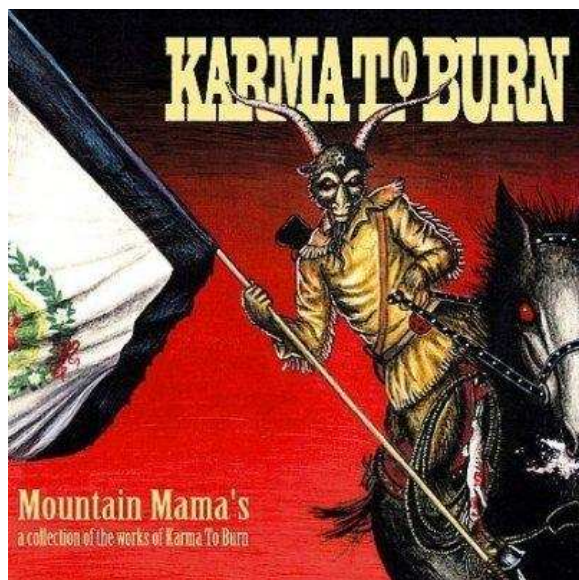


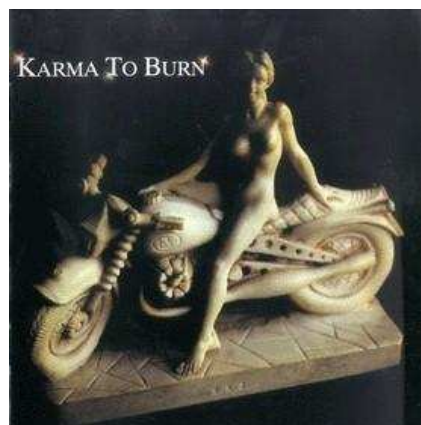
« [Nature Gets all Colour Hazed](#)
[Friday Evening Happy Hour \(or at Least Four Minutes\)](#) »

[Karma to Burn Box Set: Heard it from Your Mama](#)



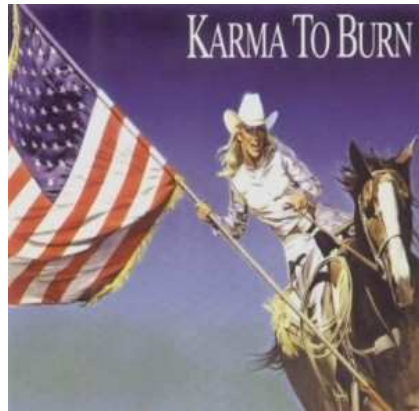
Fact is, when **Metal Mind** reissues something, they do it up right — albums remastered on golden discs, digipaks, liner notes, limited runs, bonus tracks out the ass, sometimes redone art and sometimes not, and when they acquire a property, they consider the best way of getting it out there to the people. They're not all great, because in the **Polish** imprint's quest to mine the back catalogs of the likes of **Nuclear Blast** and **Roadrunner** there are duds a-plenty, but in the case of **Mountain Mama's**, the triple CD box set combining **West Virginian** recently-reunited, mostly-instrumental riff-mongers **Karma to Burn**'s three full-lengths — *Karma to Burn* (1997), *Wild Wonderful Purgatory* (1999) and *Almost Heathen* (2002) — they nailed it.

I'd liken it to the box treatment **Warner International** gave to **Kyuss**' *Blues for the Red Sun*, *Welcome to Sky Valley* and ...*And the Circus Leaves Town* in 2000, but where that was essentially the three albums wrapped in cardboard, **Metal Mind** gives us these remastered three **Karma to Burn** discs in a custom digipak with striking artwork by **Elizabeth Duebell** biting the head off the *Wild Wonderful Purgatory* cover; redder and without the lady patriot. Hard to lose when you've got a **Satanic** goat dressed in **Native American** garb riding a horse carrying the **West Virginia** state flag.



Only the self-titled has vocals, contributed by **Jason Jarosz** following the dissolution of a promising collaboration with **John Garcia** (still fronting **Kyuss** at the time). The band has said numerous times over the years that the only reason they ever had a singer was because **Roadrunner**

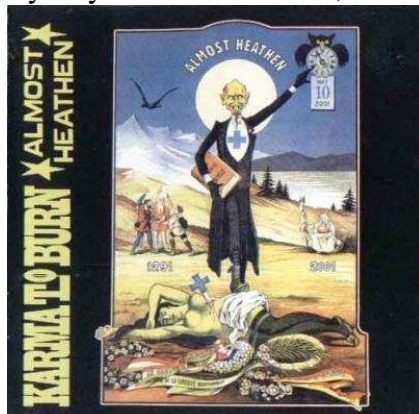
made them, so when it came time to follow up, seeing as how they were signed to **MIA** at the time, nothing was stopping them from going all-instrumental. *Wild Wonderful Purgatory* and *Almost Heathen*, then, have no singing — and even as the band reunites and announces new tour dates, there's still debate over which is



better, instrumental or vocalized.

My thesis: They both rule, but for different reasons. Where the last two records cemented the **Karma to Burn** legacy and put out the influence tons of instrumental bands still grasp onto today, that wouldn't have been possible had the self-titled not been put out first. **Jarosz** might not have been as exciting a singer (or selling point) as **John Garcia**, but he carries songs like "Patty Hearst's Closet Mantra" over effectively and helps make that album a classic in underrated '90s stoner metal. You need both to get the complete story, and *Mountain Mama's* is that.

By way of bonus material, *Karma to Burn* comes with five instrumental live



tracks recorded at the **Dynamo Festival** in 2000, *Wild Wonderful Purgatory* is coupled with more live tracks from the same show and the *30.33.32.20* EP and *Almost Heathen* has six cuts, four of which may or may not be taken from 1996's self-released *Wild, Wonderful & Apocalyptic* EP. As ever, **Karma to Burn** retains some mystery about them.

Whether you're new to the band, or in search of the bonus tracks, or just a completist looking to whet your appetite for the upcoming reunion, *Mountain Mama's* has everything you could possibly ask of a **Karma to Burn** box set.



[Karma to Burn on MySpace](#)

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The Obelisk highly supports you getting your groove on.
There goes another 0.483 seconds.