

"Manifest" Album Review

August 6, 2023|Music Review



Author: Ed Tate

Shannon Ramsey has always sung from deep within, pulling the strings of our hearts, leaving us to feel every bit of it. She manifests this in her new inspirational/R&B album filled with inspiration and smooth sound. The Baltimore-raised singer finds her way back to destiny when she accepts “**Callin**” on the first track. She answers to the divine call with “Jesus I’m right here.” She acknowledges Jesus as the one who wills her destiny and is not ashamed to tell it to the world. She affirms this by echoing “Let the world see that you got me.” This track represents the nature of destiny - it never really leaves us alone. It keeps beckoning to us for it to be fulfilled. Shannon Ramsey fully accepts her destiny and embraces it from the onset of this album - it is a delight to hear.

Shannon Ramsey fights fear and overcomes it with “**Faith**” as the second track. She admits the place of Jesus in her life by testifying that “life is pointless without you, so why would I ever move without you?” This will no doubt spark the feeling of faith in us in a sad world. You can barely listen to this track without moving your feet to dance, or at least nodding your head to the beat. Despite its groovy sound, the message is clear. Knowing that through faith in Jesus, life is worth it. This depicts Christianity in its entirety because faith is the foundation. By capturing a reality like this, we get the sense that we are not alone when fear comes. It is more like a message that Jesus is the solid foundation and faith is all we need.

“**Take me back**” sees Shannon telling God that she needs Him which every Christian accepts. It portrays how we keep running away but God keeps pressing us, never failing to open his arms. This message is inspirational to Christians who wonder if God will accept them even after they push Him away.

Considering what she will be if she traded her soul for the world, Shannon decides to be a “**Hero**” for God on the fourth track, emphasizing on how she would be empty if she did not choose to be a hero for God. In a love song to Jesus, the singer shares her truth. She admits that she is ‘**Useless**’ without Jesus, in the fifth track. This vibrant track leaves us yearning for Jesus. On the sixth track, she pays tribute to “**Keith**.” This song is emotional and listening to it feels like we could reach a part of the singer’s heart. With hope, she asserts that she will find a way to get to him. It becomes all too personal when there is a voice recording where they tell each other “I love you.” She proclaims God’s love and ‘**Blessin**’ on the seventh track. She never has to question God because the blessing keeps coming. No kidding, this is very inspirational, it gives hope to those who may be losing it. She sends the message that God always comes through.

‘**Fight**’ is a perfect ending to this album. She believes she is nothing without God on her side. This is a message to encourage Black people to strive for better with God on their side.

It is interesting how Shannon uses herself as the subject, making this album very personal and relatable to us. From all previous releases to this current release, Shannon Ramsey has proven herself to be a walking inspiration. She breathes and sings inspiration; this may be due to the fact that she used to be in gospel ministry before going full time into music. Gospel really is the good news and Shannon Ramsey never fails to express it. Her Manifest album

teaches, entertains, and tells us to stay with God and we will witness the manifestation of everything good in our lives.