

Kettle Cadaver: Among the Damned: DVD

Do you want to see some dude hammer nails through his penis, slice up his flesh, and jack up his body in other exciting ways? Then I recommend that you skip this music video collection and move straight to *Sick: The Life & Death of Bob Flanagan, Supermasochist*. Why? Because Mr. Flanagan had a philosophy. Hurting himself was his way of keeping control over a body that was fighting hard to see him lose control, a body with cystic fibrosis. He made self-mutilation into something very compelling. On the other hand, if you just want

Tad: Busted Circuits and Ringing Ears: DVD

Of all the Seattle bands to emerge in the late eighties, Tad were by far the most sonically heavy of the crowd. No other band could deliver the way they did. Many attest to that in this documentary. With a tax return in 1986, Tad bought a guitar, booked time at Reciprocal Studios with Jack Endino, and playing all the instruments himself, recorded what would become his first record on Sub Pop. Tad, the band, existed during a pivotal time in music, and this documentary portrays that well, from how Seattle was, to what it became. From how bands just made music with no intent for commercial

From how bands just made music with no intent for commercial success—much less any idea of how to turn it into a day job—to eventually doing just that.

to see hypodermic needles stuck into scrotums and you would rather pass on philosophy in favor of some pedestrian heavy metal, you might want to pick up this DVD by Kettle Cadaver instead. The self-induced bleeding here is accompanied by some fun scenes of the dudes in the band playing around with animal carcasses, as well as lots of stuff being smashed. It's shock for the sake of shock and it's been done before. Danzig and NIN both have great music videos with scenes of penis torture. They also have a key feature that Kettle Cadaver lacks: good music. Still, amidst all the contrived shock videos, Kettle Cadaver manage to succeed despite themselves, if only for one three minute segment. "The Crack of Dawn" is one of the most impressive Mad Max tributes I've every seen. The band drops the gore schtick for a moment and gets post-apocalyptic. The care put into the battle scenes, the dusty car chases, and even the song blow everything else on this disc away. For a brief period of time, we see that this band actually does have some heart. Too bad they spend the rest of their time hiding it under a cover of gore. —MP Johnson (Horror Rock)

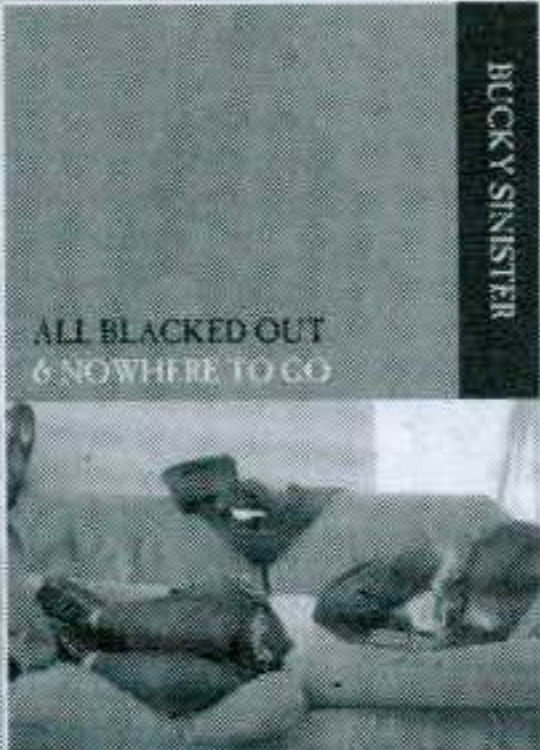

success—much less any idea of how to turn it into a day job—to eventually doing just that. There are also the stories behind each of the records, the controversies over cover art, and getting screwed by the major at the end.

From the inside out, just about everything you would ever want to know about Tad is covered here: interview footage from present day mixed with live footage, a TV commercial (!?) for the first record, and commentary from friends and fellow musicians. You definitely get a feel of the times and how unique it all was. Starts off feeling fresh and new, putting out records, touring Europe in the late eighties with Nirvana, building a large following and developing an image, attracting the interest of larger labels, to eventually feeling run through and burnt out over the legal hassles and inner band turmoil. It's been some time since Tad were around, but the music still holds up well, and has influenced a few bands since then. But still, none were/are as heavy as Tad. There's only one. A bonus feature on this disc are five music videos. —M.Avrq (MVD Visual, PO Box 280, Oaks, PA 19456, www.mvdvisual.com)

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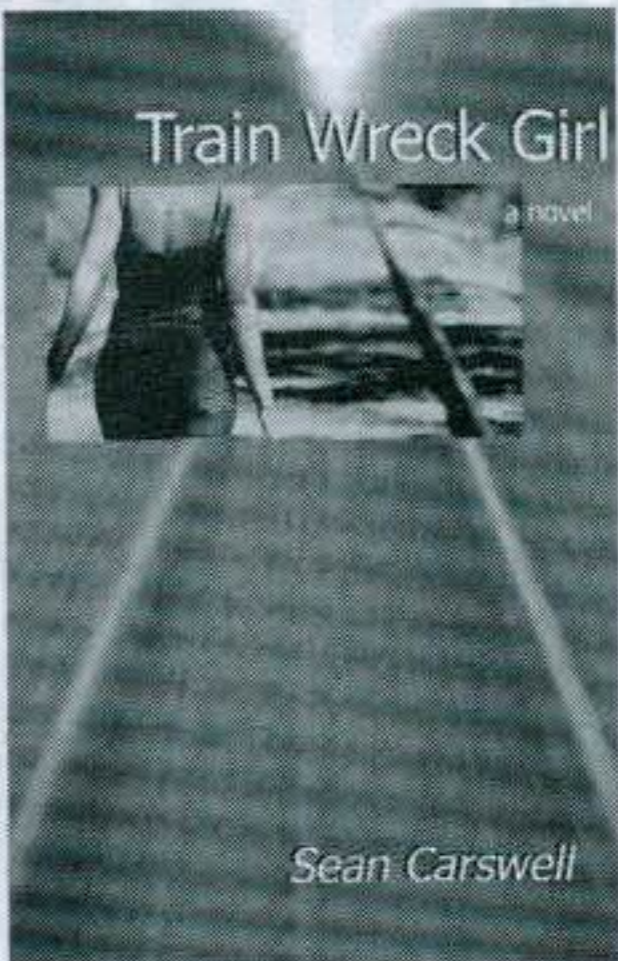
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