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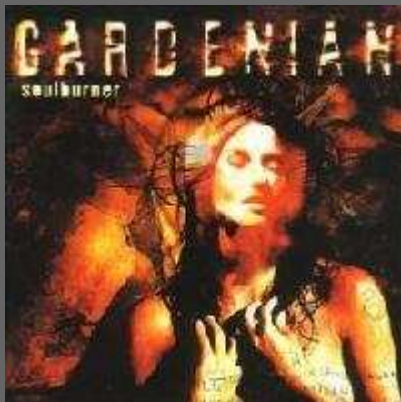
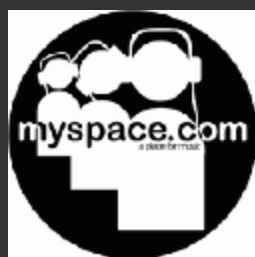
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Gardenian

Soulburner + Sindustries (reissue double disc)

Nuclear Blast/ Metal Mind

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The Gothenburg sound is a permanent part of today's heavy music lexicon. Due in no small part to the worldwide success of bands like Dark Tranquility, Soilwork, In Flames, and At the Gates, the sounds influence can be heard in nearly every modern band with even an ounce of melody to them. As with any music scene though, some of the bands that helped establish the scene get forgotten along the way, such is the case with Gardenian. The band recorded two amazingly powerful and dynamic albums for the Nuclear Blast label before calling it quits.

Not surprisingly these oft forgotten releases are chock full of very well-known names today in metal circles. Fredrik Nordstrom (the man truly behind the Gothenburg sound) produced the band's debut, "Soulburner," while "Sindustries" was produced by Pain/Hypocrisy frontman Peter Tatgren. The band also counts among its inhabitants a young Niclas Engelin who would join In Flames during the "Whoracle" tour while continuing with Gardenian through their demise. If those fun facts aren't enough to make you ant to buy this album then you are truly missing out on what is guaranteed to be great.

"Soulburner" is a striking work that is quite possibly the epitome of the sound. "As A True King" opens the album and lays waste to everything in its path only to be pulled in a more dynamic direction by the female vocal enhanced groove of "Powertool" and the genre defining title track. "Tell the World I'm Sorry" though is the undeniable highlight with its brilliant lead guitar work and acoustic intro. This album easily stacks up against any

In Flames or Soilwork album, even surpassing them because this band was much more diverse than either of the other bands were so early on.

“Sindustries” was the chosen title for the band’s sophomore release and it featured a slightly more refined sound and a biting lyrical edge that only appeared in spurts on the debut. Opening with the haunting and angst driven “Self-proclaimed Messiah,” the band again establishes from the get go that they are first and foremost and extreme band. The almost alt-rock groove soon reappears though with the wildly melodic and anthemic sound of the album’s highlight, “Lone Snap to Zero.” I think I may even here some Mother Love Bone influence on the guitar work. The title track and “Heartless” keep the band traveling on the melodically heavy path, although the vocals on the latter are so weak that the song disintegrates in short order. Overall this is even more melodic and accessible sounding than “Soulburner” although I don’t feel the songs are as well-written, perhaps due to the short time to write album number two.

When all is said and done, if you like any of the bands’s mentioned in this review, you owe it to yourself to pick this deluxe double-disc reissue up. It is strictly limited to two thousand copies and when it’s gone it will once again be lost to the sands of time. Gardenian was possibly the best heavy band in Sweden at the time but fate dealt them a bad hand. If either of these albums were to be released now and presented as new they would be massive.

Bottom Line: Absolutely essential metal releases

Key Tracks: You pick!

Reviewed by: **Mark Fisher**

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