

25 ADELE FROM THE OTHER SIDE

ALBUM REVIEW

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Hello, do you hear that? It's the whole world humming to the songs of 25, Adele's latest album. It's no secret that even you, the 25 year old man who likes to stay away from the alluring world of pop music, have sung "Hello" at least 25 times in the shower and greeted your boss with a "Hello from the other side!" when he asked you where you were and why you were 25 minutes past schedule.

Twenty-fifteen ended with the first track of 25, "Hello", ruling our Facebook captions, meme pages and of course, our brains with its extremely "catchy" tune, "so relatable" lyrics and Adele's husky yet clarion voice. Whether you listened to it 25 times or not, the song ought to have spread throughout your brain cells like an annoying friend who's too nice to be broken up with. The whole album is sort of like that – familiar yet unique – spinning in your head like a carousel 24/7, nay, 25/8.

The songs range from being extremely heart-wrenching to exceptionally heart-warming, speaking of the same remorse this 25+2 year old singer has always been singing of. Only now, these songs also speak of the growing up that she and her listeners (read: Someone like you) have done over the years. The album has 25 minus 11 tracks, all of which makes us roll in the deep.

To me, 25's second track "Send My Love" is a happy song about Adele sending her love to an ex's happy new lover. Then,



"I Miss You" is an extremely painful song about her missing a person called Baby. "When We Were Young", a track that reminisces about the good times with an (another?) ex is another one of those songs

to make our sad and cold Tumblr hearts cry some more. With lyrics you can spam your 25 year old ex's inbox with, these songs speak a lot about love, regret, photographs and other clichéd stuff. Adele,

similar to other famous pop stars like Taylor Swift and Sam Smith, has used her powerful voice to let the world know how much she's over her ex(s) – encouraging her 25 million listeners to make the whole process of breaking up and moving on easier by singing songs about it on social media.

"River Lea" is one song that made me feel like tapping my feet and dancing my heart out. This song is like a tribute to one of the largest rivers in London, Lea. It is probably something I'd sing about the river Padma when I'm 25, lonely and abroad.

Sounding like one of those French songs from 1925, "Million Years Ago" is set to an acoustic guitar. That almost inaudible hum really hits hard in the emotion squeezing nerves of your brain, making the melody sound more beautiful. Thankfully, this one's not about an ex. "Sweetest Devotion" is another powerful ballad to listen to at 2:50 AM when you're about to go to bed and your phone notifies you of having 25 new likes on Instagram.

This, being one of the most anticipated comeback albums of the last year, has made a point of being majestic, original and a perfect soundtrack to your big fat 25th birthday, thanks to Adele. Although it speaks a little too much of the past and love and some more love and exes, 25 does not fail to score a 25 out of 25.

Mashiat Lamisa is often seen frowning at the sight of people who dislike poetry and tomatoes. She can be reached at mashiatlamisa@outlook.com

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