

Today, I'll be reviewing 'Fright Night' by Stratovarius. The album has four singles called 'Future Shock', 'Witch Hunt', 'Black Night' and 'Night Screamer'. Good choices! They're my favourite songs on the album too, which is interesting as I'd say it's rather consistent in quality. I clearly have the ability to spot hardly noticeable flaws and strengths in music. Well maybe. To be fair, most of the time I'm kind of baffled as to why some people think certain songs are either highlights or duds, but not with this album! I guess statistically I had to completely agree with someone eventually and it's finally happened. I remember when I was about 6, my dad made me sip two bottles of champagne and he asked me which one I thought was nicest without telling me the price. I said the most expensive one, again showing my skills, but maybe not. Because it was 50/50 wasn't it? I don't know what my dad was celebrating with the wine. Most likely, he was about to celebrate me choosing the wrong one. I don't remember him calling off a whole PARTY, but to be fair if he were to do that, he wouldn't tell me. So maybe he did. Maybe he said something like 'Sorry fellas, but the disco in Ibiza and the drive in the Ferrari have to be called off. Don't worry, I'll get three different wines next time, that'll get him.'

Having just listened to the song, I've just realised 'Darkness' is a very good track, too. That should have been a single, I'm wondering if it's too late for the band to make it one. It's just that the album came out in 1989. Does the phrase 'better late than never' apply in this situation? I've done things I've regretted decades ago I've never apologised for or even explained, such as crying when not winning anything in pass the parcel games, but me to put things right now? I'd say that was crazy. Darkening things a little, I'm ashamed to say I once stole a ruler with a train on it from my school when I was five. Can you imagine the scene if I turned up to an infant's school with a ruler and demanded to see the staff to give it back? If I did both of those things, you would probably rightly assume I'd be having some kind of nervous breakdown. Where is the ruler now? Well, I was so ashamed I stole it, many, many years later I just threw it away. Tragically, no one won with such actions, on the contrary, some lines ended up being less straight than they should have been, but it did make me feel better when I got rid of the thing.

I have to say the guitarist of this band has improved over time, much like Judas Priests' guitarists. His sense of TASTE hasn't improved so in that respect he is lagging behind the six stringers of JP a little, but even so it is good to know. People are known for degenerating over time, but when it comes to Stratovarius' lead player and his ability to play scales AND arpeggios very, very quickly, things are looking pretty good! I can play scales and arpeggios pretty quickly too, despite my age. Can I play melodically well? No, it's too hard! But to be clear, I can play fast and that's the main thing. I wonder if my wine tasting abilities are just as strong as all those years ago. I wouldn't really know as I don't drink wine. Nor do I play pass the parcel any more, so I don't know if I still have problems with losing children's party games, but to be honest I can picture myself saying 'OH SCREW THIS!' and stealing the present. But only if it's a ruler with a train on it! :D I say that, because I do miss the tool and of course the picture on it. What gets to me is I was offered to keep my favourite train book from the same time and place as I loved it so much, and for reasons I never understood, I declined the offer!! To this day, that is honestly one of my biggest regrets. Oh yes, the album gets a solid 9/10! Bye!