

Wow, Maneskin are Italian Eurovision winners? Had I realised that at the time I was in the music shop, I wouldn't have bought their album 'Rush!' Note that's what's off-putting to me, not the little girl on the artwork. You and I know little girls aren't hardcore, but they are more hardcore than Eurovision. I don't have a great excuse for not recognising the band, as I actually watched the show where they won. Making things worse, they won fairly recently, and under the little girl artwork is a picture of the band. Do they have forgettable faces? Nope, I remember them well. Having said I wouldn't have bought the music (that isn't punk/emo, so it was in the wrong section - it's rock), actually it's not that bad. Not great, I'm not sure if I agree with the 'critically acclaimed' label, but I guess if you win a huge competition, that automatically makes you critically acclaimed. Just not in a good way this time - the contest is known for being exceptionally silly. Ok, in recent years, things have been toned down a bit, but if say Slipknot won the contest, they'd almost certainly be extremely embarrassed, because that would mean millions of daft or semi daft old ladies think their music is good. That's literally the worst audience possible for them. Sorry old ladies, but if you ever go to one of their concerts, you're primary target in the mosh pit.

One lyric the band came up with in Rush! is 'we're gonna dance on gasoline' and another lyric goes 'I'm going to dance until I die'. No prizes for guessing how they die. Once spark, and it's all over. Luckily those two lyrics are from two different songs. If they were in the same song, that would be too obvious and it would be clear the band members are really not the kind of people you want to know. Out of curiosity I read the bands they've apparently been influenced by. I know music by about half of the acts listed, and I really don't think they sound like any of them. On the plus side that suggests they haven't been ripping people off, but the negative thing about that is that they don't seem to have the ability to recreate sounds. Basically they're lacking in musicality and don't really know what they're doing. Much like a toddler trying (and failing) to repeat words and not understanding them. Their music isn't as complex as Led Zeppelin, Radiohead, Aerosmith, etc. nor does it sound like them, and comparing themselves to Nirvana makes no sense whatsoever as not only is the sound different, they're completely a different genre. But again, maybe for the best! If they claimed to have been influenced by prog band Rush, that would amuse me as the only thing in common the two bands have is the name. In that case, Maneskin really wouldn't understand the concept of the word 'inspiration'. How they got anywhere in life would be a mystery, but to be fair, that has been said about me.

The worldwide chart performance of the album that Wikipedia shows is interesting, in that the page says Australia received the album worse than any other country. Why could that be? Maybe they're jealous of the band winning Eurovision. The contest clearly means a lot to Australians if they want to want to be a part of it, even if they're famously not in the same continent. The album in question did very well in Italy which makes sense, as you can't be jealous of yourself. At least I don't think you can. There was a moment in the film 'This is Spinal Tap' when the bassist said he envied himself or something like that, but as it's a comedy film I'm not going to take it seriously. I would take it seriously if a crazy person said he was jealous of himself, so much so, I'd think he was the biggest idiot ever, it makes you wonder who he devalues, but Italians for the most part aren't crazy. If they were, it would make the countries they defeated a couple of thousand years ago pretty damn stupid. To

conclude, with repeated listens the album has grown on me at least a little bit. I worry more impressionable people may be influenced by some of the darker lyrics and everything going to hell, but it's an irrational fear so it's fine, I'm sure. But what a way to die... :S On the whole not THAT bad an LP!

7/10