

Of Lost Dreams

Three years after their last album release, Dream Theater (DT) finally released their fourteenth studio album, *Distance over Time (DoT)*, on February 22, 2019.

ALBUM REVIEW

DREAM THEATER

DISTANCE OVER TIME



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This album is a project that fans have long anticipated, mainly due to the fact that for quite a long time, DT seemed to have lost their identity.

Ever since the departure of their former drummer and founding member, Mike Portnoy, DT has seemed lacklustre in the eyes of their long-time fans. DoT is the fourth album since the departure of Portnoy, and his absence was felt, greatly, in the three other records.

DoT feels very different from the rest, however. It's the first album in which their new drummer, Mike Mangini, has actually contributed to the writing process. When viewing the album from a technical point of view, it seems nothing short of a masterpiece.

However, for older fans, this album might just be an acceptable compromise. Yes, DoT sounds very much like DT, but it still doesn't have the same listening value of something like *Awake* or *Falling into Infinity*.

The album begins with the track *Untethered Angel*, and almost feels reminiscent of a more stripped down version of *A Nightmare to Remember* from *Black Clouds and Silver Linings*. This track really feels like a melodic metal track that'll perform exceptionally well live, with some of the heaviest riffs on the entire album.

Fall into the Light is the third song and probably the best "headbanger" track on the entire album. Starting off with a fast guitar riff before slowing down more into the style of a ballad, the song is

constantly shifting between being a more metal track, to being a slow alternative piece.

At Wit's End is the seventh track, and the fact that it's the next one being mentioned in this review is an indication on its own that tracks four through six were somewhat disappointing. However, *At Wit's End* is, at least in my opinion, the best track on the entire album. It showcases a classic DT style of heavy verses and soft chorus ballads, with soothing piano playing, almost unnoticeably, through the chorus courtesy of Jordan Ruddess. John Petrucci's solo on this is also one worth listening to over and over.

The bonus track, *Viper King*, feels like a song where DT just merged every bit of technical musicianship that they could muster. There is great guitar and drum work throughout the track, but it ends up feeling out of place, with no real story behind the song to appeal to fans. The end result is that the song feels almost out of place.

Now hold on, before you take my word for it, let me just clear up once again that this album isn't going to rival the likes of *Metropolis Pt. 2*. At most, it might be a bit better than the band's self-titled album that released in 2013.

However, it no longer feels like a DT which has lost its identity. In fact, for casual fans, the album will probably come off as a breath of fresh air, as it has been a long time since DT really took control of the reigns and created music which they were fully invested in. And more than anything, it sets itself up to be an album which will introduce a whole new generation to the world of DT.

SATIRE

MAKEUP AND OTHER DARK ARTS

AFSARA KHAN

Throughout history, women have been wrongly associated with witchcraft, spells, and enchantments and were later hunted down, tried, and executed. Times have changed, *or has it?* Women everywhere have now resorted to milder yet effective methods of bewitching people, the main being: the usage of makeup in varying degrees. And although makeup is used by all genders, the mysterious realm of makeup is predominantly ruled by women.

It is common knowledge that men are easily deceived and cannot differentiate between made-up and not made-up faces. Women are taking advantage of this. They can (apparently) transform themselves into entire different entities just by using a dash of eyeliner or that sinister shade of lipstick. They are misleading men and, in turn, leaving them with trust issues. The male population doesn't know who to believe anymore due to all this 'false advertisement'.

Appearing more beautiful and desirable to males is the only life goal women have. They clearly have nowhere 'important' to go to, so they spend their days and nights stirring those pots and discussing where to strike next. They seem to lack respect for themselves and



also self-esteem. Why else would anyone apply artificial things to 'beautify' themselves? Don't they know men only like women who are all natural? Exercising personal grooming and hygiene is basically going against nature and making everything artificial. It's not like men spend hundreds on haircuts and... oh wait, never mind.

We all know females buy all their

makeup with their fathers' money because, you know, they are just not smart or qualified enough to go out there into the real world and earn anything for themselves. This is absolutely absurd considering that they're taking and wasting a man's money just to fool another man. I mean, guys take money from their fathers too but that's different, right? All those high school certificates,

college degrees and PhDs are just a front women put up to lure men in like sirens.

Surprisingly, a lot of women have come to their senses and joined the great cause of pestering women to discourage practicing these dark arts. Females cannot simply wear that much makeup and think they can just go about their day. Preposterous. They have to go through trials like their witch ancestors, albeit a lenient version of it. They'll constantly be badgered for explanations as to why and *for whom* they have beautified themselves by family members, the locals, and aunties, friends, and most significantly, men. Weapons like 'you look pretty without makeup, don't wear it, you'll ruin your skin', 'don't you feel fake? You waste so much money', 'who do you want to impress?' are used to combat this evil.

Girls keep telling us that it's 'no big deal and it is just makeup' in an attempt to fool us and tamper with our brains. But we know better, don't we? We'll keep annoying them with unsolicited comments and advice. We shall constantly rub our noses in other people's businesses and hope that one day we'll make the world a better place. Godspeed.

Afsara loves wasting time looking at memes. Send her more at fb.com/afsaraakhan