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Fastway - Eat Dog Eat Review

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From [Dave Schalek](#)[Compare Prices >](#)

I must admit that I took on this assignment for mostly nostalgic reasons. I'm sure that everyone reading this review knows that "Fast" Eddie Clarke was the legendary guitarist behind Motörhead's early string of classics, but less known is Fastway, Clarke's principal project after he left Motörhead in 1982. Fastway began as a project between Clarke and bassist Pete Way (hence, the name Fastway), who was in the process of leaving UFO at the time. Due to recording contract fine print, however, Way was unable to participate in Fastway, but Clarke kept the name and recorded the self titled debut in 1983. The band's original vocalist was Dave King, who is now Flogging Molly's frontman.



Fastway - Eat Dog Eat
MVD Audio

A nice amalgam of blues-based rock and traditional metal, Fastway released a handful of albums, including a full album soundtrack for the '80s cheese-fest horror flick *Trick Or Treat*, and toured with some success until the early '90s before calling it a day. I enjoyed Fastway's first two albums, particularly the debut.

In 2010, Clarke reformed Fastway with a whole new lineup, and the result is *Eat Dog Eat*, their first new material in over 20 years. *Eat Dog Eat* is a bit of a departure from Fastway's early material, as the blues-based influences of the past are largely gone, and mainstream-oriented hard rock now predominates. Not quite NWOBHM, not quite glam, Fastway seem to be occupying the niche long since vacated by bands such as Whitesnake and the like, bands that capitalized on the pop metal explosion of the mid '80s.

Although well done for the style with clean guitars from Clarke and soaring vocals from Toby Jepson, formerly of Little Angels and Gun, the material on *Eat Dog Eat* immediately sounds dated and I can't imagine there being any sort of serious market for this genre of music anymore; except, of course, the market of fortysomethings such as me with an ear towards nostalgia.

However, recent, similar acts such as Enforcer and Armour have managed to carve a niche for themselves in the retro/nostalgia scene; therefore, they may still be room for a legendary act to grab some of the limelight once more.

I can't say that I recommend *Eat Dog Eat* for anyone other than the demographic that the album is obviously aimed towards. But, that demographic will undoubtedly enjoy *Eat Dog Eat* as a blast from the past.

(released April 10, 2012 on MVD Audio)

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