

ENG 110

Evaluation Essay

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Audience: *Country Magazine*

### An Album That Deserves Your Ears

Kenny Chesney, a famous country music star, has many hit singles and number one debut albums. Chesney's album released in 2002, *No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems*, is the best Chesney album. *No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems* album is the fifth album released by this country artist. It is a country music listeners' dream. It is an album that appeals to many listeners of country music. It is an album that once you listen to it; you will want to listen to more of the work by this artist. It is Chesney's best album because it has meaningful lyrics, enough soothing songs in between upbeat songs, and is something you can dance to.

First of all, this album is the best because it has meaningful lyrics. Meaningful lyrics are the most important part of this album. One thing Chesney's music is known for is its meaningful lyrics, and Chesney's *No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems* shows this the best out of all his other albums. These lyrics appeal to a range of listeners' emotions. The lyrics bring out the emotions such as: happiness, regret, and love. The lyrics are important to listeners because they pertain to the listeners' lives. The lyrics tell of stories Chesney has been through or of stories he has witnessed. He tells these stories because they show listeners that they are not alone in the things that happen in their lives, and other people have experienced the same things. The album shows the listeners they are not alone in their self discovery, hardships, and heartache. For example in Chesney's song A lot of Things Different, the lyrics state, "I'd a done a lot of things different/ People say they wouldn't change a thing/ Even if they could/ Oh but I would" (18-21). This example of lyrics in the song show the story of how some people regret their past and others don't and some would like to change it and others wouldn't. Another example of a song where he uses meaningful lyrics is the song, On the Coast of Somewhere Beautiful. The lyrics say, "Don't know how I'm going find her/ All I know so far/ She's on the coast of somewhere beautiful/ Running with my heart" (11-14). This song is explaining the emotion of love in the lyrics. It is telling a story of how the person you love may leave you, but they will still have your heart. Some listeners may argue that this Chesney album contains similar

lyrics that are basically the same. It is true that some of the lyrics may be similar. But true country Chesney listeners know that the stories are different because the lyrics contain different information to the stories. These lyrics help listeners to be able to understand how to deal with the joy and problems they face in their lives. They give advice and again relate to the listeners' own personal life.

The next important part of this album is the soothing songs it provides enough of in between the upbeat songs. All of Chesney's albums provide soothing songs, but none which provide just the right amount like this album. This album contains 7 soothing songs which are evenly spread throughout the other 4 upbeat songs. The album has a pattern in which it starts with an upbeat song and then continues with two soothing songs, and then another upbeat song and so on until it completes the 12 track album. He uses many instruments such as violins and pianos in the soothing songs such as in the song, Never Going to Feel That Way Again. Then he uses guitars and banjos in his upbeat songs such as, No Shoes, No Shirt No Problems. This use of instruments makes listeners able to picture themselves in different types of places while listening to his music. For example, during the soothing songs, the listeners can picture themselves on a beach somewhere, sitting in a hammock enjoying the cool breeze in the hot, summer sun. Then during the upbeat songs, for example, the listeners can picture themselves in at a country ho-down. While Chesney's use of soothing music and upbeat music is good with his uses of instruments, it wouldn't be complete without the sound of his voice. He has a deep voice that he can range into very low and high pitches depending on how fast or slow a song is. For example a song in which he uses varied pitches in his voice is, Young. In this song he goes from a low pitch to a high pitch in a matter of a few lyrics. This type of change in his voice keeps the song interesting and intriguing. His voice and use of soothing songs can make listeners become peaceful and calm. This is the best Chesney album to be able to wind down to because of the use of various materials in his songs.

The last thing that makes this album the best out of the other Chesney albums is that you can dance to it. The more upbeat songs in this album are surely what get the listeners really moving, but you can dance to the soothing songs too. This is what makes this album the best because other Chesney albums don't have soothing songs in which you can dance to like this one. An example of an upbeat song on the album in which listeners can really dance to is, Big Star, it is fast paced, and used a guitar in the music to keep the beat going. A slow song that listeners can dance to is, The Good Stuff, this song has a

slower pace to it, but can still make a listener want to sway side to side. This album was made for the idea of being able to dance to the upbeat songs as well as the soothing songs make this album stick out above his other country albums.

With Chesney being from a country background he knows what his listeners are looking for in his albums. He has had plenty of experience in making enjoyable albums with this being his 5th album. This is why, Kenny Chesney's album *No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems* is the best Chesney country album. It is the best Chesney album for a Chesney listener to listen to. It is the best because it has meaningful lyrics, enough soothing songs in between upbeat songs, and you can dance to it. Whenever a country music listener hears this album they will surely know that it is the best because Chesney made it especially for them.