

LILLIAN AXE

Lillian Axe

Love + War

(re-issues)

Metal Mind



Timing was everything for melodic metal acts in the late 80's, and it was the one thing Lillian Axe apparently lacked. A talented group of musicians anchored by almost-famous guitarist Steve Blaze, Lillian Axe has always had a strong loyal following that unfortunately for them never translated into commercial success. The self-titled debut album is something of a microcosm of the band, melodic party rock offset by the occasional mature hard rocker. Later efforts by Lillian Axe would show more of a penchant for progressive, but their debut is quintessential 80's glam.

Their second release, *Love + War* is definitely the stronger of the two albums. While their more mature (and ironically less received) efforts were still a release or two away, *Love + War* shows the band's raw talent in a polished, radio-friendly release that was tailor-made for

1989. I have a hard time calling this or any Lillian Axe album respectable metal. But it does amaze me that, of all the slick melodic rock acts that drew big checks and stadium tours in the glam era, this one was summarily overlooked. Lillian Axe may have been one of the most talented, if not successful.

C+ (self-titled)

B (Love + War) -Dan McDermott