

THRASHPIT

Behemoth's And The Forest Dream Eternally

An EP can be considered useless in the eyes of some metal fans because it is just a short album. Plus, how many good EPs can you name? For me, only two come to mind: Slayer's "Haunting The Chapel," and Dream Theater's "A Change Of Seasons." Well, I better add another to that list! I've always known Behemoth and their history, but I've never heard any of their older material. That's when I got "And the Forests Dream Eternally," which marked one of the first official releases in Behemoth's black metal stage and is one of the best releases they have to offer.

This EP is pure black metal. The riffs sound somewhat atmospheric, yet still remain fast. The solos are simply outstanding, especially on "Pure Evil And Hate." The drumming is nothing less than outstanding. Inferno (I think) does a fantastic job switching between blastbeats and normal bass-snare patterns. Negral's vocals dominate this release over anything else. Being a fan of the modern Behemoth, I can see a clear difference in his vocal style. Negral's vocals are raw, loud and sound totally evil.

The reissue contains three new bonus tracks, most of which are good. "With Spell of Inferno" is really heavy and fast; it also has this monster solo in the middle of the song. The only bonus track I don't care for is the alternate version of "Sventevith Storming Near The Baltic." There really isn't a difference in the songs, so that track is somewhat useless. Beside that, this EP is a total knockout.

Even if you don't like the idea of an EP, you should still get this. This is pure black metal and Behemoth at the top of their game! Well, at least during their black metal phase. Get this!