

Cover sheet

L4 Ways of Thinking (ADAD4018)

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Album

'thunder only happens when it's raining' you know the line you know the song and if you haven't guessed by now it's 'Dreams' by Fleetwood Mac off the album Rumours. That's what I wanna talk about today, Rumours the greatest rock album of all time, the album that whether you're 40, 21 or 16 you know a song or two. Through all the trials and tribulations they were going through at the time, birthed their best body of work and possibly one of the greatest albums of all time. I will be giving you some insight into this wonderful piece of art that I love, I will be giving you brief background information on the album. Then I will then be focusing on the album's impact on culture, whether it's held up over time and if it's still relevant today, I will then talk a bit about how the album has affected me. Along the way, I may give you some fun facts that maybe some people don't know and by the end of the essay I will have an overview of the effect and importance this album has had on not just me as a person, but modern music as a whole and many, many modern artists.

'Rumours' was released in 1977 and produced by Warner Records Inc. It was produced by Caillat and Dashut and all the members shared writing credits on the album. (Fleetwood Mac: Behind the Drama, Divorce and Drugs That Fuelled the Making of 'Rumours', n.d.) The producer Ken Caillat walked into the studio on January 28th, 1976 (Caillat and Stiefel, 2012) to begin setting up the studio for the first day of recording and the start of making the album. Over the next year, they would go into the studio and write and write and at the end of the tunnel came this masterpiece. Fuelled by mountains of money, cocaine and filled with elements of a theoretical romance with elaborate entanglements gives you one of rock's biggest soap operas the 'rumours saga' from all the band's chaos birthed their 11th studio album. It went on to be one of the greatest rock albums of all time selling over 45 million copies worldwide (Runtagh, n.d.). Rumours spent 31 non-consecutive weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 in 1977-78 – a record number of weeks atop the list for an album by a duo or group (Fleetwood Mac's 'Rumours' Returns to Billboard 200 Top 10 -- 42 Years Later, n.d.). The standout track of the album was 'Dreams' written by Stevie Nicks to which she also leads the vocals on the track, it charted at no.1 in the billboard on the top 100. (Fleetwood Mac | Billboard, n.d.) the songs just screams Fleetwood Mac, never have the band sounded more like themselves on a song than 'Dreams' and that's supported by Stevie Nicks on the mic. The band always sound more like themselves when Stevie

sung lead. The Album won a grammy at the 20th annual grammy awards (40 Years Later, Fleetwood Mac's 'Rumours' Is Still Influencing Modern Pop Music, 2021) and to top it off in 1998 they got inducted into the Rock & roll hall of fame. (Fleetwood Mac | Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, n.d.)

Fleetwood Mac has influenced so much Modern music and inspires so many musicians to this day. Florence and The Machine covered 'The Chain', the English singer citing the song as her favourite song of all time.

Through covers by Hole, Sharon Van Etten, Lorde, Tame Impala, New Pornographers and NOFX, the songs of Fleetwood Mac – particularly those from Rumours – continue to find their way, meaningfully, to new generations of music fans and music makers. (Rumours 2021) these artists mentioned range and run from the early 90s up to 2020, showing just how timeless rumours is so many people have stated that Fleetwood Mac as one of their biggest influences and how influential the band was on them the list just goes on and on. 43 years on it's still a record that's a huge part of the music culture the lyrics or lyrical style and messages have had a huge cultural impact and are one of the universal themes of the album, the influence they've had on pop music to date since 'Rumours' is huge. They gave you that classic pop feel with the song 'Don't Stop' with its positive energy and upbeat, uplifting lyrics. contrary to what the band was going through at the time. But it was the more 'darker' real lyrics off songs like gold dust women that had a more cultural impact, the lyrics on that song are heavy-hearted, they bleed emotion and realness Stevie is talking about drugs, bad relationships and trying to live on that song. This isn't often heard in catchy pop charting music like you wouldn't hear that say on a 90s Britney spears album, however take ANTI by Rihanna where she carries some of the same messages in her songs on that album and lady gaga with Joanne, she also talks about a deep message like police brutality on that song. now it would be superficial to say that Fleetwood Mac are the sole reason for messages like this being put in the lyrics of some modern pop records but however they definitely heavily contributed towards having that heart-fullness in lyrics. . But you don't just find that lyric style in pop either they influenced modern music as a whole it's on all genres now even rap got influenced by it, like Kanye West rapped about heartbreak and struggle on his album 808s and heartbreaks and rockstars sing about the downs of their fame and lifestyle commonly now not just the highs. These albums I've mentioned are also to a lot of people the artists best body of work demonstrating what 'Rumours' did so splendidly, that pop music is a lot better when it resonates with people and comes from a real place. If the impact they had on artists and

music through decades isn't enough to show how timeless, relevant and a part of Music culture they are how about the band themselves returning to the charts in 2019 After a 42-year wait, Fleetwood Mac's former Billboard 200 No. 1 album 'Rumours' returns to the top 10 this year, as the set jumps 13-7. The album, released in 1977, is basking in the glow of sales and streaming increases spurred on by publicity generated from a viral TikTok video set to the album's song "Dreams." (Fleetwood Mac's 'Rumours' Returns to Billboard 200 Top 10 -- 42 Years Later, n.d.) you don't get more current in modern culture than that.

the heart of Rumours is timeless and universal. The influence of it extends to today because while the world may change the heart stays the same. Rumours is a masterclass in pairing genuine emotion with the pleasure of pop as musical trends come and go it remains untainted, never ageing, and it's unlikely we're going to reach a point in our lives where we can't trace the influence of the record back to a modern artist. (40 Years Later, Fleetwood Mac's 'Rumours' Is Still Influencing Modern Pop Music, 2017)

The first time I heard a Fleetwood Mac song was when I was a young child my mother was playing the Rumours album in the living room I heard the songs 'Go Your Own Way' and 'Dreams' and I instantly was mesmerised by the music, Stevie Nicks voice on Dreams it made me feel different to anything else I had heard, it was soothing it felt like a warm piece of music the bass line was so fluid and moving it introduced me to a new sound and writing style towards music that I'd never heard. 'Go Your Own Way' back then was such a catchy tune and I would just sing along and imitate the guitars. Later on, hearing it when I was older made want to make and write music I've heard and carried that song with my throughout my life I've played it in numerous bands and it taught me how to perform as an ensemble and it's a perfect pop-rock song.

The album influenced me very greatly I like to say it's my poster for "real music" now that's a statement that's obviously subjective but what I mean by that is it's very talented well-written music from the excellent vocals to the clever guitar lines, to the big drum sounds that are so driving and the baselines that make you move. The recording of the album is so perfect that attention to detail in the recording of the album was so impressive. It's perfect classic songwriting and band playing to me there are no electronic instruments it's just pure grab your guitars and drum sticks and let's sit here until we make a record. So, to me, that's so pure and simple to this day the sheer songwriting talent of the album ripples throughout music and is channelled through all of

us musicians who are inspired by their music. Fleetwood Mac has just influenced me to get so good at songwriting I love production and tech but after seeing the way Fleetwood Mac wrote rumours and it just sounds so amazing and so moving, I have never been so inspired to just learn to make music and master the art of songwriting. I believe that the influence this album has had on me, it has many other people and will many more. You can make catchy tunes and clever hooks but true art and songwriting never dies and will never go of style and that's why the album is a modern classic and will always be one of the biggest parts of music culture and one of the greatest albums of all time.

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