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Things Falling Apart Nine Inch Nails CD Courtesy of Nothing Records

Nine Inch Nails' last album, The Fragile, was a disappointment; this follow-up album, composed of remixes of songs from The Fragile, adds insult to injury.

The first song, "Slipping Away," is a decent remix, remaining true to the original with more minimal electronic programming. The only other exciting songs on the CD are "The Great Collapse" and the first remix of "Starf-kers Inc."

The Great Collapse" is a decent remix, but it is purely instrumental, and it is too simple to keep the listener interested beyond the opening riff. "Starf-kers" is a decent song, incorporating scarce vocal samples and phrases into the breakdowns. It also remains close enough to the original to be recognizable and exciting. The new manipulation of the distorted guitar riff, the best part of the original, makes the remix worth listening to.

Unfortunately, the second remix of "Starf-

kers" shows what could have been possible had the two remixes been combined. This song contains more of the original vocals and a harder drum section, but it rambles and gets too ethereal in its breaks. Still, it is worth a listen just for comparison to the original and the two other remixes on the album.

Where is Everybody" is a horrible song slow, disjointed samples and vocoding (electronic manipulation of vocal samples) make it difficult to understand what effect the producer was going for. "Metal" and "10 Miles High" have the same problems.

Considering Trent Reznor's reputation for electronically tweaking his songs, one would expect these remixes to eclipse the originals in quality. Unfortunately, Reznor does not live up to that reputation. However, it should be mentioned that he did not do all of the remixes.

Overall, the album has a few good songs, but no great ones and more than a few bad songs. Sadly, the Broken days are gone. (Grade: C+)



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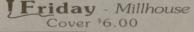
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