solos throughout the song.