After seven concept albums, several comic books, graphic novels and regular novels that explored the rich universe and characters of The Amory Wars, the mastermind behind Coheed and Cambria finally decided to make an album inspired by his own life rather than that of his science fiction world. Frontman and mastermind Claudio Sanchez wrote *The Colour Before the Sun* during a transition period in his life, and amidst the identity crisis, change of scenery, and prospect of becoming a father for the first time, the main distinctive sound of Coheed and Cambria is understandably mostly lost. However this is not necessarily a bad thing, since this album manages to come off as genuine and almost intimate, thanks to the larger abundance of softer songs, as well as the “live” nature of the album's recording process. This album came together in two weeks and was recorded with the quartet performing together live, showing that Coheed and Cambria are not afraid to mix things up without fear of backlash from their fans.

As far as fans go, this rare insight into the world of Sanchez will come as an acceptable change of pace. It would be hard to complain when this band has delivered Amory Wars for the past 20 years, and the sky high expectations that come with each new release would not have been met if Sanchez were not allowed to use music to work through the changes in his life. Some of Coheed and Cambria's old progressive roots still exist in bits and pieces in this album: *Here To Mars, Eraser* and *The Audience* are the bands forays into progressive territory, and as a result some of the best songs on the album. However, Sanchez really decides to go into more alternative rock sounding songs for the majority of the album. Many fans already heard “You Got Spirit, Kid,” and thought to themselves, “…huh, this is still good, but not really Coheed and Cambria sounding.” And the majority of the album follows this new uplifting sound, which is not bad, but not quite Coheed and Cambria.

For me personally, I was not a huge fan of Island and You Got Spirit Kid, simply because I feel they deviated too much from the Coheed and Cambria sound in attempts to sound more pop-y. They are not bad songs at all, they are actually really good and an amazing way for the band to gather more fans who probably wouldn't approach a progressive rock band otherwise. However as a longtime Coheed and Cambria fan, I was always more of a fan of their more serious songs, so they do not resonate as well with me. The “slow” songs, of which there are far more here than Coheed usually allows themselves, each have their own compelling emotion behind them. *Colors, Ghost, and Peace To The Mountain* are odes from Sanchez with his acoustic guitar to his son Atlas, and are a moving insight into becoming a father. *Here to Mars* is a beautiful love song to his wife, which is not uncommon in the Coheed and Cambria universe, as well as *Young Love* an emotionally charged open letter to his son from both him and his wife.

For a man who literally puts his all into his work on The Amory Wars, it seems like Sanchez put even more than that into this album. The raw emotion in this album alone makes it worthy of standing its own ground against Coheed and Cambria's other (and better) releases. This is nowhere near Coheed and Cambria's best work, nor will this album not silence the deafening claming from fans demanding another Amory Wars related concept album in the next few years. Luckily for fans who expected The Amory Wars story to be further expanded, this album is great and an excellent holdover until Sanchez decides to continue expanding his sci-fi universe. Everyone should give this a listen.

**Sounds Like:**
3
Sounds Like:
Mars Volta
Sounds Like:
Porcupine Tree

**Recommended Tracks:**
2 *Eraser*: Surprisingly catchy and hard-rock
6 *Atlas*: Fatherhood summed up in a rock song, beautiful
9 *The Audience*: The most Coheed And Cambria sounding
song on this album, slightly progressive with a cool breakdown in the middle

Name: Felipe Moreno
Date Reviewed: 11/03/2015

- Alternative Rock [1]
- Metal [2]
- Pop rock [3]
- Prog-Pop-Metal [4]
- Progressive Rock [5]
- [6]