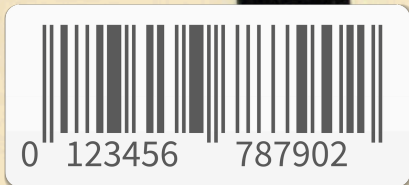


FLEETWOOD MAC

RUMOURS

(SUPER DELUXE)



EMMA PICCO

WHO IS FLEETWOOD MAC?

Fleetwood Mac was established in 1967 by guitarist Peter Green, drummer Mick Fleetwood, bassist John McVie, and guitarist Jeremy Spencer. Initially a blues band, they released their debut album in 1968, followed by *Mr. Wonderful* the same year and *Then Play On* in 1969. Their 1969 single "Albatross" topped the UK charts.

Peter Green left the band in 1970 due to mental health issues, leading to several lineup changes. Christine McVie (keyboards, vocals) and Danny Kirwan (guitar) joined, with Christine becoming a full-time member in 1970. The band's music gradually shifted from blues to soft pop rock.

In the early 1970s, Fleetwood Mac went through many changes. Jeremy Spencer left in 1971, and Danny Kirwan was fired in 1972. They faced some tough times, but albums like *Kiln House* (1970) and *Future Games* (1971) showed growth. Bob Welch joined as a guitarist and singer in 1971, but he left in 1974, causing another change.

In 1974, Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks joined the band, bringing a big change. Their first album with the band, *Fleetwood Mac* (1975), was very successful with hits like "Rhiannon" and "Landslide", giving the band a new, polished sound. By 1976, the lineup included Mick Fleetwood (drums), John McVie (bass), Christine McVie (keyboards, vocals), Lindsey Buckingham (guitar, vocals), and Stevie Nicks (vocals). This lineup set the stage for their famous album *Rumours* in 1977, which made them world-famous.



THE ALBUM



TRACK LIST:

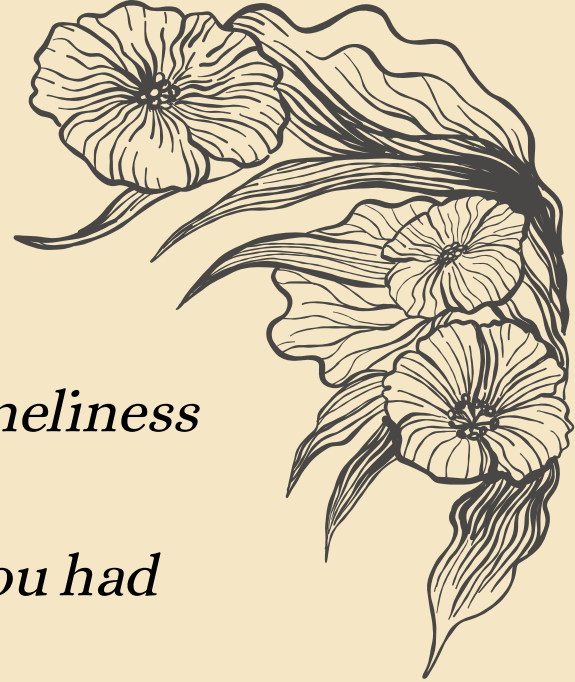
- Second Hand News- Lindsey Buckingham (★★★★☆☆)
- Dreams- Stevie Nicks (★★★★★★)
- Never Going Back Again- Lindsey Buckingham (★★★★★☆☆)
- Don't Stop- Christine McVie (★★★★★☆☆)
- Go Your Own Way- Lindsey Buckingham (★★★★★★★)
- Songbird- Christine McVie (★★★★★☆☆)
- The Chain- Stevie Nicks, Mick Fleetwood, Lindsey Buckingham, John McVie and, Christine McVie (★★★★★★★)
- You Make Loving Fun- Christine McVie (★★★★★☆☆)
- I Don't Want to Know- Stevie Nicks (★★★★☆☆☆☆)
- Oh Daddy- Christine McVie (★★★★★☆☆)
- Gold Dust Woman - Stevie Nicks (★★★★★★★)
- Silver Springs - Stevie Nicks (★★★★★★★)

The creation of the album was referred to as “trauma” by Christine McVie. During this time, the band faced a lot of personal issues. Mick Fleetwood was dealing with his wife's affair, Christine and John McVie were divorcing, and Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks had just broken up. These emotional struggles influenced their songwriting, with many songs reflecting their heartbreak and tension.

The title of the album *Rumors* came from all the speculation and gossip around the bandmates and their social circle. Most of the album was recorded late into the night after the parties in the studios had stopped because no one could keep going. Then, after excessive cocaine and alcohol was consumed they would begin to record. Apparently this was the only way they could tolerate one another to get through recording a song.

DREAMS

★★★★★



*Listen carefully to the sound of your loneliness
Like a heartbeat that drives you mad
In the stillness of remembering what you had*

Dreams was Stevie Nicks response to her breakup with Lindsay Buckingham. The sentiments in the song are about her and Lindsay being cleansed by the rain, and coming out of the heartbreak as friends and better people.

Dreams was the only song by Fleetwood Mac that made it to number 1 on the american music charts

The airy tone to Stevie Nicks voice is dreamy contrasting to the harsh reality of some of her lyrics. Despite this her message is clear and hopeful acknowledging the difficulties of life and love and how they can change you for the better.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3ywicffOj4>



NEVER GOING BACK



AGAIN



*She broke down and let me in,
Made me see where I have been*

“Never Going Back Again” is a song with beautifully simple guitar picking. The song contains few lyrics but despite that still manages to be a clear message. Lindsey Buckingham said he wrote it about his rebound relationship after Stevie Nicks and how he refuses to make old mistakes again. He refers to it as a “sweet and naïve song” and says that the lyrics hold little meaning other than the desire to move on.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxfxcEH8_Co



GO YOUR OWN WAY



*How can I,
Ever change the way that I feel
If I could,
Baby I'd give you my world*

This song reflects the emotions and tensions following Lindsey Buckingham's breakup with Stevie Nicks. The song speaks about moving on and the idea of going separate ways after a relationship ends. It captures feelings of freedom, individuality, and heartache, making it one of the band's most well known tracks. Stevie says that at the time she was very offended by the lyrics of the song, but has come to terms with what Lindsey calls the twin of "Dreams"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozl3L9fhKtE>



THE CHAIN



*And if you don't love me now,
You will never love me again,
I can still hear you saying,
We would never break the chain*



“The Chain” is the only song with writing credits from all five members of the band, in my opinion it is the best song on the album. I wonder what could've been created with more collaborations

The bass solo and guitar riff make this song individual, without it, I think it would be missing the thing that makes it a true work of art.



YOU MAKE LOVING FUN



*I never did believe in the ways of magic,
But I'm beginning to wonder why
Don't, break the spell
It would be different and you know it will.*

This song is about the happiness and excitement of a new relationship. Christine wrote it about her romance with the band's lighting director, Curry Grant. The song's positive and light tone stands out among the other tracks on the album.

When Christine was sharing this song with the rest of the band, her soon to be ex-husband John McVie (bassist) asked who the song was about. Not wanting to cause more drama among the group, she told him it was about her dog.



OH DADDY



*Why are you right when I'm so wrong?
I'm so weak when you're so strong
Everything you do is just all right,
And I can't walk away from you,
Baby if I try*



This is an emotional and haunting song by Christine McVie. It has themes of Christine struggling with dependency, disappointment, and emotional attachment. While it's often thought to be about Mick Fleetwood due to the timing and their band dynamics, it also relates to broader themes of longing and unfulfilled expectations in relationships. This song explores the struggle of vulnerability and navigating complex connections.



SILVER SPRINGS



*I'll follow you down 'til
the sound*

*Of my voice will haunt
you,*

*Give it just a chance,
You'll never get away
from the sound*

*Of the woman that
loves you*

Oh, was I such a fool

This song was brought to life by Stevie Nicks. I have never felt as though someone's pain, sorrow and rage has been conveyed so thoroughly. The way that the vocals slowly build intensity to match the beginning instrumentals tell a story. At the start Nicks sounds like a woman in love and denial. At the last time the chorus is sung her betrayal and rage is being fully displayed in the final crescendo. The lyrics that before sounded like heartbreak now sounding like a curse upon the man who broke her heart.



IN CONCLUSION

The album *Rumours* is art and I wouldn't change a thing. The conflicting perspectives on the same situations allow the listener to piece together the chaos and love that only can be found in a Fleetwood Mac album. With the album having three core writers, nothing sounds the same. Heartbreak, hope and spite are core themes in this album, and there is no song that does not provoke strong emotional response. Overall I rate this album five stars (★★★★★), it is a masterpiece.

The album was hugely successful, hitting number one on the US Billboard 200 and selling over 40 million copies worldwide. It won the Grammy for Album of the Year in 1978 and is often seen as one of the greatest albums of all time.

