

THE METAL MINUTE

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CD Review: Lillian Axe - Love and War Reissue

Lillian Axe - *Love and War* reissue

2008 Metal Mind Productions

Ray Van Horn, Jr.



On paper, Lillian Axe was perhaps one step too late in achieving heavy metal immortality, though history has revealed that misappropriated marketing cast the band into the ranks of the obscure ahead of their time. Having busted their chops playing numerous bar gigs throughout the South, ol' girl Lillian had a photogenic group of guys with the look, the attitude and the general wherewithal to make it big, if even for a brief time. With classically-trained guitarist and songwriter Steve Blaze at the helm, and a capable frontman who oozed the proper amount of macho for the times, Ron Taylor, Lillian Axe brought forth their sex 'n roll brigade in the later part of the game with other acts who roll off the tongues of those who followed hard rock and heavy metal devoutly but otherwise missed the mark because of an inevitable trend shift, bands like Impelliteri, Dangerous Toys and Pretty Boy Floyd.

Most casual observers lump Lillian Axe as a hair metal band or a glam band, and certainly their glitzy, poofed appearance did everything to warrant that. Forming an initial allegiance with the late Robbin Crosby of Ratt in the early goings, their self-titled debut album of 1988 had all the big hair band elements required for ka-ching success: the style was dead-on, the lyrics were lighthearted and mostly honed on scoring a little trim, and with Waters' effortless solos, "Dream of a Lifetime" became a monster hit for Lillian Axe, a Generation-X feelgood rock tapper in the vein of Y&T's "Summertime Girls" and Dio's "Hungry For Heaven" that gained the band some attention, even if that was fleeting.

As Lillian Axe eventually turned into more of a progressive-oriented heavy rock band in their second life with albums such as *Psychoschizophrenia*, *Fields of Yesterday* and last year's *Waters Rising*, the transition from the shoot and score party blasts of their early years sounds as much of an about-face as it is a departure from *Waters Rising*. The *Love and War* reissue

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MONTH: EARTH - THE
BEE MADE HONEY IN
THE LION'S SKULL*



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