

'The Burning' by British Lion is a side project of famously fast-fingered bass player, Steve Harris. (Yes, also of Iron Maiden). Fans of the latter supergroup will know he is a huge fan of galloping rhythms. Does he use the same ideas, here? Sometimes at least, but he doesn't really ever stick out from the band too much. When he does get his one solo section, it's just him playing the same note over and over again. Is that really the artistic vision that was so strong, he felt the need to start a whole new project? It's like he thought to himself 'I love playing with Maiden, but I need something more. I need people to really hear the note 'E' over and over again. Easily my favourite note. It's great!' Steve SAID he started a new project because he missed playing in small clubs, but I think he could ONLY play in small clubs with BL as they aren't as good as IM. Just because you're famous, doesn't mean everything you do is amazing. Ok, BL aren't BAD far from it, but would you be impressed if William Turner doodled a picture of a table?

Ok, I've been too harsh. Actually, BL ARE good, BUT the bass lines are dull, and really you'd expect them to be at least mildly interesting. On the plus side and outrageously, the songs don't keep going E5 C5 D5 E5 over and over again, in contrast to the Maiden albums. Ridiculous. Most IM fans wouldn't be able to handle that, so again, I get why band leader Steve Harris felt the need to create a side project. Though naturally, you do get some of the progression in The Burning. It's clearly an addiction for him. This may sound like pseudo psychology to you, but maybe The Burning shows that the musicians want to 'burn' (i.e. forget about) the chord progression, but just can't? Actually scratch that, British Lion means nothing, so why should we assume the band think logically? I don't mean to make Steve look foolish, but... well there are no lions in Britain. The fact he can't even create a realistic name suggests he can't do anything right. French Elephants, German Wales, and Belgian Dolphins... are they good band names? No. They're nonsensical. Maybe, MAYBE you could say they were 'fun', but they're not to be taken seriously, and BL are a serious band. So there.

The album has had good reviews from other people, but one reviewer said Steve Harris is 'arguably the most dynamic and engaging (bassist) of his time.' Woah, there. Wow, wow, wow. Personally I don't even notice the bass playing in the LP most of the time. Is the reviewer suggesting that good bass players should shut up? If so, he has a very polite way of doing so. A nice guy, but seriously unclear, and a bit two faced. Another reviewer said the album sounded 'youthful.' There are certainly no young people in the band, so maybe that's a polite way of saying 'immature'. Maybe he was onto something, as again, there are no British Lions, but the musicians clearly think there are. Has anyone at all in Britain heard of a lion attack in the country just the one time? No? Open your eyes. What do the band think there are lions that don't attack people? For a tough and macho band, these guys are seriously naive. Write music for a Disney film instead, perhaps Bambi.

Ok, I admit it, I actually do quite like this album. I think it's a lot better than the 'epic' 'Book of Souls' album by Maiden that has an 'impressive' track that lasts over 18 minutes! Well, one second more than 18 minutes - whether that was intentional or not, I don't know. I don't mean to make Maiden sound like toddlers, but it's like when very small children say they're five and a half years old instead of five to sound grown up. I say impressive, actually the song is boring, and it's about lots of people dying. If anyone feels bored when they die, it makes you wonder the kind of life

they're leaving behind. 'Oh, I'm dying?? Here we go...' It sounds awful, and it's not the kind of thing I want to listen to for more than 18 minutes. You know what? I'm gong to give the album 8.25/10. That's pretty good! Perhaps 'British Sheep' is better as you do actually get sheep in Britain. Lots of them, in fact. If that's too soft for people, British Adder works too, as you do get adders in England. I actually saw one in Chobham Common! Very cool! That's it! Bye!