The Last Dance - Once Beautiful (2005)

1 Distantly 2 Once Beautiful 3 Secrets 4 World Down 5 December 6 Wish Me Closer (Feat. Tina Root) 7 That Never Was 8 Special Little Gift 9 Wake Me Screaming 10 Desperately Still 11 Together Alone 12 Become Forever Bass – Peter J. Gorritz Drums – Thomas Coyne (tracks: 1 to 9, 12) Guitar – Rick Joyce Keyboards [Additional] – Carl Lemmel (tracks: 6, 8, 9) Vocals – Jeff Diehm + Vocals [Additional] – Marsha Skidmore Backing Vocals – Michele Joyce Cello – Mera Roberts Percussion – Joellanna Garcia Piano – Carl Lemmel Accordion – Daniel Jacob Horine Flute [Additional Flutes] – Billy "Chief Lottabull" Flute [Flutes] – Joellanna Garcia Percussion [Djembe] – Thomas Coyne Vocals [Additional] – Laurie Reade Vocals [Guest] – Tina Root Drums [Half] – Stevyn Grey, Thomas Coyne

The Last Dance surprised the world with their goth-rock'ish darkwave back in 2003 when they were supporting act for Crüxshadows during their US-tour. That was then and now The Last Dance is a big name even though they still haven't reached The Crüxshadows reputation yet, not in Sweden anyway.

The last two years I've listened to this bands debut album 'Whispers in Rage' and their following EP 'Reflections of Rage' many times a week and I can at least say that I've been longing for the day that their new full-length album would leave the printers in Philadelphia and begin their long journey to Gothenburg. My big worry were if I would get disappointed or not when I heard the new material, but to my big joy the shills of prosperous stroke me at the same time as my girlfriend pressed play on the stereo.

For those out there who have heard 'Whispers in Rage' will defiantly recognize themselves during their journey through 'Once Beautiful' without the feeling that you've heard it before. It feels new and fresh, but at the same time you recognize the way that the band does their guitar loops, the jargon of the keyboards and most of all the beautiful lyrics.

If I would list all the great tracks on this album I easily could copy and paste the track list from this record since every song is smoking hot. But I won't mention them all, instead I would like to highlight the following tracks: "Distancy", "Once Beautiful", "Secrets", "World Down", "Special Little Gift" and "Desperately Still" that you also will be able to find on the bands EP 'Reflections of Rage'.

"Still Beautiful" is a more fitting name for this album. ---brutalresonance.com

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