

REVIEWS FOR TRUE IS BEAUTIFUL



RAVEIS KOLE-- TRUE IS BEAUTIFUL 25 JULY 2021

By Lee Zimmerman

Laurie Raveis and Dennis Kole, better known as Raveis Kole, share a sound that reflects a variety of styles, all sumptuous, seductive and flush with immense appeal. An Americana ambiance meshes with Middle Eastern mystery to create a gypsy like sway, gently enhanced by the duo's seamless harmonies, percussive guitar rhythms, and imaginative tunings. Mostly though, it's the couple's gently

engaging melodic approach that draws the listener in, offering a soothing respite in a troubled and turbulent time when solace is needed most.

The duo's new single, "True Is Beautiful," offers a testament to the fact that the ultimate good can be found simply by appreciating the beauty found in the natural world while also understanding that nature can provide answers if one simply takes the time to listen. The narrative begins with a snake escaping from a garden it calls home. The arrangements reflect a decided uncertainty as the snake makes its way towards new environs, before the music shifts to an easy, assured rhythm and a decidedly calming caress. Raveis' soaring vocal takes the song to new heights, embedding the title "True Is Beautiful" as a kind of mantra that translates to a greater reality, a mantra that suggests individuality and the need to simply be ourselves is far more important than simply going along with what society feeds us. Ultimately, there's no need to conform if we stay faithful to our instincts and expertise.

Indeed, it's Raveis Kole's tangled tapestries and instrumental allure that makes the song's appeal so apparent, offering a bold way forward even when the scenario suggests otherwise. The cadence overcomes the caution to reach a triumphant conclusion.

Or, as the lyric suggests, "... caged bird cries ..." and how susceptible we all are to the "... tasty live bait, eat this stuff, more is not enough..."

As enlightening as it is inviting, "True Is Beautiful" ought to further expand the pair's fan following, many of whom have witnessed them in live performances throughout the U.S., Canada and the U.K. Add to that their top chart placement, critical kudos, ongoing international airplay and a triple nomination for Hollywood Music in Media Award, and it's easy to understand how Raveis Kole's natural inclination is to inspire with desire.

Lee Zimmerman - Lee Zimmerman has been an accomplished freelance music writer, reviewer, critic and blogger for the past twenty years. His work has appeared in No Depression, Country Standard Time, CBS Watch Magazine, Goldmine, Blurt, Country Standard Time, Bluegrass Situation, American Songwriter, New Times, Billboard, Keyboard Magazine, The Daily Ripple and Performing Songwriter

<https://www.storiesbeyondthemusic.com/author-bio.html>

Review Link On The Daily Ripple:

<https://thedailyripple.org/index.php/component/content/article/118-music-reviewer-leez/823851-music-review-true-is-beautiful-by-raveis-kole-lz>

RAVEIS KOLE - TRUE IS BEAUTIFUL 4 AUGUST 2021

BY DAN MACINTOSH

The title of Raveis Kole's single, "True is Beautiful," is more than a tad philosophical. Usually, whenever we consider what is beautiful, we imagine something we can see

with our eyes. Nevertheless, Raveis Kole's lyrical statement is just as true as a pretty viewpoint. Knowing the truth, as we're told, has been said to set us free. "True is Beautiful" is a little out of the ordinary, it's true, but it's nevertheless a welcome reminder.

Raveis Kole (Laurie Raveis and Dennis Kole) are a singer-songwriter duo, and "True is Beautiful" leans closely to the folk side of the musical spectrum. Lyrically, Raveis Kole begins its meditation on the real, rather unusually. Rather than point out truth examples, the pair instead remind us about how "There's a snake that escaped from the garden." This Biblical snake represented Satan, who has been called the father of lies. This example is meant to remind the listener that lying has been going on for a long time – since the beginning of time if you believe the Biblical account. Whereas truth is beautiful, lies are ugly. Maybe you think snakes are cool looking, but many of us consider these cold-blooded creatures as one of God's ugliest creations.

The minor key melody driving the song's verses, is followed by a major key, positive chorus. Raveis, who sings lead on the track, announces how she's going to get her hands dirty and plant something beautiful. Those dishonest roots need to be pulled out and replaced by better, more honest ones. This chorus ends with the repeated line, "True is beautiful." Much can be said about Raveis Kole's lyrical statement here. Yes, in a general sense, truth is far better than lies. However, an environmental message can also be drawn from these words. Nature is beautiful, when it's not messed with or manipulated, the way the snake initially used it to his advantage. Nature is – for the most part – good and honest, and it's the true beauty in the world. On the one hand, there is a lyrical move to get back to nature. Furthermore, there is also a desire to get nature back to its beautiful, natural state.

Sonically, this track is by no means simplistic, acoustic guitar folk. Its bass part is elastic and dynamic, while the electric guitars sound a little progressive in places. Also, later in the track, Raveis references a different literary instance, singing about Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum. After all, we all learn about the dangers of telling lies as children. Even so, many children grow up to be liars, never fully recognizing truth's beauty.

There is much talk about our culture's current loss of truth. Go no further than the prevalence of fake news, to get a taste of all that. Although the Bible commands us to not lie, you don't need to be a Biblical scholar to realize how damaging lying can be. Truth, however, where we get all the facts out on the table, may not always feel good, but this act is entirely necessary if we want a fair and just society. That conniving snake is still among us, in the form of corrupt politicians, bad businesspeople and fibbers from all walks of life. Honesty, after all, is always the best policy.

-Dan MacIntosh - 0

Dan MacIntosh - Dan MacIntosh has been a professional music journalist for 30 years and his work has regularly appeared in many local and national publications, including Inland Empire Weekly, CCM, CMJ, Paste, Mean Street, Chord, HM, Christian Retailing, Amplifier, Inspirational Giftware, Stereo Subversion, Indie-Music, Soul-Audio, The Daily Ripple, Roughstock.com, Country Standard Time and Spin.com.

Review link: <https://thedailyripple.org/index.php/component/content/article/126-music-reviewer-danmac/828141-music-review-true-is-beautiful-by-raveis-kole-dmac>

RAVEIS KOLE- TRUE IS BEAUTIFUL 29 JULY 2021

By John B. Moore

True to their previous efforts, the latest single from Raveis Kole, “True Is Beautiful,” is a wildly eclectic take on folk and Americana with a heavy emphasis on solid, smart lyrics. Digging in on classic metaphors, Laurie Raveis sings earnestly about a snake sneaking out of the garden and spitting out rotten apple seeds.

In one of the most compelling lyrics, she sings, “Flick fork tongue/pulls back your hair, whispers sweetly in your ear/Eat the young.” With a soulfully deep voice that evokes Carly Simon and Stevie Nicks at times, she sings of planting something beautiful instead, based on truth. The timeless message being that truth is beautiful. The vocals are backed by a brilliant mix of synth and piano, electric and acoustic guitar, accompanied by steady bass and drums. The music builds and crashes and builds back up again throughout, thanks to Raveis’s musical partner Dennis Kole and skilled session players who have worked with everyone from Brandi Carlile to Tori Amos and Tracy Chapman.

Since first coming together nearly a decade ago, Raveis Kole have released two albums and several singles. “True is Beautiful” is a product of the global pandemic with the duo recording the demo at home before finishing it up in studios in Nashville and Los Angeles a few months ago.

Review link:

<https://thedailyripple.org/index.php/component/content/article/123-music-reviewer-johnm/825708-music-review-true-is-beautiful-by-raveis-kole-jm>

John B. Moore has been covering the seemingly disparate, but surprisingly complimentary genres of Americana and punk rock for the past 20 years.

Blurt/New Noise Magazine/InSite Atlanta/NeuFutur Magazine/The Daily Ripple

RAVEIS KOLE- TRUE IS BEAUTIFUL 18 AUGUST 2021

by Grant Britt
18 August 2021

As Raveis Kole, Bellingham Washington duo Laurie Raveis on lead vocals with partner Dennis Kole on guitar and harmony vocals conjure up lush, dreamy folk

rock embedded with homespun philosophies on managing life, love and world domination.

Appointing herself as the head groundskeeper in the Garden of Eden on the band's latest single, "True Is Beautiful," Raveis rejects the serpent's suggestions and plants her own crops with seeds of truth. The presentation is very Fleetwood Mac-y, with Dennis Kole's guitar contributions as eclectic as Lindsey Buckingham's flights of fancy, Raveis channeling Stevie Nicks' swirly vocal emanations.

Former attorney Kole and Emerson College Marketing Professor Raveis forsook their previous careers for a meandering global musical stroll that produced two volumes of the Electric Blue Dandelion projects beginning in 2016, incorporating jazz, folk, reggae and rock with an eclectic array of world-class instruments and performers.

This offering from the couple is more Americana/pop oriented, a sinuous stroll as swirly as Nicks' scarves propped up by Matthew Burgess' stiff percussive backbone and Boyd LeFan's fluid bassline seasoned with John Philip Shenale's vintage synths.

Even though the duo's sound easily fills out larger concert venues, Raveis Kole perfected their output in more intimate settings, working up close and personal in house concerts, eyeball to eyeball with their audience to gauge the impact of their music. You can feel that intensity here pulling you into the Garden to swing a shovel and help out with the planting.

It's powerful stuff, testimony to what a truth-seeking gardener can accomplish if you're not afraid to get your hands dirty.

Grant Britt (Gbritt1@triad.rr.com) has been writing about music since the earth cooled a while back. A staff writer for *No Depression*, his work also appears in *BluesMusic Mag* and the *Greensboro News and Record*.

Review Link: <https://thedailyripple.org/index.php/component/content/article/133-music-reviewer-grantb/834834-music-review-true-is-beautiful-by-raveis-kole-gb>