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## All Time Low - Last Young Renegade

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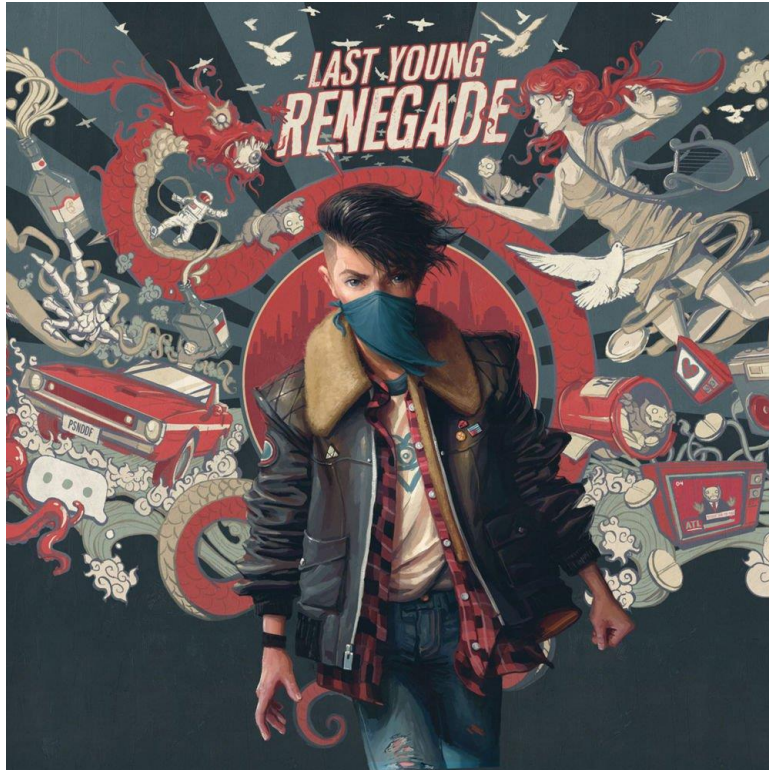
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## Last Young Renegade - All Time Low

By Indrani Hardas



All Time Low have been writing pop punk songs since their debut in 2003. Fourteen years later and six albums released, they try to evolve their sound a little on their latest album *Last Young Renegade*, but it ended up sounding as if they haven't really changed much. *Last Young Renegade*, which was released on June 2, 2017, features a ten song tracklist with two singles, "Good Times" and Dirty Laundry".

The band took a different approach from their last album theme which was "youth" and instead went along the lines of a nostalgic approach mixed with a bit of a guilty conscience and coming to terms with the mistakes you've made. One song in particular that I feel truly portrays this message is "Life of the Party" with lyrics "In a sea of strangers, I can't find me anymore". However overall, the tracks generally feel conventional and outdated with their structure and tempo. From the opening title-track to "Good Times", there are cleanly picked guitars in every verse, before huge layers of harmonies on each chorus. The individual parts aren't necessarily bad, but with such a clean guitar tracks, the layers almost don't sound real.

The second half of the album has more of a chill vibe, and the picked guitars have been replaced by hazy synth keyboards but songs like "Afterglow", "Ground Control" and "Dark Side

Of Your Room” don’t carry much punch or flavor. “Nice2KnoU” is the only upbeat pop punk tune, that would possibly redeem the rest of the album. Despite all this, it’s the lyrics that really bring this album down in my opinion. Alex Gaskarth (lead singer) sounds as if he is still harping on about brief and empty relationships as if there has been no progress in his life and is living the life of a teenager. The most jarring and confusing of this is the line “Dirty laundry looks good on you” which repeats constantly throughout the song “Dirty Laundry”.

As someone who has been following All Time Low for seven years and connected with them through an entire chapter of my life, I expected *Last Young Renegade* to be more lyrics that didn’t revolve around dissatisfied high school relationships. As I have evolved there was an expectation that the band also would have moved on from their earlier lyrical content but it seems that they are still trying to appeal to their high school aged fan base. For those who like safe, cookie cutter pop songs, All Time Low’s *Last Young Renegade* is for you. But if you like something with a little more edge or depth, you might want to explore other options.