

Today, I'll be reviewing 'Siamese Dream' by Smashing Pumpkins. When doing research for it, I Googled 'Siamese' and it came up with an image of a cat. On the album cover are two children. Do cats dream of children? Maybe they do. I'm fairly certain they can dream, and whilst I'd presume they'd dream more about eating food rather than thinking of toddlers, or maybe of riding a rollercoaster at nighttime whilst heavy metal bands play (one of my favourite dreams of all time!!), children can give cats food, and maybe that's why they fantasise about them. Oh, if only cat food was on the cover. Then I'd know for sure. I wouldn't understand what the band are trying to get across, but I would know at least something. Then I did some more research and it turns out Siamese TWINS (what I'm assuming the album title refers to) are conjoined twins. I was close, my original thoughts were they were identical twins. Not bad.

I know this sounds a bit mental but for maybe a second I once thought (or once or twice thought) that if someone looks the same as someone else, they must have similar/identical memories. That's bad, isn't it? Is that kind of stuff normal? I really do hope so. The tragedy is I do often think people look similar to each other, even if they don't really. I really don't know what's wrong with me, I used to recognise people easily. Then all of a sudden, I have to pretend everything is fine, simply for the sake of politeness and being sociable. Can you catch autism? I don't think you can, although I have spent prolonged periods with people who do have the condition. Often people look at me like 'You don't remember me, do you?' Then I just think 'Nope.' Then the next day the same person's like 'You really don't remember me?' 'Nope, can't say I do.' etc., etc. Then maybe a year later I'd be like, 'Ohhhh yeah. Hello, Tim.' Is THAT normal? Probably not.

I digress, the album; so, one lyric goes 'I used to be a little boy.' Was that really necessary? In university, I was told that if bits of writing were obvious they should be deleted. Smashing Pumpkins should have gone to university. Unless maybe the singer was erroneously famous for being born a little girl and he wanted to clarify things. Interestingly, his name is Billy Corgan and Billy can be a name for either sex. Furthermore, they've worked with the labels 'Caroline' AND 'Martha's'. Grunge/alternative rock may not be the heaviest genres in the world, but they are still at least heavy/dark-ISH, and are therefore a little on the macho side. All in all, I can see how Billy wanted to be as clear as possible.

You know how Slipknot's members call themselves numbers, not their names? Well, like SP, there seems to be a masculinity issue and 'name shame'. One 'knot guy is actually called 'Joey', another is called 'Donnie' and another is called 'Chris' - all unisex names. What's my point? I'm just saying names and images are clearly extremely important to musicians. Who wants to be part of one of the world's heaviest bands if he's called Penelope or Tiffani, for example? Despite the ambiguity of the SD album title, Wikipedia shows that people went mental for it when it was released, giving it many five stars! A perfect album. That implies the cat/child confusion people experience is good, which I suppose is fair enough now that I think of it. Judging by the music video of the members mining, I always thought 'Sonne' (Sun) by Rammstein was about miners waiting to see the sun, which I liked the idea of. (I have a tendency for taking lyrics too literally). When someone said it was probably about a boxer, I was disappointed. I just like the thought of people being miserable. Sure boxers feel at least some pain, but it's not the same. So yeah,

it's best not to know lyrical concepts for sure.

In conclusion, maybe Smashing Pumpkins need to be less self-conscious. Billy maybe an ambiguous name, but think how ex-band members Melissa and Nicole must have felt. (Oh, turns out THEY'RE females. I guess if they were men, the group's music would have been a whole lot angrier. I'm not sure if I'd be able to forgive my parents. --) Prog music fans will be pleased to know that TECHNICALLY speaking one song has bars of 13/4 in it. (Although a normal person looking for simplicity would say three bars of 3/4 and one of 4/4). So yeah, 13/4 is a fairly dumb way of describing the song's rhythm, but did you know the Terminator theme IS in 13/16? Very cool. If you pictured Arnold Schwarzenegger as a huge Rammstein fan, actually he'd probably be more into 70s/80s prog. Now the score: Do I think SD is perfect? Nope. But I do like it! So 9/10. Bye!