

Lonely Desert

By

Forest Field

Written by

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Forest Field are back and with their most elaborate project to date as **Lonely Desert** is now upon us, and featuring the amazing vocals of *Cranston* front man *Phil Vincent* and of course the stylish and classy guitars of *Peter Cox*, one of the most incredible multi instrumentalists around today.

Lonely Desert really dives deep into the world of Progressive Rock and why not, it's a genre that is in full flow at the moment, and the opening offering will grab you by the scruff of your neck, and drag you into the sand dunes head first.

Valley of Pain is where we start, and if you ever wanted to begin with something exceptional this is it, this track is outstanding, almost like a heavier version of *Marillion* at times, but the driving guitar and melodic vocals from Vincent find that extra power along the way, that makes this opener a true classic and a perfect opening piece.

Coriolis is the following song and contains some very nice work from Cox, with some very sweet chord changes that really created a marvellous vista for me. He then ramps up the pressure as the piece draws towards its middle segment and manifests a truly clever arrangement that has the energy of movement and almost literally takes us from pole to pole throughout its construction. The balance of instrumentation was spot on for this track too, percussion, keyboards, guitar all blissfully harmonised.

Now for something completely different, this one is called **Doomed in the Desert**; the whole album is loosely based around the epic tale *Dune*, written of

course by *Frank Herbert*. Here the piano and Vincent are narrator of this tale of the desert and the will to survive. A fresh approach this, a slow tempo to match the tired energy and labour of the lonely and lost desert wanderer, the keyboards and acoustic guitar creating a sun filled vista, in what is an excellently musically painted composition. Then as if to lull you into a false sense of security, at over 4 minutes in, the song explodes into a semi rock ballad of despair, grit and determination.

The swirling keyboards and electronic piano deliver us a real classic opening to this next slice of rock magic called **Alienation**. The strange thing is, that the melody and style of performance is a little like the *Scorpions Alien Nation*. This is a gutsy track that deserves a second, third and fourth listen. Listen also to the *Iron Maiden* styled guitars at just over 3 minutes in on this cracking track.

We arrive at the half way juncture and come across a little gem called **To Bits**. The refreshing change to an acoustic for the opening foray is really charming, I remember when *Sabbath* used to do this on tracks like "Fluff" I also detect a little hint of acoustic Metallica in here as well. The description of this album is classified as elaborate rock, and I believe that is just about apt, very classy indeed this one.

The wonderful weave of this album continues with the song **Asleep**, the narrative is creative, as is the arrangement of this semi rock ballad, the instrumentation used here is indeed excellent, but for me the harmonies employed in the songs construction were outstanding. Here is another fine example just how far Cox has raised the **Forest Field** bar.

Into the Light we go, strangely it's perhaps one of the darker pieces off the album. This at times has the energy of the original Sabbath, then with an extremely interesting twist, the tempo increases in intensity and speed and the backing vocals and melody remind me very much of Sweets efforts in the hard rock genre, which in my opinion would have elevated their status had they been allowed to do so earlier. The guitar by Cox is stunning, and towards the end even emulates the great *Ritchie Blackmore* from the *Rainbow Rising* days.

Having seen the film *Dune*, my one lasting memory will always be the Sandworms. Here Cox uses acoustic guitar in *Rush* style to begin our **Riding the**

Worm. This instrumental piece paints perfectly the vast desert and the unnerving giant worms that lived underground within it.

The Confrontation is our penultimate offering from this top notch new album. The Sabbath like guitar is there once more and even the percussion adds a similar style to the early part of the song, Vincent joins the dance with some almost *Grahame Bonnet* styled vocals and Cox in *Tony Iommi* mode was imperious here too.

The last song for us to all contemplate dear reader and listener is the opus called **Fear**. This is one track you really need to listen to many times over to truly appreciate the sheer outstanding quality of this rock opus. This well over the 15 minute mark of a track, reminds me of many who have gone before, *Uriah Heep* among them, just to drop a name. Listen to the amazing guitar solo at just over the 6 minute mark; even *Michael Schenker* would have been proud of that one, proving for me, that *Peter Cox* is one of the outstanding rock guitarists of our current era.

This last masterpiece sums the whole album up nicely and leaves us with a real sense of positivity and belief that anything is possible, if and when we defeat our biggest enemy of all**FEAR!**

Forest Field have succeeded, they have produced their best album with ease to date, I love all of their last releases, but this one is off the scale and I am certain will feature on many of my shows over the next few months.

Cox and Vincent have created an undeniably superb release with **Lonely Desert** and **Forest Field** will no doubt relentlessly climb up the chart with this one. If you're a rock fan and want to be both entertained and empowered, you would do you self a very big favour, by adding this total gem of a rock release, into your musical collection.