

Linkin Park - Living Things (2012)

Written by bluesever

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01 – *Lost in the Echo* 02 – *In My Remains* 03 – *Burn It Down* 04 – *Lies Greed Misery* 05 – *I'll Be Gone* 06 – *Castle of Glass* 07 – *Victimized* 08 – *Roads Untraveled* 09 – *Skin to Bone* 10 – *Until It Breaks* 11 – *Tinfoil* 12 – *Powerless* Personnel: Chester Bennington – vocals Rob Bourdon – drums Brad Delson – lead guitar, additional vocals on "Until It Breaks", synth on "Lies Greed Misery" Dave "Phoenix" Farrell – bass, backing vocals, synth on "Lies Greed Misery" Joe Hahn – turntables, synth, samples, keyboard Mike Shinoda – vocals, rhythm guitar, keyboard, piano, synth, strings and horns on "Castle of Glass" + Owen Pallett – strings on "I'll Be Gone".

Linkin Park got pretty moody on 2010's *A Thousand Suns*, settling into a sulky electronica groove that pretty much screamed "growing pains" to anybody who listened closely. On its 2012 sequel, *Living Things*, Linkin Park attempts to graft guitars back onto their newly mature musical outlook, and the reintroduction of visceral force certainly helps give this album a pulse lacking on *A Thousand Suns*. It's hardly a step back to the old angst-ridden rap-rockers of the turn of the millennium, however. Admirably, Linkin Park revels in a near-middle-aged angst, letting their songs address adult concerns and giving their productions contours and texture; the additional noise isn't an expression of fury, it's used to enhance the drama. Generally, the songs feel sharper on *Living Things* -- there is definition to their structure, some of the choruses catch hold without too much effort -- but this album remains one of sustained mood, not individual moments. And in that regard, *Living Things* handily trumps *A Thousand Suns*: it doesn't stay still, it peaks and ebbs, flowing steadily between brooding and explosions of repressed rage, a fitting soundtrack for aging rap-rockers who are comfortable in their skin but restless at heart. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, Rovi

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