John Mayer – Paradise Valley (2013)



01 – Wildfire 02 – Dear Marie 03 – Waitin' on the Day 04 – Paper Doll 05 – Call Me the Breeze 06 – Who You Love 07 – I Will Be Found (Lost at Sea) 08 – Wildfire (feat. Franck Ocean) 09 - You're No One 'Til Someone Lets You Down 10 - Badge and Gun 11 - On the Way Home Musicians: John Mayer - vocals, guitars, keyboards Aaron Sterling drums, percussion Sean Hurley - bass Chuck Leavell - keyboards (2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10,11) Paul Franklin - pedal steel guitar (2, 9, 11) Zane Carney - guitar (1, 2) Rami Jaffe keyboards (1, 8) Lisa Fischer - background vocals (7, 11) David Ryan Harris background vocals (4) Bernard Fowler - background vocals (7) Frank Ocean - Wurlitzer, vocals (8) Katy Perry - vocals (6) Larry Williams - tenor saxophone, flute Dan Higgins tenor saxophone, flute (6) Gary Grant - flugelhorn (6) Bill Reichenbach - tenor trombone, bass trombone, EB alto horn (6)

Close your eyes. Erase your mind. Forget about Taylor Swift, Katy Perry and the various extracurricular activities that have hobbled singer-guitarist-romantic John Mayer's reputation off the playing field. Breathe, and think about the guitar while inhaling fresh air and electrified guitar licks. As a Wyoming wind blows through your hair, imagine that the John Mayer Cruise never happened.

For many -- but by no means all -- such a Mayer reboot is necessary. Doing so in earnest before popping on his new album, "Paradise Valley," will offer payback for those yearning for peaceful, well-imagined guitar rock as earlier crafted by bands including the Eagles, the Flying Burrito Bros., the Grateful Dead and "Nashville Skyline"-era Bob Dylan. The guy's apologized for his past media indulgences, and "Paradise Valley" makes a strong case that those of us overly annoyed should let it go. ---Randall Roberts, articles.latimes.com

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