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========== ========== I’d say the strong themes on our record are love, loss, death, excitement, fascination with things we don’t understand and are either terrified by or inspired by. D is for… Delays We had a bit of a wait for X&Y – originally scheduled for 2004, then January 2005, but it didn’t surface until June 2005. The delay caused some problems for our label EMI, but we were determined to get the album right. “Deadlines be damned,” I said at the time – it was all about making a great record. E is for… Brian Eno We got a lot of inspiration from Brian Eno's music – he even played synth on two tracks. The Guardian review said: “The shadow of Brian Eno looms large, but we used him to make something new and exciting.” He worked with us to break down our songs and make them better. F is for… (Crazy) Frog Remember the Crazy Frog? Our lead single Speed of Sound was a hit, but Crazy Frog's ringtone cover of Axel F stole the show. We even teased it during our Glastonbury performance – “Where are you now?” G is for… Glastonbury Coldplay has played Glastonbury four times, and we always have a great time. This year was no exception – we rocked out to Speed of Sound and had a blast. H is for… The Hardest Part We almost cut our track The Hardest Part from the album. But then we thought it was too sunny, so it seemed needed. Now I think it's one of our best tracks. I is for… Individually working X&Y We recorded in different studios across London and New York – it took a year to get everything just right.Coldplay's hidden tracks and tributes to famous musicians, from Johnny Cash to Michael Stipe, reveal a story behind X&Y's creation. ========== Jonny Buckland describes how the band members recorded their parts separately before realizing that it sounded flat without atmosphere or tension. The bassist Guy Berryman states that they soon found themselves and went back to basics, which led to things really starting to happen. J is for Johnny Cash 'Til Kingdom Come, a hidden track originally written with Johnny Cash, was recorded by Coldplay after he passed away in 2003. Jonny Buckland explained that it was written for Johnny Cash, but the band decided to record it as a tribute. K is for Kraftwerk Talk, the third single from X&Y, features an interpolation of Kraftwerk's Computer Love. Chris Martin had to send a letter in rudimentary German requesting permission to incorporate a motif from their song, which surprisingly was allowed. L is for Low Low, X&Y's ninth track, marked a turning point in the album's creation. Martin described it as a great piece he'd written on tour and then came up with an idea while walking through San Diego. It reminded him that he missed his bandmates during the recording process. M is for Michael Stipe As well as taking inspiration from Kraftwerk, Brian Eno, and David Bowie, one of X&Y's tracks was intended as an ode to R.E.M. Chris Martin told Rolling Stone that The Hardest Part was a tribute to frontman Michael Stipe and Coldplay's version of Losing My Religion, expressing respect for the famous musician.Nelson Ken X&Y marked the last album that Coldplay worked on with Ken Nelson, who had produced their previous two albums (Parachutes and A Rush of Blood to the Head). Liverpool-based producer Nelson had worked on Gomez's Bring It On and Badly Drawn Boy's The Hour of Bewilderbeast, both Mercury Prize winning albums. Despite originally being brought on board again to produce X&Y, the band later decided to work with producer Danton Supple after expressing dissatisfaction with their early sessions. Nelson worked on four songs that would make it onto X&Y (White Shadows, Fix You, Twisted Logic and 'Til Kingdom Come) and would go on to produce Feeder's Pushing the Senses and Paolo Nutini’s These Streets, among other records. O is for… Number One X&Y topped the charts on both sides of the Atlantic, also reaching No.1 in France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Canada, Australia and many other countries. It was also the No.1 best-selling album of 2005 globally. According to figures from the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), X&Y sold 8.3 million copies worldwide in 2005, beating Mariah Carey’s The Emancipation of Mimi (7.7 million) and 50 Cent's The Massacre (7.5 million) to top the global year-end list. P is for… Paltrow In Johnnie Walker’s Long Players, guitarist Jonny Buckland explains how Fix You was “the one song that we built the album around.” The song was actually penned for Martin’s then-wife Gwyneth Paltrow, who had been mourning the death of her father Bruce. Paltrow’s mother Blythe revealed in 2012: “[Martin] wrote the song Fix You for Gwyneth when her father died and I weep every time I hear it... I think he met Gwyneth about a week after Bruce died. He would have loved him.” Martin has also spoken about how Bruce had influenced the album’s sound, telling USA Today: "My father-in-law Bruce Paltrow bought this big keyboard just before he died. No one had ever plugged it in. I plugged it in, and there was this incredible sound I'd never heard before. All these songs poured out from this one sound.” Q is for… The Queen While recording X&Y, Coldplay were invited to meet The Queen, ultimately turning down the offer. An Entertainment Weekly profile from the time provides the details: “During a break from recording, an assistant has tracked down Chris Martin at the Notting Hill studio where Coldplay are wrapping up their third album. There are some things to go over. ‘The Queen has invited you to a tea at Bucky Palace,’ she cheerfully informs him. Martin is intrigued, momentarily. ‘We do live in the neighborhood,’ he figures.” Martin ultimately decided against it, though. “I don’t think we should go,” he is quoted as saying. “As much as I like the Queen. We’ve got three more years of rebellion in us.” R is for… Running Up That Hill The album’s lead single, Speed of Sound, was inspired by a Kate Bush song, with Chris Martin telling Yahoo! in 2005: "We were listening to a lot of Kate Bush last summer, and we wanted a song which had a lot of tom-toms in it. I just had my daughter also, and was kind of feeling in a sense of awe and wonderment, so the song is kind of a Kate Bush song about miracles." Bassist Guy Berryman later named the Bush song in question to be Running Up That Hill, stating: "We were really trying to recreate the drums on that song for this song, and the chords. Some bands are reluctant to admit that they take things from other artists and bands that they listen to and we're shameless in that respect, we don't mind telling." S is for… Steve Jobs Late Apple founder Steve Jobs was a known Coldplay fan, having been spotted at one of the band’s concerts in 2009. When he passed away in 2011, the group issued a statement in tribute, writing: “We are so sad to hear about the passing of Steve Jobs. In all of our encounters with him he was ========== Chris Martin's humility has been an endearing quality to many fans, and his passing has left a void that will be deeply felt. His legacy continues to be celebrated through various tributes, including a memorable performance at the Apple headquarters in Cupertino, California on October 19, 2011, where he played a four-song set, showcasing his iconic song "Fix You". The Twisted Logic Tour was a pivotal moment in Coldplay's career, spanning over two years and consisting of over 130 shows across various continents, featuring elaborate light displays, fireworks, and balloons. One notable aspect of the tour was its unique name, inspired by the penultimate track from their album X&Y. The band's sound has been compared to U2, with critics noting a similar sense of suspense and release in Coldplay's music. David Hepworth praises the band's ability to craft lyrics that resonate with listeners, allowing them to connect on an emotional level. The follow-up album, Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends, was partially a response to criticism from the press, with Martin finding liberation in facing negative reviews head-on. He acknowledged the impact of such feedback, using it as fuel for their next creative venture. Drummer Will Champion highlights the significance of tracks like "What If" and "Fix You", which form the foundation of the album. The song "What If" is particularly noteworthy, with Champion describing it as one of the best lyrics Chris Martin has ever written. This track serves as a poignant reminder of the band's ability to craft emotive and thought-provoking music. The album X&Y marked Coldplay's first foray into concept album territory, divided into two distinct sides: X and Y. Each side offers a unique perspective, with Side X focusing on questions and childlike wonder, while Side Y delves into sorrow and reality. Martin's vision for the album is reflected in its mathematical formula, symbolizing the tension between opposites. Zeroes are a recurring theme throughout the album, representing both numerical and existential significance. The album's complexity and depth continue to captivate audiences, solidifying Coldplay's position as one of the most successful bands of all time. Coldplay's third studio album, X&Y, was a highly anticipated release in 2005. The band had been working on the album for about a year, with some sessions taking place at Air Lyndhurst Hall in London and others at Parr Street Studios in Liverpool. Although the original producer, Ken Nelson, was supposed to work on much of the record, many of the songs written during their sessions were eventually ditched due to the band's dissatisfaction with them. The album featured a mix of electronic music and space rock influences, thanks to the extensive use of keyboards and synthesizers. Fans had been referring to the album as "Zero Theory" before its release, which was thought to be a working title for the album. The cover art for X&Y was designed by graphic design duo Tappin Gofton and features colours and blocks that represent the title in Baudot code. X&Y received generally positive reviews from critics and was a significant commercial success, reaching number one in 32 countries, including the UK and US. It was also the best-selling album of 2005, with over 8.3 million copies sold worldwide. The album has since been listed as one of the best albums of all time. Four singles were released to support X&Y: "Speed of Sound", "Fix You", "Talk", and "The Hardest Part". Additionally, "What If" and "White Shadows" were released as promotional singles in some countries. The album earned several Grammy nominations, including Best Rock Album and Best Rock Song for "Speed of Sound". X&Y is notable for its use of Baudot code-inspired artwork, which features binary conversations that would have used zeros and ones. This unique design element has become a recognizable part of the album's identity. Overall, X&Y was a pivotal moment in Coldplay's career, showcasing their ability to create critically acclaimed and commercially successful music. ==========Tracks 7-12, designated as Y1 to Y6, represent a distinct segment of the album. The final song is marked with a '+' symbol in standard pressings and labeled Y7 on Japanese versions, while the Japanese bonus track is denoted by the same '+' symbol. X[] No. Title Length 1. Square One - 4:47 2. What If - 4:57 3. White Shadows - 5:28 4. Fix You - 4:55 5. Talk - 8:36 6. X&Y - 4:34 Y[] No. Title Length 7. Speed of Sound - 4:49 8. A Message - 4:45 9. Low - 5:32 10. The Hardest Part - 4:25 11. Swallowed in the Sea - 3:59 12. Twisted Logic - 4:31 13. 'Til Kingdom Come - 4:10 Y (Bonus track)[] No. Title Length 14. How You See the World - 4:04

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