

REQUIRED AUDIO

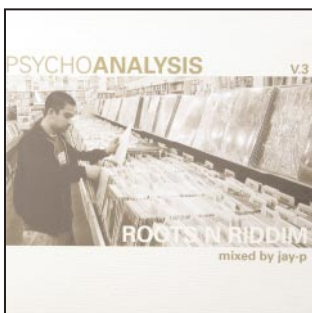
HEARD BEFORE THE HERD

TEXT BY JOEL MARASIGAN

Psychoanalysis Vol. 3: Roots N Riddim

DJ Jay-P

Watch out now! Come down selector! This one is for the folks out there who want to hear the best of dancehall but don't want to hit up the reggae clubs for fear of getting fronted



by a couple bumbaclots for faking the Rude Boy style. The best part about this album is you don't have to sit through three minutes of some crazy reggae cut you don't really know anyway—except for the chorus you've heard sampled in some hip hop song. Jay-P gets straight to the point by scrunching 50 of the best choruses into one CD so you can smoke your medical ganja and jerk chicken.

Project M.A.R.S.

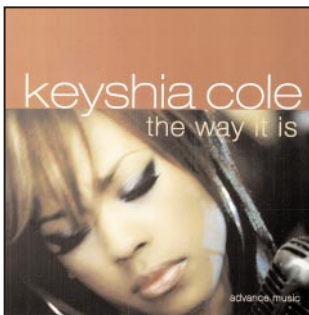
Tek and NuBrain vibe on the first of many Hi-Fantasy releases. As you'll hear they are coming in tainted with influences from the roots of Los Angeles' underground (think Aceyalone and Freestyle Fellowship). The cuts that stand out are the slow



and easy "Ice Cream" and "Ghetto." Both cuts bend away from the rest of the album and lean toward a digital underground type of funk. Everything happens in cycles, and maybe this duo is ahead of its time, or maybe they are just local—we haven't figured it out, yet. All we know is we can't get those two cuts out of our heads.

The Way It Is Keyshia Cole

Cole did most of this album a couple years ago when she moved from Oakland, Calif., to Los Angeles after a breakup. She delivers emotions easily, as she is one of the few artists out there who can actually sing. Her



voice gives you the same goose bumps you got when you heard Mary J.'s first album. *The Way It Is* enlists the all-star talents of Eve, Jadakiss, Shyne and Kanye West, almost insuring radio play and high ranking. Ladies, get this CD to feel empowered. It's a great breakup/getting-over album. Guys, don't lose a girl as hot as Cole. —www.keyshiacole.com

Itstrumental Prince Paul

Through his musical storytelling, producer Prince Paul (Handsome Boy Modeling School, Gravediggaz, De La Soul, Stetsasonic) was the driving force of what is today's alternative hip hop. Paul is back with his first



true instrumental and since its release has been nodded as a future classic. The story starts off and follows New York's Mental Victims Unit (MVU), a special crime unit specializing in nabbing folks just like Paul. The prince said he didn't want to make a boring instrumental album so he flipped a hip hop skitstrumental. Set aside 50 minutes to watch this painter.

—www.femalefun.com