

I 'M G O N N A R O C K I T ' T I L I T S T R I K E S T H E H O U R- "Metal Health (Bang Your Head)", *Quiet Riot*« [Covered Call - Money Never Sleeps](#)[DC4 - Explode](#) »**Classics Under Review: Exciter - Exciter**

It is hard to believe that metal pioneers **Exciter** have now been thrashing for over 25 years. Exciter was one of the bands early on to establish thrash as a sub genre in metal. The band established themselves with classic releases like *Heavy Metal Maniac* and *Violence and Force* which should have made them a staple on the scene, but unfortunately they always flew under the radar. The hardcore fans knew who they were, but unfortunately they never able to break into the main stream like their contemporaries: **Anthrax**, **Metallica** and **Slayer**. It is refreshing to me to see labels like **MVD** re-release CD's from bands, so that they can gain the exposure they never saw back in the day, which leads me to my Classic Under Review of **Exciter** - *Exciter (O.T.T.)*.

By the mid to late 80's, Exciter had gone through some line up changes, but was still able to maintain putting out relevant music, but in a time where hard rock ruled the airwaves, the band decided to test the waters with a new sound and a new vocalist. Exciter (O.T.T.), the fifth record from the band, was released in 1988 to mixed reviews. The band had gotten a new singer **Rob Malnati** and the music was steered more to fit his vocal style. Malnati is a poor man's version of a **Geoff Tate (Queensryche)** and **Don Dokken (Dokken)**. The thrash elements were still there in tracks like *Scream Bloody Murder* and *Enemy Lines*, but the majority of the music on the CD had taken a more hard rock approach, which rubbed some hardcore fans the wrong way.

Exciter (O.T.T.) should be accepted more from the fans now, than it would back in the day, because there are some killer tunes on this CD. The approach, like I said, is different from the norm from the band, but they were able to pull it off. The CD is a mixture of thrash and hard rock, in the style of *Tooth and Nail* era Dokken. I swear guitarist **Brian McPhee's** tone is similar to classic **Lynch**. Mcphee also provides some nice axework albeit not Lynch like, but very tasteful to say the least, check out the solo in *I Wanna Be King*. The strongest tracks on the CD are the Dokken-esque tracks like *I Wanna Be King*, *Playin With Fire* and *Ready to Rock*, which also has a **Keel** vibe to it. All in all a solid release. Go get it.



Bottom Line: *Exciter proves that some things do get better with age. Good solid metal-fied hard rock from a thrash band.*

Standout Tracks: *Ready to Rock, Scream Bloody Murder, I Wanna Be King and Termination.*

Ragman *likes to find a diamond in the rough.*

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