

Banjo Bones - The Place of Dead Roads

Dark and mysterious places along the way

By **Kathey Norton**, novelist and author of *What Becomes Legend Most*

The Place of Dead Roads is a musical journey through dark places from which one cannot help but enter. Every song on the album is filled with raw, honest emotion and self-reflection that easily speaks to listeners from all backgrounds. I have highlighted a few songs below that spoke to me personally and made me want to hear more from Banjo Bones.

On “Dead Roads” there is a haunting, soulful quality about the vocals and lyrics that is especially evident with the line, “Running from my choices since the moment I was born.” Listening to this line made me want to know more about what events led this character to this moment of reflection and self-awareness. It sounds like he has reached a point of no return where he is getting tired of running, but isn’t sure how to stop and commit to something or someone.

On “Barstool Confessions” the music and lyrics have a wistful quality that suggests an internal struggle between conformity and non-conformity and dedication and detachment. The line that particularly stands out is, “Never find the time to put a deadline on our dreams.” The lyrics are full of longing and conflict that draw the listener into the song and make him or her question their own choices in life.

In listening to “It’s a Bomb,” the music and lyrics suggest that someone has come home to settle a score, and it’s something that he must do in order to find closure or peace. The thought of a lonely Veteran returning home from war seemed to mesh with this song quite well, but it could be more about trying to come to terms with age and still wanting to pursue unfulfilled ambitions or dreams.

“Rat Race” is a prime example of a song that any listener stuck in a dead-end job, unfulfilling marriage, or a rut in general, can relate to. Who doesn’t want to be free and be able to live the life he or she is meant to live, rather than one driven by the need to earn money, pay bills, be subordinate to a boss, or sell your soul in general?

The Place of Dead Roads, which was produced by JL Espada, manages to capture all of the passion and emotion of the music and lyrics, without the production getting in the way. Espada’s respect for the artistry of the music and storytelling in general is evident and contributes to the overall beautiful sound quality of this album.

I would highly recommend that anyone who longs for the days of excellent musicianship and meaningful lyrics that tell a story, give a listen to *The Place of Dead Roads* by Banjo Bones. You will not be disappointed, and may find yourself on the ride of a lifetime as you enter all the dark and mysterious places waiting for you along the way.



Album Info

- ▶ **Release Date:** March 5, 2015
- ▶ **Producer:** JL Espada
- ▶ **Label:** Boneyard Records