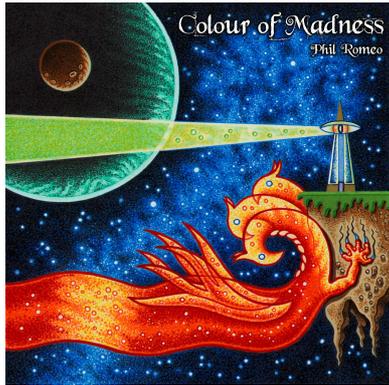


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## ALBUM INFORMATION – (by the artist himself)



# The Colour of Madness (Phil Romeo)

### Synopsis:

The basic story behind this concept album is the descent into villainy and madness, a bittersweet if not simple little tale of how even the best of intentions can lead to the worst of deeds. The hero of any story has never quite captured my interest so much as the villain, and I really wanted to elaborate on this by focusing on the origin of a villainous character rather than the future deeds.

*\* The title was a mix n' match of ideas hurled at me by a good friend, I finally opted for "Colour of Madness" as a nod to "Colour of Magic" by Terry Pratchett; who has always been a great influence as an author.*

### Track Listing:

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Wings of Hades | 7. Insomnia        |
| 2. Unholy Vows    | 8. Drifting        |
| 3. Cast Away      | 9. The Escape      |
| 4. Blind          | 10. End of the Sky |
| 5. The Other Side | 11. Resolution     |
| 6. Run Forever    | 12. [Bonus Stage]  |

### **"Time is never on our side." (Wings of Hades)**

The story begins at the end, with the death of one character perceived through the eyes of another. The song reflects upon how short and sweet life really is, leaving unanswered questions and the desire to escape mortality.

*\* I originally wrote the basis of this song when I was 15, as an excuse to swing my hair around whilst playing guitar. The lyrics were then added later and are actually far more personal to me than I'd care to admit. Some friends in Canada have the original lyrics, which involved more actual fire and probably a dragon. I've since then cut my hair, unfortunately.*

### **"Flashback, sets the scene..." (Unholy Vows)**

We return to the original act that set the events of the story into motion. Though for good intention, our hero goes as far as to murder another to save his lover from an abusive marriage as the mood changes dramatically.

*\* Once written to be nothing more than some filler, it quickly took on its own identity. The synth breakdown was written for guitar and the orchestral section never used to exist, I'm still not sure how it happened!*

### **"Hey! You're an animal!" (Cast Away)**

Cast out from society, our hero is forced to escape in a more conventional sense. Haunted by murderous voices, even the ocean itself seems to take on the very appearance of blood itself.

*\* My family and I have heard this song far more times than can possibly be considered healthy. A good friend of mine actually wrote the line "Withdraw the knife, let flow the tides of life" whilst half asleep on my kitchen floor, covered in tea towels. True story.*

### **"What if the world was blind?" (Blind)**

Now alone, haunting and ominous questions plague our hero's mind. Why does the world judge him so? Perhaps he could be something more, if the world was blind. Villainous thoughts begin to seep in. The world must be changed.

*\* I really wanted to write something that actually had any place in a musical: being slow, moving and emotional. Ironically, I used the same lyrics in a song with my thrash metal band.*

### **"How far will I go?" (The Other Side)**

Deciding it's up to him to change the world; our hero takes to the darker, other side of the road. With a pocket-full of malice he sets about his plans, even to the worry of his love. When asked what he plans, he would merely respond: "do you really want to know?"

*\* Wrote the main guitar riff at a jam with one of my bands, I just wanted to have some fun with this one, both musically and lyrically. "Isolated in my tower" was a suggestion by my producer. This song almost never made the album!*

### **"..." (Run Forever)**

Light hearted in mind, yet sinister in truth. Our hero tumbles further down the path of villainy and madness in a twisted joyride: reflected musically rather than lyrically.

*\* I don't know. It just happened. Several times.*

### **"I'll live my dreams." (Insomnia)**

So much to do, and so little time, but it's never too late. Our now-villain will not settle for dreams, he will live them: even if it means never sleeping again. Insomnia sets in, further twisting his mind.

*\* I often worry that this song is more about me than it is the main character. After hearing a line from a Bond film, I promptly wrote this song. The orchestral breakdown is one of my favourite parts of the entire album.*

### **"Designed by how I feel." (Drifting)**

The world takes a moment to catch its breath, reflecting upon the ideas of dreams through the eyes of a daydreamer. Though dipped in honey, the villain's words question the very existence of other people, further distancing himself.

*\* Another one likely to be more so about myself than the main character, having been a professional daydreamer all my life. This was actually a nice experience to record, coming together rather easily.*

### **"Don't look at me in this way!" (The Escape)**

We finally catch up to moments before the beginning of the story. The world has finally caught up with our villain, responding violently to his deeds. Having foreseen her death as a consequence of his actions, he is forced to abandon his love, realizing the world needs her compassion more than it needs him. The sacrifice, metaphorically speaking, earns him his wings at last.

*\* The music box was a last minute addition, but now I can't picture the song without it. This has quickly become one of my favourite tracks off the album, the main theme going back several years to something I wrote on the piano. I really love this one.*

### **“Sooner or later it’s the end of the sky.” (End of the Sky)**

Even with wings, there is simply only so far a person can go when running from themselves. Through a mix of emotions and madness reflected in the music, our villain finally realizes where he is: at the end of the sky.

*\* I really had to have a go at writing something more progressive, and I’m surprised my attention span allowed the song to reach the length it did. My producer and I wrote the lyrics together, bouncing ideas back and forth off of each other and seeing how ‘profound’ we could come across whilst keeping to the story.*

### **“Stay away from me!” (Resolution)**

The ultimatum of the story, our villain at long last realizes what he has become. Unable to even recognize his own face in the mirror, he decides to isolate himself in his tower: where he will be alone forever more, unable to hurt anyone again.

*\* This song is an excuse to get carried away. The lyrics are a lot more personal than I pretend, and I would possibly go as far to say this is my favourite one to sing. I really wanted a sad ending.*

### **“...” (Bonus Stage)**

This has little relevance to the album beyond tailing off the ending.

*\* When I first started recording my own music, I used Garageband on an old macbook. I felt it would be a nice ending to produce something on it again, and the result was this electronic, midi-based medley. It has nothing to do with anything; it is simply a bit of fun.*

**- Phil Romeo.**

## **The Artist:**

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Roger Banks & Bob Goodwin, ISIS Records

## Lyrics

### Wings of Hades

Time is never on our side; the end is drawing nearer even though we've just begun.  
Please spare me your last breath, 'cause I can't bare to listen, I beg take me instead.

Is death the end? I swear to God I'll see you again.

Love, they say it conquers all. Well now I stand defeated; kiss left me wanting more.  
More. More than life can spare, well now I dread the ending, a curse to those who care.

Don't go where I can't too. I can't live without you.

Escape from the flames of Hades, the time has come to earn our wings.

Escape from the flames of Hades, the time has come to earn our wings.

### Unholy Vows

"In this unholy vow."

Flashback sets the scene, watching my life through a hazy dream.  
Return to the start, see how we fell apart as our love was denied, when his law made you his bride.

"In sickness and in health, another trophy for his shelf."

"In this unholy vow."

Hide the bruises hide the pain no one will save you from his reign.

You found the cage, he found a wife. I found the answer: I found a knife.

### Cast Away

"Cast away!"

Hey! He's a cast away, another one who's life has gone astray.  
He only ever needed love but no one ever gave him much that's when he found the voices in his head.

"Withdraw the knife, let flow the tides of life."

He has to sail, over the ocean the blood red ocean.  
Now a black sail, flowing with his motion of mislead notion.

"Cast away!"

Hey! You're an animal! Now look at what you've done you're a criminal!  
He only ever needed love now pray that there's a God above they're gonna' come and get you and string you up.

He has to sail, over the ocean the blood red ocean.  
Now a black sail, flowing with his motion of mislead notion.

Now cast away.

Now cast away, over the ocean the blood red ocean.

## Blind

What if the world was blind? Could you ignore, my obvious flaw?  
Now I can feel your stare: penetrating, calculating.

"Would you still condemn me, if the world was blind?"  
"Could I be something more, if not for your eyes?"

I feel them in my throat: the words I can't say, but maybe some day.

"Would you still condemn me, if the world was blind?"  
"Could I be something more, if not for your eyes?"

"Would you still condemn me, if the world was blind?"  
"Could I be something more, if not for your eyes?"  
"Someday I'll make them see, I pray until that time."  
"That maybe you'll understand, when the world is blind; the day the world is mine."

## The Other Side

I'm gonna' take a ride on the other side of the line.  
I'm gonna' take a tour on the other side of the law.

'Cause you've a question, but you don't want the answer.  
"How far will I go?"  
And I've got a question, so give me an answer.  
"Do you really wanna' know?"

I'm gonna' take a ride to the other side of the world.  
I'm gonna' cross the line gonna' watch these plans unfurl.

'Cause you've a question, but you don't want the answer.  
"How far will I go?"  
And I've got a question, so give me an answer.  
"Do you really wanna' know? Just how far, I will go!?"

Woah, I'm-a set the world on fire.  
Woah, I'm-a bringing down empires.  
Woah, isolated in my tower.  
Woah, I'm just waiting for my hour.

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Woah, I'm-a bringing down empires.  
Woah, isolated in my tower.  
Woah, I'm just waiting for my hour.

## Insomnia

It's been so many nights, since I could get some sleep.  
Insomnia it holds me, it chills me so deep.

I'll live my dreams: because I never sleep.  
I'll make them real; I'll make them mine to keep.

"It's not too late, never let go."

It's been so many days, since I have felt alive.  
Empty and unaware now: almost as if I've died.

I'll live my dreams: because I never sleep.  
I'll make them real; I'll make them mine to keep.

"It's not too late, never let go."

I'll live my dreams; they're mine to keep.  
Maybe some day: I'll learn to sleep.

## Drifting

Oh hold me now I'm drifting, so far away.  
I see a world I'd love to live in, but I can hardly stay.  
A world that doesn't need a reason: defined by something real.  
A world that I can make my own way: designed by how I feel.

Please stay with me tonight.  
In case I go, and drift into the light.

People say I'm in a daydream, and while this might be true.  
Did you ever stop and wonder, if you're a daydream too?

Please stay with me tonight.  
In case I go, and drift into the light.

## The Escape

Time is not our friend, our start become our ending.  
She had to stay away: compassion was her grave.  
People cannot control the anger that I sold them  
When eyes of hate will lead; the innocent will bleed.

And hey, be my escape. Don't let me down.

Don't look at me in this way; I said I'd change the world someday.  
This is all that my life can give, what the world needs is you to live.

And so the story goes, escape without a reason.  
She had to stay away: my words became her grave.  
People cannot control the answers that I told them.  
When all you know is hate, then all you love will fade.

Hey, but we can escape to the end of the sky.

Don't look at me in this way; I said I'd change the world someday.  
This is all that my life can give, what the world needs is you to live.

Escape from the flames of Hades.  
Escape from the flames of Hades.

## End of the Sky

No matter how far you think you can run, sooner or later you'll be back where you begun.  
And even if you maybe learn to fly, sooner or later it's the end of the sky.  
And that's where you'll find, and that's when you'll know; the end of the sky offers no-where else to go.

And when you reach the end of the sky, you'll turn around and you'll realize: there's no way back to where you started from.

And when you find what you were looking for, you'll realize that it was nothing more than the place that you were before.

And when you find the answers that you seek, you'll realize the question's obsolete: you were thinking way too deep.

And even now that you've learned to fly, the only question that you have is why; you're lost at the end of the sky.

## Resolution

"Stay away from me, I can't tell friend from enemy. So stay away."

These days I don't understand. Who's in the mirror: who is this man?  
I'll run away, that's what I'll do. I'll be alone; I think I'd rather be-

"All by myself. At least I can't hurt someone else."

All I know is hate, and all I know is-  
All I feel is rage, and all I feel is-  
All I own is pain, and all I own-

With all this anger well I haven't felt myself.  
With all this rage, well it feels like I've become someone else!  
I've become someone else!

I'd rather be-

"All by myself. At least I can't hurt someone else."

"Stay away from me, I can't tell friend from enemy."