

The Impaler Speaks

From Nowhere - Agony



From Nowhere – Agony (Mechanix/MVD Audio)

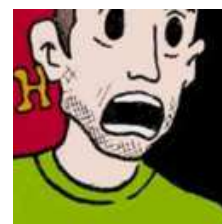
I'm not going to pull any punches or allow myself to wander off into any long-winded introductions here. From Nowhere is from Spain. From Nowhere are a technical death metal band. From Nowhere are bloody brilliant musicians. From Nowhere have made an album in 'Agony' that validates my undying love of that wonderful yet often misunderstood thing called heavy metal. So, technical death metal, then... like Cynic, perhaps, or Death? Yes, but – for me at least – better. There are also European and Canadian influences afoot here, I'd say, because I am reminded in some places of two bands that have given me countless hours of musical enjoyment over the years: Soilwork (from Sweden) and Cryptopsy (from Montreal). The most engaging aspects of 'Agony' for me are wrapped up in the way this was recorded and mixed. The drums sound live and don't get bogged down in the 100-MPH-all-the-time construct that limits many death metal acts to a small and exclusive audience. The vocals are death-y but not *too* death-y, if that makes sense, and they sit well in the mix – not too high, not too low. It's the guitars that rule the day here. The riffs are tight and compelling, the tone is fantastic, and the solos – oh, the solos! It's like Dimebag Darrell and Ron Jarzombek teamed up to put on a clinic about how to play with passion, which is key. Passion. There is nothing cold, sterile, or heartless about this record. It's all heart, fire, energy. Brilliant. Even the classically-tinged solos that clearly owe a debt to early shredder-hero recordings by Yngwie Malmsteen and Tony MacAlpine are alive and full of energy at every turn. With eight originals – including some killer instrumental tracks – and two stunningly executed covers (Death's 'Sacred Serenity' and Cancer's 'Hung, Drawn, And Quartered') making up over 40 minutes of music, 'Agony' is a fully satisfying and, dare I say, essential album for all fans of metal, irrespective of subgenres. **The Impaler** @impalerspeaks

Review by *The Impaler* for Mass Movement 35, due in early 2013.

Posted 2 days ago

1 note

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