

Boyband metal. That has to be a joke, right? Well, in the year 2000, Linkin Park did the flipping ridiculous and released Hybrid Theory - A metal album with poppy, non-threatening vocals (apart from the out of character 'Shut up when I'm talking to you!!' :S) and light, if not occasionally cheesy rap parts. Does it sound good? Kind of, yeah! But how?? That's what I'll be trying to work out.

Theory 1: The metal parts are excellent, the singing sucks and the two elements balance out and merely sound good together. Is that true? Nope. I actually like the vocals, believe it or not. Sadly though, I wouldn't describe the guitars, drumming etc. as excellent. Still good though. Heavily modified on computer, but in a cool way, as opposed to 'perfected', robotic and fake. I tend to hate that style, just as I hate modern super robots than can backflip and handle guns. Sure they look cool, but I don't trust them.

Theory 2: No one really likes the music, LP are just a band who have abused clever marketing campaigns that have tricked people. That one kind of makes sense. I mean American chocolate kind of has a bad reputation in England. I tried some and thought it tasted sick, but then I thought to myself 'come on. Millions of Americans can't be wrong'. I later tried Hershey's Cookies and Cream, and you know what? Perhaps influenced by the masses, I thought it was perfectly reasonable. I definitely stay away from their darker chocolates, though.

Theory 3: Metal heads have been programmed to hate boyband music, but deep within their core they like it just as much as the mainstream do. A similar theory to number 2, and again, not so strange. At least to me. On the surface, I used to think I hated the taste of all fish, possibly because there's just something unnatural about being able to breathe underwater. Similarly, would you be happy eating an alien? No! You wouldn't know what you're putting inside of you. Turns out, salmon tastes alright, though. Deep inside me, my tastebuds were right and I actually liked the food, since birth.

Ok, that's enough hypotheses. Let's talk about the music. Interestingly, one track ('In the End') features a piano. The piano; one of the world's most delicate instruments against super-heavy backing? LP are clearly freaks. But against all reason, no one ever complains about the keys! Let's theorise how the band don't sound like a bunch of tasteless pricks. (Or do they?)...

My only theory: Well the album is called 'Hybrid Theory', isn't it? The group are suggesting they intentionally merge different concepts. It's like the old saying 'if you play a mistake in a jazz band, play it again and it won't sound like an error'. Similarly, LP are forcing their dodgy ideas on their audience so much, the fans think they sound good. Basically, the pianos are blunders.

You know what? I take that last paragraph back. The pianos in 'In the End' are pretty dark and consequently effective. The instrument can indeed sound quite haunting if used properly. I have to be honest with you, if you actually take my reviews seriously, you're not going to learn too much about music. (My Iron Maiden critique WAS good though. It was deep as hell. The musicians out there who know what 'i, VI, VII' means will find that Maiden use that chord progression ALL the time. As I've always said, hardcore fans of them will be upset to learn that much of their later work

actually sucks. :( )

Ohhh, here's another one of my articles where I've just rambled. Just like before, deal with it. I may have suggested the musicians are pricks, but I didn't mean it. I didn't even mean they are tasteless. Against all reason, I like this album, it was certainly a breath of fresh air at the time. The tunes are good, the lyrics are perfectly reasonable, if not out of order in places, and the twin guitar chord harmonies are very distinctive. 9/10! Bye!