

SIRRAH - *Acme* · Metal Mind / MVD

Metal Mind certainly reissues a ton of stuff, such as this album, the band's 1996 debut. Having somehow never heard SIRRAH before, I read the press release, which is always a bad idea, and discovered much to my delight that I should expect this to sound like early MY DYING BRIDE and/or early PARADISE LOST. No such luck. *Acme* never gets anywhere close to that level of heaviness, and at best maybe sounds like VISCERAL EVISCERATION. Actually that's pretty mean to VIS E. The "clean" vocals here are fucking horrible, and the "Death Metal" vox can be okay, but generally don't rise much above that. Musically there is some atmosphere here, but little in the way of heaviness. And the band has the bad tendency of using the clean vocals as a counterpoint to the heaviest musical moments, which effete castrates them. I haven't listened to the band's 1997 follow-up, *Did Tomorrow Come...* yet, but the reissue is next on my review pile, so we'll see if there was any improvement. What I would like to hear would be increased focus on atmosphere and a beefing up of the heavier elements, and the utter annihilation of the lamer of the two vocal styles. I'll bet that things go the exact opposite way. - 7 -
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