

# C/D

Album Review - Fifty Caliber Kiss

Universal Warning Records/AMVD Audio  
Fifty Caliber Kiss - Puckers Up and Plants the Dragon (New) (Debut Album)  
By E.S. Day



It hit off the top, the singer is thrust into a chair from any scene in fiscal and away we go. Lead single "Halo the Razor" could turn a PEIA volunteer into a self-mutilating professional cookie-cutting machine. Brutal honesty in the lyrical dept, coupled with thrash chord progressions that shatter the spinal cord with an evil grin.



Coming from Reading PA, this quartet relies heavily on the NY Hardcore scene, either that or they're stone's throw from digging in the trash dumpster behind the Reagan Records office located in the same state. Still, as the liner note bares the third track "High is the New Low" we have set the tone for a rip ride through 8 tracks of pure adrenaline, resulting in the release that the Brems should have put out. Short and sweet (not Agny Samsara - type short, but to the point, track 4 entitled "The Moment You realized You've Made a Mistake" will hit home for new school grodders far, mind you, amount of background harmonies balance things out. Still with "young" sounding influences pairing in an the upper deck - this is by far, no sinking ship. Engineered & Mixed by Chris Seyler, the album will definitely appeal to the old school metal heads with it's incoherent NWOBHM feel. Sure, there is a genre of musical chairs being played (not a bad thing), jumping from Pantera (according to every other journalist, who seems to copy PP sheets instead of listening to the full album) and landing on Pig Destroyer beyond that (and the remains of death), some shit tight drumming feels like I'm spazzing into a double kick drum Blizzard from Dairy Queen, which should satisfy the crunch factor.

Track Listing Armor Glass Invincible:

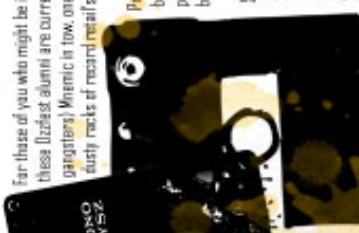
1. This Wire Cuts Easily Through Meat And Bone
2. Ride The Razor
3. High is the New Lo
4. The Moment You Realize You've Made A Terrible Mistake
5. Protection From The Sky
6. Etonness Of Soguness
7. Magnets Are For Lovers
8. Sink / Burn
9. BONUS VIDEO FOOTAGE

To be list while enjoying this LP...  
While a love letter to yourself that ends as a suicide note.  
Toss - sign it.  
Hugs & Fifty Caliber Kisses.

-E.S. Day



"Jersey Judgments Go for the Jugular"



For those of you who might be in need of some "sensible" metal, New Jersey-based God Forbid's fourth album, can be heard live as these Dicksiest alumni are currently headlining a tour. With support acts (Black/Death metal act) Bat White and (semi-prisonic opposition) Memic in tow, one would require as to howie "Fag and file" (not that we need to) the groups' header cards, amongst the dusty tracks of record retail's currently half-filled aisles.

Produced by Jason Sues of (Trivium), the album packs a wallop of a punch, with the band leaving no holds barred as evident on tracks "Tide the Wasteland" and "The Lonely Dead". The songwriting is quite simply a polished, mature departure from previous efforts with ear-splitting results. The six-string camaraderie between guitarist/brother duo Dec and Dallas, Doyle prove to be a dynamic force in today's metal scene.

Singer Byron Davis must have replaced that protein shake with a glass of gravel - (not Brown) which actually turned out to be a good thing, as he vocally and lyrically shines on this album from start to finish. This is apparent on the passionately performed "Crucify your beliefs".

A synthetic silt-sounding intro signals "The End of the World" the lead track from this (the fourth outing for the group, it has the essentials of the early NYC hardcore scene with enough 3-part harmonies to balance out the mix. The track listing submits a storyline in the form of an innocuous concept LP for which I am not a fan. I personally still am unable to explicate the reasoning behind the "concept" album. Today's younger audience seems to be more obsessed with consumption rather than absorption.

Seen live previously with soldiers of the "New American Metal" alliance, Lamb of God, Killswitch Engage and Metalcore mainstays (Hatebreed as well as Cradle of Filth, it seems that I've have toured the global metal map, twiddled in a ridiculous amount of metal sub-genres, where do you fit these guys in? Regardless this LP shows) and them a spot in Heavy Metal Heaven.

10 years in the making, a metal melting and some frenetic fret-fretting, God Forbid have serrated, a new series of branches as their musical tree grows on and the leaves of hell fall on the unsuspecting public's ears without warning. Reminiscent of the full-throttle throw down of Anthrax after dropping the Armed & Dangerous EP "Agnitor's vicious Attack", coupled with the gritty, raw intensity of the floods circa "Wild Dogs".

Comparisons aside, to call them Thrash would be an understatement; to call them metalcore would be an overstatement.

How about we just say, that God Forbid has put out... a really good... Heavy Metal album.

By E.S. Day

Review - Themassess

Drift Thing

29 Records

Phono-Thunk phenomena- Themassess, have released an ambiguous amount of esoteric audio coupled with a bronze legerage of beats that break down the doors of deception when it comes to West Coast Canadian Funk. Yes, I said Canadian funk. I am not a child, I am a legitimate child which on tour in BC, the Funkspaw in question would be Vancouver's Themassess. Not your "Average White Band/The 7-String EP/Drift Thing/29 Records" was produced by Ben Kaplan (Blue Quarter). The album incorporates an quasi-electronica feel while maintaining a good dose of the funky stuff - I spy with my audio-eye-the Metiers, Mass Production, Roland Kirk, throw in some Blackbyrds, Barryaloss, Charles Wright, Fatback Band...well, you get my drift, slick.Dha niteuse Sherry St. German accompanies this outfit, on select tracks to add a sweet serenade that compliments the modernized "Jazz-a-donica" feel bringing ESB to mind Sean live at The Vancouver International Jazz Festival. Themassess are geared & primed to take the spotlight on the "Skank" and showcase the Funk...in Vancouver.

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-E.S. Day

