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SATURDAY, MAY 03, 2008

CD Review: Crimson Glory - S/T and Transcendence Reissues

Crimson Glory - S/T and *Transcendence* reissues

2008 Metal Mind Productions

Ray Van Horn, Jr.



Lo, the tale of one Crimson Glory, the lore of one of America's brightest prog metal hopefuls in the eighties. Imagine having the rare opportunity to release your material on three powerhouse labels MCA, Atlantic and a then-fledgling Roadrunner. One can consider the fact that for each Crimson Glory album that was released in their original run featuring the screech-erific Midnight on the mike, they were a band on the verge of busting loose commercially. One can also take the more jaded position that Crimson Glory was so complex that none of the labels who briefly housed them knew how to market them properly. Save for 1988's *Transcendence*, which received a proper promotional push the first few months after its release, Crimson Glory was nevertheless doomed to relegation just below the mid-tier ranks of the original heavy metal pecking order. By the time Atlantic got their cash-minded mits on the band for 1991's *Strange and Beautiful*, the metal-friendly label had seen the opportunity to transform the Queensryche and Iron Maiden-laced prog wailers into what they'd hoped to be the logical Mindcrime successor.

In effect, Atlantic had committed Bandcrime in their edict to Crimson Glory to streamline and essentially downplay all that made them underground legends of the day, so much that even Midnight complied with the corporate manifesto and cut down most of his piercing falsetto shenanigans on *Strange and Beautiful*. It didn't take long for Crimson Glory to fall out of

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