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Fifty Caliber Kiss

Armor Class Invincible

Universal Warning Records

Like a musical metal B-movie

With a dark and moody album art work consisting of a crudely drawn scene of the band members carrying a pile of bodies down a flight of stairs, and shots of the each of the members in their own death scenes littering the inside, the uber RPG geek album title seems a bit odd. Then in all honesty the music is a bit odd to go with it, along with the deep and depressing song titles, spotting a theme here yet?

The album opens with 'This Wire Cuts Easily Through Meat And Bone' which I'm sure is a reference to some slasher flick, although I can think which, the intro is very slasher like it's self with some mumbled voices accompanied by blood curdling screaming, and no I don't mean the vocalist. Morbidity and gore fascinations aside, Fifty Caliber Kiss are a band that are striving to create something a bit off the wall, but some how still managing to tick all the boxes to become just another cliché.

The PR write up dubs them as 'Pantera meets Iron Madien' which I must be totally missing somehow, did I get the right CD? Sure there are plenty of low sludgy riffs going on, but no real groove happening, and as for any hint of maiden... maybe it's the poses they pull, I don't know. There is however a very progressive post hardcore theme going on in places though, and a lot like We Are Carnivores who I reviewed not long ago, there is a hint of Refused going on just with a lot darker feel. Along with the prog feel, there is also this overwhelming sense of Emo-ness, as if all the death references didn't give that away already. 'Epicness of Saganess' kind of reminds me of A Static Lullaby, just no where near as entertaining, it's got a fast and furious punk like beat and lots of quick riffs, but damn near indecipherable vocals, kind of like BMTB on speed.

The album's production is nothing to scream about either, with it sounding more like a self recorded demo done in one of the members basements. The guitars are very quiet with no real punch, as is the case with the bass guitar. The drums are audible yet very muffled, so although the tub thumper is very talented, maybe the most talented member in the band, as he smashes out some great beats and fills, it just sounds like he's playing with his practice pads still on.

I think this band have been whipped up into the public's attention a little prematurely, they have the potential to doing something decent, but this time round they have just completely fell short of the mark. Sticking with the B-movie kind of theme there is also a video contained on the album for 'Hide The Razor', for which they managed to rope in some of the Gods Girls models to star in, and to be honest the video looks just as cheap

as the CD sounds, looking like it was thought up, shot, and edited in the space of one day.

Some people might like this, personally I think it's a waste of a good recording contract that could of gone to a much better band that truly deserves it, but hey I don't make the rules or sign these things...yet.

www.fiftycaliberkiss.com/

By **Matt Dobson**

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