

EXCITER - EXCITER

The next record is the 1995 reissue (Magnetic Air) of Exciter's 1988 self-titled fifth full-length (Maze Music). Besides this reissue Megaforce repackaged this album in 2005 and re-released it as *O.T.T.* I have a soft spot for these Canadians. Exciter and I go way back, you see. As a kid, I remember listening to my older brother's vinyl copies of *Heavy Metal Maniac* (Shrapnel, 1983) and *Violence & Force* (Megaforce, 1984) whenever he was out. I was always in awe at how Dan Beehler was able to sing and play drums at the same time. I always thought of Dan as a deity of some form. Especially endearing are his high notes, which here happen about every two seconds. I also remember not digging neither album too much, but for some reason I kept spinning them. This album shows some evolution which makes it more enjoyable. The guitars are pretty killer (some solos are incendiary) and even Dan's drumming displays some gusto not shown before. Beehler's vocals remain an acquired taste, but for the classic metal lover they should go down like punch.

- Hansel Merchor