

Stress, obstacles and annoyances; they're everywhere. Due to my police background, crime is a particular peeve of mine. I mean, some sick people sell alcohol to minors, some sell the stuff to long distance lorry drivers, and some even sell beer to children. I have had to deal with this kind of nonsense, almost every day of my life. Thievery, assault and embezzlement, you name it, I've had to stop it. I know, right? How annoying.

Being a mature individual, I want the world to be 100% safe, and hassle free. That's why I've invested in super dogs, that can sniff out crime. It is hoped my financing will one day lead to the end of all suffering and heated blood. (However, If I'm honest, in my younger days, I do admit to only putting half my effort into embezzlement cases. I just liked the word; two 'zeds?' Wow. That was a felony that just had to hang around for a bit. It's ok - now, that offense is just another source of worry). I'm so sorry, I massively digress. Bad, wandering writing or am I just introducing myself? Could be either, really. I hope.

Why am I talking about all this nerve-racking stuff? Well... I'll tell you. I'm about to review 'You'd Prefer an Astronaut', by Hum. That album, is a PERFECT stress reliever. In a way, it's a crime fighter. It's maybe a little depressing, but many are into that sort of thing, including myself. Avant garde doom metal, is a step too far, however. That is some grim stuff, and any self-respecting member of society should discharge pepper spray onto all who perform it. I digress, again.

Okey-dokey. We start things off with 'Little Dipper'. There are some who theorize that the intro to this song inspired 'Knife Party', by Deftones. That is highly likely, as Chino Moreno is a huge fan of Hum. Praise from Chino? Sweet, a.f. The similarities stop there, however; Deftones are alternative metal, and Hum are indie rock. Big difference. The tone here, is best (easiest) compared to something else. Think classic grunge, for example 'Dumb', by Nirvana; dark, but simultaneously relaxing and melodic. As Alan Partridge would say 'lovely stuff', but he would say it tinged with sadness.

I said 'we start things off with 'Little Dipper'', but reviewing the other songs would offer little to my critique. The style and mood from start to finish is kind of unchanging. Perhaps what I should have said, is 'we start things off, with 'LD' but basically, we could have started fucking anywhere'. However, me writing that could well give the impression, I don't like the music. That's FAR from true. It's uniformity in some areas, isn't really a flaw. The vocal melodies are all unique, so the album offers lots of variety, that way. All songs are all well crafted, and build very nicely. ('The Very Old Man', however, will only appeal to very old people - In other words, it's dull. Well, it's alright, I guess).

The drummer has a great groove, and doesn't sound a bit like a robot. At the other extreme, he doesn't go all over the place like a squirrel on crack. (I once had to deal with such a case. :S ) If you ever listen to early Bolt Thrower, you'll know what I mean. There's playing just behind the beat, and there is ineptitude. The guitarist never shreds, and judging by his out of control noise solo on 'The Pod', I'm assuming he doesn't have the ability, to. But it's not that kind of music. Hum aren't Racer X, so who cares? If you do care, buy 'Street Lethal,' that's a great album. However, be warned, it's often ruined by the singer's voice, that creates somewhat of a racket.

Apparently, the singer has very good technique. Ok.... In comparison, there are some singers who can shatter glass, with their voice. Impressive, but would you want to hear them?? Exactly. Ouch. Digression hat trick. :) 'What's the singing like, on YPAA?' I think Matt Talbott has a nice voice. Nice and calm, which is good. It takes my mind off nazis, super nazis, etc.

Interestingly, this CD's booklet comes with no written lyrics. Almost every other band in the world writes their lyrics in their CD booklet, but Hum didn't, on this occasion. I pretty much never care about what the words are, in any of the stuff I listen to, but I do in this. F...M...L...! The singings throughout the 45 minutes and 53 seconds, are very well written; poetic, even. I'd read them, without the music, if doing so didn't make me feel like a fairy. I've served in wars, for Christ's sake; not going to happen! But let's get an example for you, anyway... 'If we both stand with absent eyes, and think about the oceans, watch 'em dry. Then we can see far to the other side, it's you and I forever, and we don't have to hide.' Nice and descriptive. Please note, these are the very first lyrics, I came across on the web. I could have picked so many more examples, some a lot better. 'But I don't like soppy music!' No, no, it's not! For example, the song continues... 'If we ignore the signals that mission control will send... it's one big ship ride anyway, this hell with never end.' 'This hell with never end?' How's THAT soppy. This is great!

I'm giving this.... 10 out of 10! :D I'll certainly be showing this to all my coworkers. Hopefully they won't be so addicted, their work will suffer. The mining industry is already in chaos. Drunk people getting pickaxes in their eyes and stuff, huge underground brawls, etc. Horrific!