

Metal Only

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Band: Horrendous (USA)
Genre: Death Metal
Label: Dark Descent Records
Albumtitle: Ecdysis
Duration: 42:43
Releasedate: 14.10.2014



There exist albums that seem to be independent of time. Some bands go so far as to traipse round flea markets to find old guitar amps to get the sound of that time. I don't know if Horrendous is such a band. Whether it is intentional or not, I feel back 25 years ago to Sweden at the end of the 80s and beginning of the 90s as some bands did create a style that sends fans worldwide into rapture under the Label Swedish Death Metal.

Horrendous fits perfectly into this time. If someone had auditioned this album and argued that this had been a demo of a unknow Swedish Band of 1988, I would have believed it. Only the production made me wonder because it is a good deal better than a demo. Oh, by the way, the albumtitle "Ecdysis" means skinning and in the first moment it made me perplex but the title is a perfect match after a short think. Exactly like Death Metal the time casts one's skin and has grown in different directions, the album skins also many times.

Well, on the one hand there are the classical Swedish Death Metal punches as one knows it from earlier times of Dismember, Entombed, Unleashed (and all others that creep out of the Carnage/Nihilist primordial soup). But on the other hand there is a proper portion of Thrash Metal on the album. The bands in Sweden have been grown up with Slayer in those times. As third ingredients there are slowly dark parts that remind me off Tiama (after name change in 1989) or Eternal Darkness. But the most important is that all three ingredients act perfectly together and the aim to write a really good song is in the foreground at each point in time. There are no never-ending Doom Parts where you think: "When will it be over?" until you realize that this is the entire song. Also the Thrash Metal parts don't exist to let the guitar player be a guitar solo hero. Two instrumental complete the versatile approach of the trio. Another bonus point are the vocals who reminds me off a mixture of Marc Grewe and Martin van Drunen. The album is refined by a awesome cover created by Brian Smith.

Conclusion:

It is a unholy mixture of Swedish Death Metal thrashing and high-toned Thrash Metal with slowly dark Doom Parts. The Band names as influence i.a. Sarcasm, Internal Decay, Nirvana 2002, Gorement and Crematory (S). And anyone who gets shiny eyes – Buy it!

Rating 8/10

Recommendations: The Stranger, Resonator, Pavor Nocturnus

Weblink: <https://www.facebook.com/HorrendousDeathMetal/>

Lineup:

Jamie Knox - Drums
Matt Knox - Vocals, Guitar
Damian Herring - Vocals, Guitar

Tracklist:

01. The Stranger
02. Weeping Relic
03. Heaven's Receipt
04. Resonator
05. The Vermillion
06. Nepenthe
07. Monarch
08. When the Walls Fell
09. Pavor Nocturnus
10. Titan

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