

Today I'll be reviewing 'Brave New World' by Iron Maiden. Is there anything brave or new about the album? Not really, even what it was released. But it could still be called 'World', right? Again, not really, as that implies it's super epic. The most epic album ever. Sure the songs are fairly lengthy for the most part, but are there Irish jigs, Japanese folk songs, Indian ragas, etc.? Nope. To be fair, 'The Nomad' has a bit of a Middle Eastern feel in places, but if you visit Arabia for a couple of minutes, that's not a world tour. In my opinion, the CD should just be called '...', (or at most 'Rubbish Holiday') and the album cover should just be a sitting man with his hand on his chin looking bored. Even so, as I'm a fair and evidently intelligent man, the song titles can remain the same. Interestingly, I first heard one of this album's songs ('The Mercenary') when I had schizophrenia. Thank God I didn't take the lyric 'Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide, you've got to kill to stay alive' seriously when I was on the bus, or needless to say, things would have went very wrong. Luckily I've never felt the need to kill other people to stay alive, even when influenced by catchy music. I was never sectioned, and now you know why. :)

The lyric 'I only dream in black and white to save me from myself' is a bit of a puzzler. Does he attack himself when he sees colours? THAT'S an interesting psychological condition. Rather alarmingly, apparently 'the dream is true', so he's not trying to freak anyone out, even if he has freaked me out. Let's just pray his future dreams aren't in blue, green, etc., or the singer may do something stupid. As this is Iron Maiden, expect the 'i, bVI, bVII, i' chord progression over and over. I read an online post comparing it to the excellent and super-popular i, iv, v, i progression, which makes sense as the notes are very similar. So I have a suggestion for the band: Buy a theory book. Technically speaking you could use the two progressions interchangeably. How's that sound? TWO progressions! :O Why not use the v chord more often? It's very good. After the tonic, it's actually the strongest sounding chord there is! You like sounding strong, right? Then go on... give it a try. ii goes to v very nicely, and if you like bVII so much, try approaching it with a iv. Just more suggestions for you.

Let's go back to the lyrics. 'The Wicker Man' goes 'Hand of fate is moving and the finger points to you. He knocks you to your feet and so what are you gonna do'. More terrifying lyrics for the mentally ill. They might as well go 'Simon, I'm going to find you.' Ok, let's move on. Well let's try. If you think only a desperate person would write like I do, you're right. As in 'I don't know what to say, so I'll go crazy!' Do you think I like coming across like this? No I don't. Once upon a time I wanted to be a respected novelist. Look at me now. 'No, Simon! Pull yourself together! One Screwy Week will be an epic film one day!' Song 'Blood Brothers' goes 'We're blood brothers!' over and over. I get if you've just discovered your closely related to someone, that's a reason to be excited, but after hearing the third or fourth sung repetition, I'd be like 'Well it was nice meeting you, but I've got to go...' I'd be massively concerned if the same person kept saying 'Show them no fear, show them no pain', but that's a different song. The guy could mean 'get ready to go the dentist' (ow), but most would assume he was referring to war. It's a scary album, no?

In conclusion, I've mentioned the samey progressions as I did in my other Maiden review a while back, (maybe I should let it go) and I've mentioned craziness in general. This isn't exactly a high point for me in terms of creativity, but at least I haven't gone 'Crazy, crazy, crazy, crazy, crazy, crazy'. That level of repetitiveness

really is reserved for Iron Maiden. I bet you 50 million pounds, their upcoming album uses the same sequence to the point of ridiculousness, as well. 'Oh it's just Maiden being Maiden...' Fine, then it would just be Deep Purple if they play Smoke on the Water till the end of time. At least the main riff has twelve chords. (Ok, four DIFFERENT chords). It would be like 'We get it now! A hotel burned down. We understand that was upsetting, but you have to move on!' The band would be like 'No! Never! Did you hear how the gambling house burnt down, as well?' 'Yes!' 'Not a problem, we'll change key! It works very well for some pretty big stars... Maybe we could say how scared of colours we are, too! :D'... ... :S Anyway, 9/10. Bye!