

The singer of Deftones, Chino Moreno has another project he's involved with, and it's called Team Sleep? 'What's it like?' I'm sure you're asking. 'I bet they call themselves Team Sleep because their music is boring, and they've tried to cover themselves by implying that is their intention'. No, no, no. Not true at all. The material is certainly chilled out in their self-titled debut for the most part, but not dull. Imagine the 'Tones, but with much less of the heavy distorted guitars and pounding drums. If you are very familiar with the metal group's songs, you may know of their ambient song 'Pink Cellphone'. It's a load of shit. But don't worry, TS may have a few similarly styled pieces on their release, but they *are* good.

Most of the songs however, are apparently 'dream pop' and alternative rock. I'm not sure I've heard any other dream pop, but the name of the genre is pretty self-explanatory I'm assuming. It's just dreamy pop, right? Despite my heavy metal preferences, I do know I like some more contemporary poppy music at least, such as Bjork (yeah, so what? :S) and less embarrassingly, The Drums. Do the just mentioned bands have anything in common with Sleep? Yes in that they're relatively easy to listen to and are accessible, but some of the two's music is SO girly. It's the kind of stuff you only listen to in a soundproofed room, through headphones so no one else can hear it. TS aren't THAT bad and besides, they have a song about murder. THAT'S not wussy. Oh, thank God. Bjork would never write such material, I'm sure, but that's fine; she just has a different audience.

What's great about TS is their ability to write great vocal melodies. Tons of artists can't. Furthermore, many metal singers can't even sing, as they've fucked their voices up from screaming so much. (Alternatively, in Ozzy Osbourne's case, he just screwed his vocal chords and indeed his entire body through years and years of drug abuse). To be fair, Chino did need some medical attention to his throat at some point of his career, but he sings great on this album. Also unlike the cult leader-like Ozzy, he doesn't keep singing about himself. What he certainly doesn't do is snort up poor ants and take part in other such antics. If he did, he'd have the weirdest reputation in the history of rock, as he is such a nice guy.

Is there anything wrong with the album? Some of the pieces *are* boring. I guess I lied when I said the music isn't dull, but only a little bit. Just skip the weak stuff, and you still have plenty of gold. Amazingly, much of the music on the release is Deftones worthy. Put some 8 string guitars in the tunes and TS would be well away. Believe it or not, some of the material on this album is actually BETTER than Deftones (I'm not just talking about Pink Cellphone, again), in that it has no unnecessary screaming. Def aren't Slipknot, so why they try to be is a bit of a mystery. Stick to writing songs about driving in cars far away and doing what you want to do in Summer. Classic stuff, right there.

All in all..... 8.5/10!