



Muse: Invincible

The Song

The fact that Muse are allegedly Britain's best live band doesn't dissuade me from nursing the feeling that 'Invincible' is a slightly lazy attempt at a sweeping, symphonic anthem that never quite makes it... Add to this background the deranged video (admittedly only watched through youtube) of theme park ride carnage from yesteryear, and I'm starting to get a bit angsty about whether or not I should even be thinking about this song in my spare time. But Radio One's enthusiasm won me over, so here I go... It comes with a health warning, though - if you don't like guitars and whining voices, steer away (it doesn't have the redeeming features of Time is Running Out or their classic cover of Nina Simone's Feeling Good)

The Theme

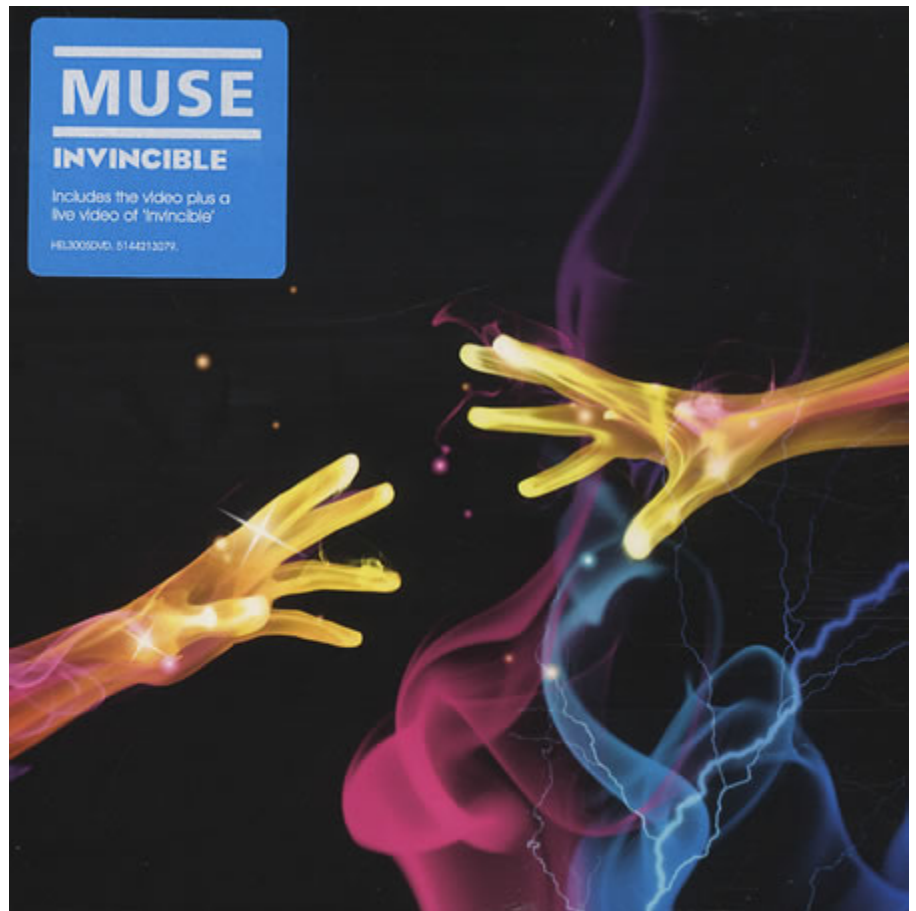
Like a postmodern counterpoint to the gritty overall sound of 'Invincible', the lyrics tell a secret tale of unflinching love, as the Matthew Bellamy yearningly cries out the repeated lines: 'Let's use this chance / To turn things around / And tonight we can truly say / together we're invincible'... it's a reassuring sentiment that echoes through the whole song, building the confidence of the listener, as we hear the opening lines of the

song:

*'Follow through
Make your dreams come true
Don't give up the fight
You will be alright
Cause there's no one like you in
the universe'
through to the last 'together
we're invincible'...*

All of this doesn't descend into slushy rubbish, though... I think the energetic 'wall of sounding' trademark Muse style helps stop

this becoming another rock band ballad. But the words also confess a less-than-perfect world, where others are trying to 'pull us down', and acknowledges that sometimes the listener spurns the attempts of Bellamy, as we choose to 'do it on [our] own / it makes no difference to [him]'



What it Says

The first time I first heard 'Invincible' driving around Northampton, it was slap bang in the middle of Holy Week... the week where I journey alongside Jesus towards his Crucifixion, and Resurrection in the amazing celebration of Easter. Hearing 'Invincible' was put in a new context for me, as I moved from thinking purely about the (presumably) romantic framework in which the band mean it, towards an understanding of this being a song that Jesus would sing to each one of us as individuals. I'm struck by the affirmation in the song - 'there's no one like you in the universe', and remember that a compliment like this that emerges from the mouth of Jesus means so much more from somebody who knows me through and through - warts and all...

But most of all, I'm struck by the line 'During the struggle / they will pull us down'... I think, for me, this summarises the whole point of Jesus' coming to Earth (his Incarnation) - that he would know exactly how things feel for me when stuff gets a bit much. That he would be able to empathise, not because he's got good emotional skills, but because he's been there, done that - he is alongside me when life pulls me down. He sees my struggle, because he struggled as he walked on Earth - never more so than during Holy Week when he was betrayed by his friends, judged wrongly, convicted despite his innocence and murdered in the prime of his life.

The amazing message of Easter is that the struggling wasn't the end of the matter. As the song's title suggests, Jesus was 'invincible' against the struggles that tried to keep him down. And after his return to life 3 days

later, Jesus is in a unique position to be able to identify with my struggle, but also to offer me his help to conquer those things that get me down - 'And tonight we can truly say / together we're invincible.'

To Read

My favourite passage from the whole of the Bible sums some of this stuff up nicely, I think - try reading Philippians 2:3-11 (it's near the end of the Bible, in the bit that St Paul wrote to the Churches around the Mediterranean after the time of Jesus)

To Pray

Jesus, this Easter, let me know that you understand where I'm coming from, and help me see that together we're invincible. Amen