

you have to hear the second verse there which is purely emblematic of what I mean when I say that Khari Kill excels at being free in the vibes and being able to adapt and do whatever he likes. That stretch is about as riveting as I've heard in this young year and should it be December and anything has changed there, I'll be damn shocked.



Khari Kill

Overall, I think that Khari Kill is the type of artist of whom I can give a very rare all-encompassing recommendation. If you are the slightest interested in Reggae music, I think that there is some significant chance that you'll be able to enjoy at least *some* aspect of this album. I also want to stress something else that I've been speaking of a lot lately because he has it as well: Kill can REALLY put some emotion into his work and while I used the word "passionate" before, both are well appropriate for him. And due to that attribute, while we may not always look toward Roots Reggae music as being exciting, "Born To Free" is almost thrilling at times - as much as any purely Dancehall album that I can remember in recent times - in its own way. That makes it a very accessible project to my ears and one which is going to entertain and educate a wide variety of people. I'm one of them and so are you. Hopefully we don't have to wait another six years for a follow-up, but with "**Born To Rule**", Khari Kill continues to make his a name I'm always happy see. Big album.

Rated: 4.25/5

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[Review #414](#)

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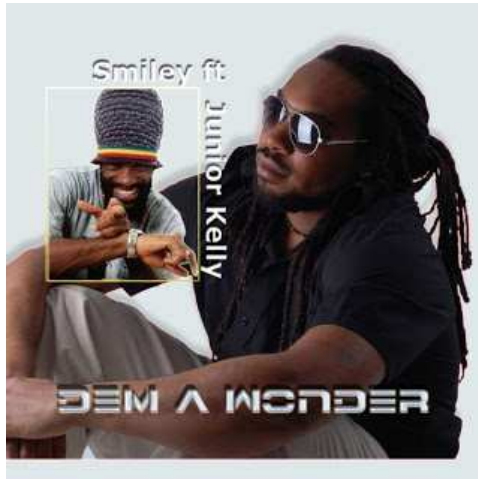
'... To Those Who Wait': A review of "Traffic Light" by Smiley



The wait is over. To be patient as a fan of music, or really as a fan of anything, is a bit of a contradiction in my opinion. Fans, by definition, are not patient creatures. They want what they want when they want it where they want it and any excuse what they... we, cannot have what we want when we want it, even if makes absolutely perfect sense, is beyond our collective comprehension and always will be. There is currently a Reggae fan on Jupiter who cannot, at all, grasp exactly why his favourite act (he's probably a Midnite fan) cannot tour his planet at least *once* during his lifetime - who cares about that whole lack of oxygen thing? Not his problem. We're an impatient lot and, actually, it's just another example of how passionate

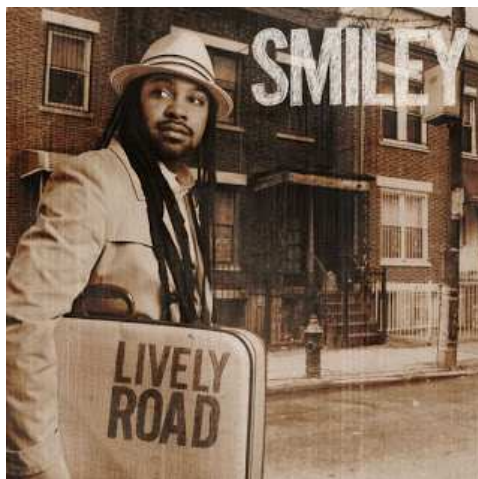
music fans can be which, ultimately, is a great thing. Personally, I think that I'm a bit more on the patient side, which is likely because I listen to way too much music (if that is actually possible) (and it isn't), but I've noticed that being patient can turn out really well at times. In terms of albums, 2012 would have been a very good demonstration of that as the year would FINALLY deliver what was probably Reggae's most anticipated debut album in a really long time, "*Crying For The Nation*", by

burgeoning superstar, I-Octane. Because he has had so much success over the past few years, Octane's case is different (not saying he hasn't had his struggles, but everyone KNEW I-Octane was going to be what he became long before he became it), but I also look back at last year and find a case very similar to the one with which we deal today. That came in the form of "A New Day" from Jah Marnyah, my own personal selection as the year's best debut album. Like our artist today, Marnyah had been someone who was a full on veteran and had experienced so much of the successes and the tribulations that making Reggae music for a living offered before he delivered his first project - and that isn't all they had in common. Like Marnyah, I had been a fan from virtually the first listen that I had of an up and coming, incredibly talented artist from out of Aruba who went by the name of **Smiley**. I wasn't the only one either, Smiley didn't waste much time in attracting a great deal of attention and there was a time, three or four years ago, when he was easily one of the most paid-attention to newcomers on the scene and seemingly well on his way to stardom... and he still is.



'Dem A Wonder' featuring Junior Kelly digital single [2009]

So what was so interesting about Smiley? The first time I recall tuning into his music was on an EXCELLENT single called 'Dem A Wonder' which featured Junior Kelly and was just a wonderful song, in retrospect, maybe even one of the finest I've heard from since the turn of the century. It was a great song! Further singles would show Smiley to be someone who just really had such a pleasing style, It was one which was, inherently, so nice to listen to and very easy to enjoy, but at the same time Smiley didn't sacrifice substance for his flare and his music, ultimately, was something which was probably equally pleasing to new and more educated fans of Reggae music. In 2010, he would deliver a fine six track EP, "Lively Road" (the best Reggae EP of that year in my opinion) and really just continue to impress. Last year he didn't seem to be as active as far as releasing singles, but apparently there was a reason for that.



"Lively Road" EP [2010]

He was about to end the wait. Late last year arrived an album by the name of "More Love" from someone named Smiley which we surely mentioned somewhere along the way. I saw it, by name, and got extremely excited, but that Smiley (from out of Gwada, also very talented and you should