Noah Kahan read my mind

By RYLEY LEE
Associate Photography Editor

Folk singer Noah Kahan released his new single "The Great Divide" on Jan. 30, with the full album is dropping on April 24, and it's safe to say he never misses.

Not to be dramatic, but I've probably listened to the song 100 times already. Every time I put my headphones on, I queue it up, and if it doesn't hit the way I want, I'll replay it until it does.

Kahan's music got me through my junior year of high school. He was there for me when I thought no one else was. So naturally, his music has a special place in my heart. His lyrics have a way of connecting with me like no other. Kahan writes about his anxiety in his songs, which is something I have always struggled with and have never really known how to deal with.

Kahan almost always writes his music from personal experience and "The Great Divide" is no different. A lot of people think he's talking to an old friend or partner who he hopes ends up living an "ordinary" life. And while this might be true, I see my younger self in the song.

When he sings, "I hope that you're not losing sleep about what's next/ Or about your soul," I see me. Growing up with anxiety, I've always been stuck in my mind. I'm always thinking about something. If I could go back in time and tell myself one thing, it would be to stop worrying so much.

Of course, it's not that simple; that's not how anxiety works. But I lost so much of my childhood and teenage years worrying about things I had no control over.

Kahan also sings, "And I'm finally aware of how shitty and unfair it was to stare ahead like everything was fine." I resonate with that because I do the same thing. Whether it's with other people or myself, I pretend everything is fine when it isn't. I push my emotions down until they come flooding back up as anger at the people who love me.

Even the album cover, a picture of kids running in a backyard, reminds me of my childhood. I think Kahan did this on purpose. Yes, he might be talking to an old friend, but I don't think that's what the song is actually about. It's about growing up with anxiety, not having a "normal" childhood.

Kahan truly wants the best for himself. Maybe not even the best, he wants normalcy. He wants to see things the way people whose minds aren't plagued by anxiety see things. He wants to be able to go about his day without worrying what might happen next.



ILLUSTRATION BY LILIANA MIRABELLA

Kahan's lyrics might not mean so much to someone who doesn't relate to them. But for me, they're a way of being seen. Having someone, even if it's someone who doesn't know I exist, that I can relate to is so important. Music has the power to connect people and make them feel things that they didn't think they could feel.

Every time Kahan announces a new song, I know it's going to be great, and that I'm going to be able to relate to it. From "Busybead" to "No Complaints," and now "The Great Divide," I see myself in Kahan's lyrics.

Whenever I'm going through a big change or am struggling mentally, I know I can turn to Kahan's music to make me feel not only better, but understood. Now, in my second semester of college, one of the biggest changes of my life to date, Kahan is coming out with a new album I know I'll be able to relate to.

The unexpected Wonderman and Barnaby

A review of Marvel's 'Wonderman'

By LILLIAN CURTIN
Opinion Editor

To this day, "Iron Man 3" has one of the funniest plot twists ever to happen. That was until the newest plot twist: Trevor Slattery (Ben Kingsley) in 2026.

He makes his comeback in Marvel's newest TV show, "Wonderman."

Let me take you back about 13 years ago, when the face of "the Mandarin," a terrorist, was actually just an alcoholic and struggling actor named Trevor Slattery.

In the third Iron Man movie, Slattery was hired to be the "Mandarin" by Aldrich Killian (Guy Pearce).

Trevor was desperate for a role, and was taking the fall for Killian. Taking the fall for evil.

Over a decade later, we've come full circle and Slattery is taking the blame for good.

The show "Wonderman," starts with Simon Williams (Yahya Abdul-Mateen II) as a child, with his father in the theatre watching the original "Wonderman" movie — a movie about a superhero and his best friend Barnaby.

In the Marvel universe, obviously, superheroes are the norm in reality. But in the show, Wonderman is a fictional superhero.

The story follows Simon's struggling as an actor. It's revealed that he has powers, but he keeps it a secret from nearly everyone he knows to continue acting.

Honestly, I was worried I was going to be a little bored when it first started. I should've kept my mouth shut because this show was the definition of basically all of my worlds colliding, with pull after pull.

I was already shocked less than 10 minutes in when not only was there an "American Horror Story" mention, but Ashley Greene, aka Alice Cullen from the "Twilight" Saga, was there. I audibly went "What the hell?"

I thought Greene's appearance was just a fun little cameo. I had no clue what I was in for.

In episode three, Simon comments on his fear of becoming DeMarr "Doorman" Davis (Byron Bowers).

Then, in the fourth episode, we get a flashback to what he was talking about. We find out exactly why Simon can't reveal his powers.

I wasn't expecting much of it, but then Josh Gad shows up, and I think "oh, who's he playing?' Nope. He's playing himself. He goes to a club where David is the David, then proceeds to DJ and perform a mix of "In Summer" from "Frozen."



ILLUSTRATION BY LILIANA MIRABELLA

I had to rewind to make sure I was seeing this correctly.

Shortly after Davis gets his powers by touching a toxic substance and becoming a mutant, he saves Gad and others from a club fire. How? Gad passes through David's body, and so does everyone else.

Gad offers David a job, and David becomes a celebrity after going viral for his catchphrase.

Then, one day, during a job, Gad passes through David's stomach and never comes back out. And that's the end of him. Um what? I knew there was going to be some crazy backstory as to why Simon couldn't go public with his powers as an actor, but I didn't think it would be friggin Olaf going missing in a guy's stomach.

Come to find out, that incident was why superheroes can't act. It's apparently an insurance liability.

Throughout the show, Trevor helps Simon overcome his issues and anxieties.

Well, like I said, Trevor is technically an ex-terrorist. He was broken out of Seagate Prison, and now, he's been snatched by Damage Control. They give him a deal: help spy on Simon, and he won't go back to prison.

However, along the way, we see Simon and Trevor become close friends. Trevor may have been acting the role of Simon's friend at the beginning, but it becomes real.

I mentioned before that the beginning of the show opened with Simon seeing "Wonderman" with his father. In that version, Barnaby would never betray Wonderman.

Fast forward, when Simon has grown up, he and Trevor are given the opportunity to audition for the remake.

In this version, though, Barnaby, Wonderman's only friend betrays him. The story is extremely parallel to the betrayal of Trevor to Simon.

I would be lying if I said I didn't cry throughout multiple parts of this show. One of the parts being Simon's mother, Martha (Shola Adewusi) telling Trevor and Simon they never had any friends. We can see his struggle to fit in throughout the show, but when he finally has a friend, he betrays him. It's heartbreaking.

What was unique about this show is that it put Simon as a person before a hero. Most of "Wonderman" was simply about his struggles, and it felt like the powers aspect was a side plot. Phenomenal story telling all around.

I also love when I can see a show's roots to the comics. From Simon's eyes, to the costume, I believe it did.

The bar is high for Marvel shows, with precedents like "Wandavision," "Loki" or even nicher ones like, my personal favorite, "Cloak and Dagger."

Marvel has outdone itself yet again.

There's no one a second season would ever top that picture. Impossible. But maybe it's worth thinking about how they could do it.