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Ween

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At the Cat's Cradle, 1992



So ... this is Ween. I have a bad habit of coming up on bands way after their peak period. I became a Korn fan, for example, long after the group's much-hailed golden era (which, as best as I can tell based on the band's atrociously finicky, fickle fan base, was not many albums past the group's debut). But, this isn't alt-metal. This is - alternative? Indie rock? Grunge? Any of those terms have certain associations that don't

necessarily apply here, though this is certainly an indie band by background (I think) and attitude, and it's grungy-ass alt-rock. Blunt yet subversive, smart and rude, rather punky but definitely post-punk. This is the kind of after-punk/pre-emo thing that could only have surfaced to any kind of mass popularity in the early 90s. I don't know how popular Ween got but I do know they had some presence in popular music and certainly had/has a devoted fan base. Hearing the band live with little to no studio-sound familiarity (I do that a lot), I can't exactly judge the rawness of Ween's stage show against the group's CD output, but I can say that, even if this is more raw than what the band does in a recording booth (which I suspect still has its share of grit), that rawness at best helps the band and at worst does nothing to hurt its persona. The group has got the neopunk-plus-amp-fuzz thing nailed down. Rock viscera as rebellion, a ticked off tongue stuck in cheek, undermining of the mainstream with a big laugh while doing it - consider those elements staples of the Ween sound, at least as it manifests here. This is punk's deconstructionist bent without the blind rage and prised through Seattle-style, Sub Pop flavored dirt. Ween is shaking things up but with a big, dopey-fuck smile wagging across its face. (Apparently, based on the liner notes [if I'm not a retard], this reflects the early manifestation of the band as a bare-ass, fucking-around on stage duo. That's fitting.

Tracklist:

1. Big Jim
2. Never Squeal
3. Captain Fantasy
4. Tick
5. Pork Roll Egg & Cheese
6. Cover It With Gas And Set It On Fire
7. Going Gets Tough
8. Don't Get 2 Close (2 My Fantasy)
9. Nan
10. Marble Tulip Juicy Tree
11. Ode To Rene
12. Manga Woman
13. El Camino
14. Demon Sweat
15. You Fucked Up
16. Queen Cole
17. Papa Zit
18. Buckingham Green
19. Birthday Boy
20. Fat Lenny
21. Reggae Junkie Jew



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Upchuck Undergrind listens to a little bit of a lot of things - just note the eclecticism of his reviews. He also reads voraciously and loves movies. He is a very open-minded Episcopalian (and student of Buddhism and Hinduism) who thinks Slayer is one of the greatest metal bands. Ever. In addition to his work with Corazine - for which he has written since its inception (he is a Fishcomcollective veteran) - he also writes for DJFix.com and B-Scared.com (his horror/exploitation review site).

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