

Magnum - Princess Alice And The Broken Arrow (2007)

Written by bluesever

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01. *When We Were Younger* (7:00) 02. *Eyes Wide Open* (5:54) 03. *Like Brothers We Stand* (5:35) 04. *Out Of The Shadows* (6:59) 05. *Dragons Are Real* (5:21) 06. *Inside Your Head* (6:01) 07. *Be Strong* (5:40) 08. *Thank You For The Day* (5:11) 09. *Your Lies* (4:35) 10. *Desperate Times* (5:23) 11. *You'll Never Sleep* (5:00) 12. *Like Brothers We Stand (Radio Edit)* (Bonus Track For Japan) (3:33) Tony Clarkin – guitar Bob Catley – vocals Al Barrow – bass guitar Mark Stanway – keyboards Jimmy Copley – drums + Jim Lea — violin (on "You'll Never Sleep")

In recent times it has become popular for classic bands to record follow-ups to their most well-regarded albums from their early days. Eloy's *Ocean 2*, Queensryche's *Operation Mindcrime 2*, Ian Anderson's *Thick As A Brick 2*, and Rick Wakeman's *Return To The Centre Of The Earth*, are just a few examples. Magnum's *Princess Alice And The Broken Arrow* is the follow-up to their classic *On A Storyteller's Night* album from 1985. The original album has never been my favourite Magnum album, and it is even disputable whether it really is the classic Magnum album, even if it certainly are among their most popular and significant ones. Other candidates are *Chase The Dragon* and *Wings Of Heaven*.

The style is indeed more similar here to that of *On A Storyteller's Night* than to anything they have done in the years between. Or before, for that matter. This is good news for those who liked the 1985 album, but it is not necessarily good news for Prog fans. Arguably, the most progressive Magnum albums were the pre-*On A Storyteller's Night* ones. And even some songs from their later albums were far more proggy than anything from *On A Storyteller's Night* (the excellent *Don't Wake The Lion* from *Wings Of Heaven* being the prime example).

I guess that some Magnum fans will regard the present album as a return to form, but for me it is not better than their previous two studio efforts *Brand New Morning* and *Breath Of Life*. But of

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course it is better than their weak 90's albums! The quality of the songs on Princess Alice And The Broken Arrow is not low at all and there are indeed some nice moments here, the nostalgic opener When We Were Younger being one. Still, I cannot give this album the same rating as the 1985 album, or some other of the band's better albums from the 80's and 70's. ---
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