



## CHAPTER WHATEVER

### *A Means to an End*

Every story needs an ending at some point, but this one needs one that can be used at any given time. The story isn't over until the fat lady says so and until I reach the end of this "game of life", it's still game on.

Somehow, to come up with an end, I need to go right back to the beginning. Not the beginning of this story, but back to when I was a pre-pubescent 9 year old (maybe even younger), dreaming of being a "pop star" like...whoever I was idolising at the time.

Reading a book by Bill Drummond ("17"), I read about how he used to create fantasy bands before he could even possibly make that happen. I used to do the same. Now, after reading what he wrote, I don't feel quite so embarrassed about it, haha. It's just came to me as I'm writing. My first fantasy band at aged 9 was called "Freak Out", featuring myself and my friend Paul Green (possibly brothers Tony and Brian Carpenter too). We'd write silly songs (without instruments) and sing them into a cassette recorder. I can even remember how the very first tune went. It was called "Baby What Ya Doing Tonight". In the secret world inside my head, we were pop stars! I'd draw imaginary record sleeves, draw pictures of us playing live with imaginary star shaped guitars, as if it was real.

In time I'd learn to play instruments (piano, then guitar), but still I'd live out this fantasy world inside my head. The sleeves, pictures, interviews, reviews, etc. I was a star...in my head. We did have a band when I was 13 (The Sycos), with instruments and everything...a proper band of sorts, but in my fantasy world we were stars already. Even when we split, I wrote it all out like a fantasy newspaper story.



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This went on way longer than it really should have. I carried on this imaginary world until I was probably 18, drawing it all out. By then, I had my own imaginary record label, with it's own imaginary roster of bands. It all stopped when I actually started playing in a real-gig playing-band, that actually was in the papers, making records, touring and on TV.

Why tell you all this?

Well in some ways I went back to it. Not wholeheartedly. No imaginary pop stardom etc, but Clinker started out of that same sense of fun and I was bandless. There's our albums, from "Clinker Schminker" to wherever it is now. It's a fantasy world that I can live and breathe in. It's what I always dreamt of doing. Except now, in this modern day, I can live out my fantasies in the real world. Make albums, EPs...whatever. Put them out. Play live. Get reviews, etc. It's my cycle of life. It's one big long game, that I've been playing since I was 9 years old. I guess writing this "history" is just another part of that game.

Welcome to my fantasy world...played out for real.