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## CD Review: Carnivore - Retaliation reissue

Carnivore - *Retaliation* reissue

2008 Metal Mind

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Some albums carry their own legend and preceding reputation and in 1987 a slew of underground metal classics were being nurtured (or already had been) by bands like Testament, Death, Dark Angel and Possessed to name a few. Let us not forget of course the prevailing insanity of the raucous Carnivore and their Brooklyn-minded nut busting thrash/hardcore cornerstone *Retaliation*.

I'll give everyone here the benefit of the doubt and assume the connection between Carnivore and Type O Negative is considered rudimentary metal knowledge, but for sake of posterity, the history lesson has to be acknowledged, particularly in light of the fact that the briefly-lived Carnivore had unknowingly molded the face of hardcore before embarking on the more serious and frequently gloomier Type O Negative. Where Peter Steele and his compadres that followed along into Type O found it within themselves to reinvent from a tooth-dislodging brand of moshing into a largely lumbering and ominous projection of metallic density is perhaps an interesting study in psychology, but two decades after Carnivore's *Retaliation* infested the metal community, we can turn to "Race War," "Ground Zero Brooklyn" or "Five Billion Dead" and hear the gestation effect taking place in what would become Type O Negative. Even moments of the self-titled debut album *Carnivore* now reveals touches here and there of what Steele and company would evolve into later down the road.

Beforehand however, there was Carnivore, once a Gwar-esque brand of power grime that took virgin stages in outlandish Mad