

Today, I'll be reviewing 'Out of Time' by REM. But first, how about a little introduction? Ok, I own their best of album, their album 'Monster' and naturally 'Out of Time'. (Yep, I have actually listened to the album I'll be talking about. Maybe next time I won't - that would be an interesting review, wouldn't it?) I also bought them in that order, over about a year or so. I think the best of is very good, so I picked up 'Monster' without any doubts. Forgive my egregious pun, but it would surely be a monster of album. :S (That's English slang for good, btw. Maybe a bit dated and not exactly cool anymore, but hey, still slang. In fact it's so uncool its usage could very well annoy people. Language can have some funny effects. In secondary school, I remember a large group of people saying 'Tony' over and over again like it was the best thing ever. They genuinely were very excited about it. From a psychoanalytical point of view I'm completely stumped, I really am). Unfortunately however, I thought the album was rubbish, so I assumed everything else they did was, too for a while. Obviously apart from their best of stuff. I do apologise for such extreme cynicism. It clearly wasn't based on TOO much logic, but as you know, I'm not a logical person.

After doing a bit of Googling, I came across a quote saying 'Monster often found its way into charity shops' or something like that. I found that to be at least a little bit funny, as that's where I found my copy of it. The fact that so many people apparently gave the LP away for free must be pretty depressing for the band, as personally I'd expect something in return, even for a couple of biscuits. Maybe that says a lot about me. From the same site I read something not quite so funny. It said something like 'The debate about (Out of Time's) 'Shiny Happy People' will always go on'. I was thinking to myself 'Why the debate? That's clearly a great song. I'd even say it was outstanding. Nutjob. Apparently the song's lyrics were meant ironically. I know this sounds lame, but I didn't want that to be the case, as I'm used to so much dark heavy metal. I wanted a change. Yes, I wanted Shiny Happy People to be about shiny happy people holding hands. And no I DON'T think that's a symptom of mental illness and certainly not drug abuse. Anyway, that song alone was worth the chance I took with my cash. (Only a 50p chance, but still a chance).

Still on the same site, the writer said OoT's 'Country Song' was their best song ever. Oook, then. Personally I thought it was filler. In fact I thought it was plain boring. However, it wasn't truly bad so I don't think the writer said that ironically. I guess he just has bad taste. I actually thought a few songs on the release were filler, but now I'm a mature, sensible and insightful 32 year old, I can look past those flaws and think of them as valid breaks in-between the really good stuff. Another great track was 'Texarkana'. Here are some of its dreamily delivered lyrics 'Forty-thousand stars in the evening, look at them fall from the sky'. I guess the writer was being poetic, but if I saw the same thing happen, I'd be horrified. There are perhaps better ways to say what the singer truly meant. (Not that I have any clue what that could be. Something to do with Texas? But even that was spelt wrong. Oh turns out Texarkana is a city in Arkansas. Well maybe those naming the place wanted a NEW Texas and misspelt it. Yes, they would have SERIOUSLY misspelt the place, but ever heard of Chinese whispers? Same thing could be happening).

Now let's mock the album cover. It's just a load of plants and trees. Who thinks 'Oh no, my time's running out!... Trees!' THAT'S a nonsensical thing to say. Here's a sentence you could compare it to: 'I'm hungry. Boat!' Here's another: 'I wonder what the time is... Tube!' Use those sentences well. If there ever comes a time where

you're in an argument with someone and you want them to shut up, you now know what to say. You'll get a reputation, sure, but it will work in the short term. Say it all the time however, and you'll quickly find yourself in a psychiatrist's office and getting a thorough evaluation. Moving on, because I want to leave such distressing situations far behind, I interestingly picked up a You Me At Six album today out of curiosity, from another charity shop. I actually knew the drummer and bassist of the band from college. The bassist was always grumpy around me and seemed to think I was a bit of a dick head. True story. Ok! That's all from me. I think 8/10 is fair. Will definitely be getting more from the band! (But not their crappy stuff - I'll do research).