

Today, I'll be reviewing 'Torches' by Foster the People. I'd never heard of the band before my brother bought me the CD for Christmas. It's pretty good! He does have a bit of a habit of occasionally buying me CDs I already own, or even worse, CDs he already bought me ages ago and forgot about, but this album WAS a smart move. First up, let's talk about the band name: Foster the People could mean adopt the people, or it could mean get them drunk. (i.e., make them drink Foster's lager). Alternatively, the band could be using BOTH meanings of the word. Get adopted children drunk? A clever band title you could argue, but it's NOT ok. Luckily, there are no lyrics that I know of by the band that deal with such a taboo subject. That is a relief to me, as it means I can still listen to the band. There are bands out there that make me feel somewhat uncomfortable. 'Get the children drunk' by FTP. Do I have to spell it out for you? The band name looks like (expletive) the you know what. THAT would be bad. But again, that's not what's happening. Just an illusion.

You know what I think the band should be called? Nice Guys. Moving on, let's analyse the album's song titles. First up is 'Helena Beat'. Because of what I wrote last paragraph, I'm feeling a huge sense of relief the song isn't called 'Beat Helena'. It would just keep getting worse, wouldn't it? Track two is called 'Pumped up Kicks' which doesn't sound great, either. Karate kicks on drugs or alcohol, one could assume. However, track three is called 'Call It What You Want', which seems perfectly harmless to me. In fact all the following song titles seem perfectly fine. Phew! Don't get too comfortable, though. The last song 'Warrant' may seem harmless on first glance, but it goes 'Got to get away, everyone in side my head, got to get away, they want me alive or dead'. That sounds schizo to me. Are they faking madness so they can get away with beating Helena? Yes, the song is called 'Helena Beat', but by pretending they can't work out the ordering of words anymore, the band may be assuming the justice system will go easy on them. Who knows, right? (Remember this very hypothetical).

Maybe the musicians would say to psychiatrists things like 'The voices are telling my to rearrange sentences in nonsensical orders! You have to help me! I can't take it anymore! The other day I couldn't stop myself writing 'People the Foster'! It was horrible.' Then the psychiatrist would be like 'No, I've never heard of that happening before. Now, first things first... about Helena. What have you got against her? I'll have to get the police involved...' Then the musicians would be like 'FTP!' Then the therapist would be like 'Excuse me?' Then the band would say 'Foster the people! Don't look at me like that. You're paranoid.' Again, very hypothetical. The band most likely aren't like that at all, but as I know next to nothing about them, they might be. I don't think that's offensive at all, actually. If you don't know anything about someone, there is a chance they would want to attack people and write a song about it. Look me in the eye, and tell me I'm wrong with 100% certainty. Similarly, would you trust someone you've never met with the keys for your house? I mean the guy would SAY he just wants to do some dusting simply for the sake of doing a good deed, and that may be true. But would you be SURE??

In conclusion, whilst I enjoy this album, there a few things I'd change. Let's change the band name to something like Assist the People. An online thesaurus tells me Assist and Foster mean pretty much the same thing, so it works. Even better, expletive the police, now looks like Assist the Police. The world is a better place, already. Secondly, Helena Beat could be changed to Helena Rhythm. That way when

the two words are reversed when palindrome spotting, it couldn't possibly be offensive. FtP are an indie pop group, remember. Imagine a song about punching women being played on the radio. It's not on. Song 'Don't Stop (Color on the Walls)' sounds harmless and it may be suitable for airplay, but you may be wondering what colour is actually on the walls. Well... the following track is called 'Waste'. Let's pray the two songs aren't related. If you don't know what the point I'm trying to make is, some mad people smear their 'waste' over their rooms. I don't understand why they do, (I've actually tried to find out on Google) they just do. Anyway! 8.75 out 10. Bye!