

Today I'll be reviewing 'The Mandrake Project' by Bruce Dickinson! A mandrake is a plant, and you know what? I'm obsessed with plants too, explaining my numerous jokes about thyme! Of course I've written even more jokes about bees, making my thyme and bee project! A kindred spirit, right? Maybe not. I'd imagine if someone read this review and my kindred spirit comment, they would approach Bruce by asking 'You're not like Simon Wiedemann are you? You don't write music about thyme and bees?' Bruce would then shout something like 'Yes, now rock on, London!' whilst making a devil horns sign with his hand. Then the concerned person would eventually say (after a brief period of silent awkwardness) 'People used to respect you when you sang with Iron Maiden, you wrote long poem-like music in your song Rime of The Ancient Mariner! It was epic! Now you've thrown all that away with childish puns! You don't think you're being epic, do you?' Of course I'd tell Bruce there's nothing to be ashamed of, and that I'd LOVE a concept album with my themes, but if he doesn't want to trade ideas with me, I'd understand. If he is openminded, though? Well, how about changing the project name? Bruce Dickinson? Not very creative is it? How about Bee Dickinson? Let's give him a middle name, too. (Thyme). People would be like 'Do you mean Bee thyme or bee time?' because it sounds the same, obviously. The name alone generates discussion which is exactly what musicians want. It's what I want anyway, I don't give a toss...

Do I like the album? I do actually, Bruce is lucky (or perhaps unlucky) I've given this album a chance as it's definitely a grower! However, you can at least get some insight into someone's personality by looking into their music preferences, and again Bruce may have some explaining to do. As in 'You do know someone who is on medication for schizophrenia, has OCD and personality disorders loves your music? How do you explain that? Because I'd want fans who are good people, bake old people pies! Simon would probably steal a pie.' (Not true). If I know Bruce like I think I do, he'd want super cool listeners, like Superman and The Fonz. But how would he ever convincingly suggest he has such fans? All I'd have to do to believe him on the other hand, is to just stop taking my meds, but there's absolutely no way anyone would let that happen if I told anyone about that idea. Don't worry though, I don't want that to happen either as I'd soon get much darker delusions. You may think believing in Superman is dark already, with all the villains that are against him. It would be the right thing to join Superman's side and how do I do that? I know, I'd find General Zod. What follows would be a disturbing adventure that would never end. There is no General Zod. If there was, I'd wonder what I'd say to him in the worst case scenario. Maybe 'So... your last name begins with 'Z', eh? If you were a musician I'd put your album right at the end of my collection without having to rearrange all my prior albums... Cool!' Then when his guard was down, I'd say 'Well (expletive) you!' and then I'd hit him. :S

I knew it would only be a matter of time before I talked about schizophrenia again, CD collections, too. A double whammy. To conclude, we have The Bee and Thyme Project, by Bee Thyme Dickinson. What are the songs called, I wonder? How about 'I Hate General Zod'? What I do know is you shouldn't mix such a song with the original versions as it wouldn't make sense. Here are some track names I have on my unaltered CD: 'Afterglow of Ragnarok', 'Shadow of the Gods' and 'Rain on the Graves'. Then we have 'I Hate General Zod'. Does that sound right to you? Or how about 'We Must Stop the Evil General Zod Before he Ends Superman's Benevolence'? It could be worse though, imagine that song on a Slipknot album. If I

wrote such a song though? I'd surprise no one. What's chilling however is the fact it's entirely possible I would end up believing in such a title, although I have been more or less fully sane since 16 and REALLY sane since an increase in meds 7 or 8 years ago. My brain now? In tip top condition for the most part. Things haven't always been perfect, granted but right now, I do not believe in General Zod at very least. It's a little bit painful how people would laugh at me if I did, as actually for me it would be incredible stressful. It's like having a birthmark on your face that looks like 'FU'. Other people may laugh, but there would be so much pain. Now for the score: As I explained, it's a grower. First listen? Maybe an 8, then an 8.2, an 8.4, etc. until it made its way all up to I think a 9.2 where it has stayed! And on that stable note (it's good to be stable) bye! (And sorry for talking about mental health AGAIN!)