

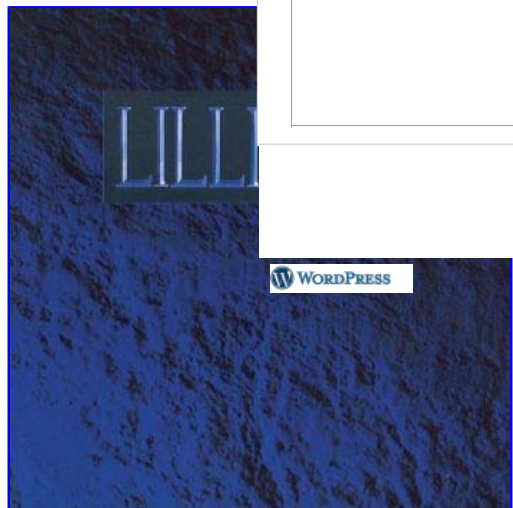
## Heavy Metal Addiction

Hard Rock and Heavy Metal discs

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### Lillian Axe - s/t (1988/2007 reissue, Metal Mind)



#### **Lillian Axe - s/t (1988/2007 reissue, Metal Mind)**

1. Dream Of A Lifetime
2. Inside Out
3. Vision In The Night
4. Picture Perfect
5. The More That You Get
6. Misery Loves Company
7. Nobody Knows
8. Hard Luck
9. Waiting In The Dark
10. Laughing In Your Face

#### **Band Lineup:**

Ron Taylor - Lead Vocals  
 Stevie Blaze - Lead Guitar, Background Vocals  
 Jon Ster - Rhythm Guitar, Keyboards & Background Vocals  
 Rob Stratton - Bass, Background Vocals  
 Danny King - Drums

#### **Additional Musicians:**

Michael Dorian - Keyboards  
 Nate Winger - Background Vocals  
 Paul Winger - Background Vocals

**Producer:** Robbin Crosby

Total Time - 48:43

[Lillian Axe official website](#)

[Lillian Axe MySpace page](#)

[Metal Mind Productions](#)

Lillian Axe is one of those Melodic Hard Rock bands from the late '80s that I thought was going to be huge but somehow success bypassed them. I heard about the band because Robbin Crosby from Ratt was producing their first record. I was a big Ratt fan so I kept an eye out for the debut album. I bought this album on cassette way back when but I never replaced it with a CD. The original release was on MCA Records and the first (and only) pressing of the CD is hard to find and commands big bucks in collector's circles. There is an official Japanese issue from 1992 but this is widely bootlegged. What is interesting to note is that the Japanese version and the bootleg contain five additional songs/demos from the band's pre-Lillian Axe days as Stiff. It seems that Metal Mind has produced two versions of this reissue: the regular 10 song album (that I am reviewing) and the version with the five Stiff songs. I haven't received any additional information from the label as to why there are two versions but I have noticed that there are copies for sale on Amazon and Ebay. The photos clearly show the extra songs.

**The Package:**

Like the other reissues from Metal Mind, each reissue is limited to 2000 copies (mine is #410). I have noticed from the Ebay photos that the copies with the extra tracks start after #1000, not sure if that helps. Full-color digipak and color booklet with additional liner notes. The music is remastered using 24-bit technology on a gold disc.

**The Music:**

Lillian Axe's self-titled debut has been considered a lost classic for a long time, I remember seeing the video for 'Dream Of A Lifetime' on MTV and thinking what a great song it was. The music is what you expect from Melodic Hard Rock from the late '80s: guitars, excellent vocals, solos, melody, catchy hooks, and big background harmonies. You can compare the band's sound to their peers of the decade: Dokken, Winger, Black 'N Blue, and Hurricane. The first single, 'Dream Of A Lifetime' still rocks like I remembered it and 'Picture Perfect' has to be the catchiest song on the album. Take a listen to the opening riff of 'Misery Loves Company' and tell me that it's not a close rendition of the main riff from Dokken's 'Breaking The Chains'. A small complaint on "borrowing" the riff but the Dokken influence is obvious, not a bad thing in '88 as Dokken were pretty successful. 'Nobody Knows' is one of the best ballads no one knows and 'Hard Luck' is a heavy mid-tempo rocker that is almost a throwback to the early '80s if it wasn't for the Europe-esque keyboard intro.

**Bottom Line:**

Lillian Axe is a great band that is truly under-rated and relatively unknown compared to their peers. The reissue is top notch, as are all Metal Mind reissues, and the music takes me back to a really fun time from my youth. The album rocks a little more than I remember and there are some really great songs here: 'Dream Of A Lifetime', 'Picture Perfect', 'Nobody Knows', and 'Waiting In The Dark'. It's an album of really good Melodic Hard Rock with strong vocals, melody, and excellent guitar. I would have liked to review the version with the Stiff songs/demos because I've never heard them but it's been great rediscovering this album.

This entry was posted on February 4, 2008 at 8:43 pm and is filed under [Album Reviews](#), [Reissue Report](#) with tags [AOR](#), [Glam](#), [Hard Rock](#), [Heavy Metal](#), [Lillian Axe](#), [Metal](#), [Music](#), [Reissue Report](#), [Rock](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

**One Response to "Lillian Axe - s/t (1988/2007) reissue"**

1. *SHAWN* Says:  
[February 13, 2008 at 9:47 pm](#)

Very underrated band that I was able to catch in Portland Oregon opening for Krokus. I immediately went out and bought the cassette. I would love to have the CD. They actually sounded better live than on record. I also caught them in Omaha Nebraska in 1994/95 just awesome!!! exactly like you I was first drawn to them by Robin Crosby's involvement and catching the dream of a life time video on the Head Bangers Ball.

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