

Disagreeable

9 May 2022 | Jonah D, editor-in-chief

What I'm listening to:

album: WE | Arcade Fire

A perfect snapshot of a band shattering under their own emotional weight.

track: Dance Yourself Clean | LCD Soundsystem

The perfect groove track to draw or dance by.

track: Hey Ya! | Outkast

For how overdone it is, this song is a shockingly well executed piece of power popped heartbreak.

Reviews:

Only In Dreams [track]

Weezer

1994

Genre: Rock, Classic Rock Revival

Everyone knows Weezer. They released the ultra-hit *the Blue Album* in 1994, and the songs it contained have existed in the social conscious in an ever-present manner. Usually, people are most familiar with “Buddy Holly” or “Undone—the Sweater Song”, and the other radio hits. However, as a coda tacked onto the end of the album, there is a gem, “Only in Dreams”. By far the longest Weezer song at 8 minutes even, this transcendent track begins with a single bass riff that doesn't resolve until the end of it. From there, it slowly builds in each verse to a large, beautifully melodic chorus, where it then comes back down. After the second verse, it starts building again, but this time it doesn't stop. It just keeps building and building and building until—a breathtaking guitar solo that's over a minute and a half long. If you only ever hear one Weezer song, then you legitimately couldn't pick a better one.

HEY WHAT

Low

2021

Highlights: All Night, Days Like These, More

How many times have you picked up an iPad and opened GarageBand or messed around with a beat machine, or played some discordant notes on a piano just to hear what you could come up with? How many times have you imagined yourself on the cover of a pressed record, with a SUB>POP label on it, with sounds you've created? Now imagine you're 53 years old and that record you created with iPad-sounding noise was yours, and it's the 13th full record you and your spouse have released together. This is where the band Low finds themselves after 29 years. They produced 'slow-core' records consistently through their career, but took a turn for the different with their latest, HEY WHAT. This slow, explosive, percussionless guitar-over-calliope screeches they've recorded amount to the product of producer BJ Burton, who did work for Charli XCX and Eminem, and their desire to put to record the avant-garde squeals that fill their heads. And it shows. This uniquely abstract ‘electronic’ album is near the very extreme of what pop music can be. Swirling glitches of electricity underneath angelic vocal harmonies will have you questioning what music even is.

Pattern-matching Recommendations

If you like **the Deftones** try:

1. Incubus

You may've heard "Drive" before. Start on "Pardon Me", but go into new territory with "Redefine".

2. Team Sleep

A great side project of Deftone's Chino Moreno. Start with "Ataraxia", then get pretty with "Elisabeth".

If you like **Pearl Jam** try:

1. Soundgarden

Try tracks 'Kickstand' and 'Black Hole Sun' for an intro, 'Ugly Truth' or 'Flower' for more of a reach.

2. Fugazi

Repeater has brimming intensity and technical prowess, *In On the Kill Taker* feels closest to Pearl Jam.

3. the Suicide Machines

Try 'Hey' and 'S.O.S.', plus *Destruction By Definition*. A lot more interesting than the name implies.

If you like **Kanye West** try:

1. Del tha Funkee Homosapien

A zany and wordy rapper, start with 'Mistadobalina' and 'the Wacky World of Public Transportation'.

2. Handsome Boy Modeling School

More idiosyncratic, but in a similar vein as early Kanye. Try 'If it Wasn't For You' and 'the Truth'.

3. Jay-Z

Some of the more interesting ones, like 'December 4th' or 'Encore' are great to transition to.

If you like **Taylor Swift** try:

1. Mirah

Anything on her first album is worth hearing, but in particular 'Sweepstakes Prize' and 'Of Pressure'.

2. Cat Power

Try listening to 'the Greatest' first, then 'Lived In Bars'. Mostly similar to Taylor Swift in spirit.

3. Fiona Apple

Listen to *Fetch the Bolt Cutters*, period. Start with title track or 'Shameika'. Be prepared for newness.

If you would like to suggest bands to create recommendations from, contact me at:

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