

1340mag.com

...Media Tried By Fire...

CD Reviews

News

Book Reviews

Concerts

Interviews

Staff

Archives

Contact

Home

1340MagBooks.com

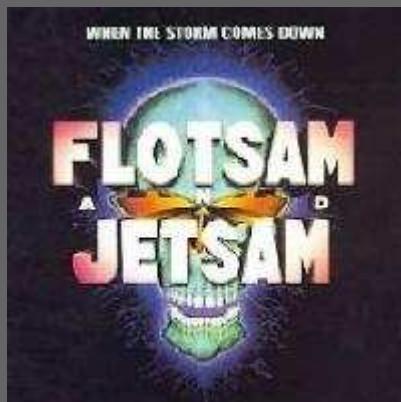
Links

Editorial

This Site Best  
Viewed in  
Firefox



1340Mag on  
MySpace



Flotsam and Jetsam

When the Storm Comes Down  
(reissue)

Universal/Metal Mind

[www.musicvideodistributors.com](http://www.musicvideodistributors.com)

Flotsam and Jetsam are the best band you've never heard of. Touring and recording almost relentlessly since the early 1980's the band are well-known among die-hard fans of heavy music (although they are better known as "the band Jason Newsted was in before he joined Metallica" which has likely helped and hurt them over the years). The band even appeared on a major label for a trio of albums in the early nineties. "When the Storm Comes Down" was the band's debut release for their major label home and featured a somewhat slower style as well as weaker production than the album's that would follow over the next few years.

I have always wondered if "When the Storm Comes Down" was recorded for Metal Blade record and then purchased by Universal/MCA. The production here is solid but very street sounding, unlike "Cuatro" and "Drift's" larger scale sound. Eric AK's vocals here the major sticking point though as they sound very trendy. He's still sounding higher pitched on this album- which would begin to change with the next album- and he often does a scream/falsetto reminiscent of the then popular L.A. Glam Rock scene although I'm sure it was likelier an attempt to mimic King Diamond or perhaps even Rob Halford. The songs here are solid but the vocals often kill the momentum, such as on "Burned Device," "6, Six, VI," and "Scars." The album's highlight comes in the form of "Suffer For the Masses." The song opens with a conglomeration of news clips that fades into an aloof beginning but when it all comes together about halfway through the song, Flotsam and Jetsam begin to show the side of themselves that knows how to write accessible mainstream songs without losing themselves in the

process. Throughout most of the album though, the vocals seem at odds with the music and it never really meshes together.

Overall this is an average album in relation to the band's catalog. It just sounds awkward and time hasn't been very kind to it. The band didn't really hit their stride (which continues to this day) until "Cuatro." While this album does attempt to experiment quite a lot, the combination of awkward vocals and thin production are too great to overcome 99% of the time. The reissue of "When the Storm Comes Down" also contains an audio interview with the band from the single for "The Master Sleeps."

Bottom Line: A fan favorite that doesn't stand the test of time so well.

Key Tracks: "Suffer For the Masses"

Reviewed by: **Mark Fisher**

[<<Back To Reviews](#)