

Doesn't Corey Taylor sing well when he's not screaming his head off? He's most famous for being the mostly somewhat unmelodic singer of Slipknot, but in his lighter side project Stone Sour, he is actually quite a skilled tune writer. Many people aren't. Even the vocal melodies in the latest Dream Theater album seem a little bland to me, and only a serious prog-hater would say the band's members aren't good musicians. Does that mean Taylor, known for writing 'adrenaline pumping' lyrics (a harmless phrase that can be used to prevent negative attention) is more intelligent than DT's James Labrie, the more clean vocalist? It's a strange thought, but quite possibly in some ways. Ok in Slipknot, Taylor can be verbally lazy and over-reliant on words like 'kill' too much, but do you really care, or is his silly-masked music just too good? I'm being unfair, some of his main project lyrics are actually quite complex but you often can't decipher them, so his efforts are perhaps wasted. I'm not saying Taylor is more SANE than Labrie, though. Why am I talking about 'knot? This is a Stone review. Whoops.

So, there are still some shouty moments in Stone Sour's self-titled debut, too. I can only speculate as to why. Maybe Corey felt like a wuss for not threatening to shoot anyone and he overcompensated. I'm digressing a little, but imagine if I was a time traveller and said that a contemporary group back in the 60s endlessly ranted about murder. That would get a strange reaction, wouldn't it? 'Oh no, the Beatles have gone nuts, pop music is over!' Anyway, another reason could be that he has compulsions to 'let loose' (yes, a harmless phrase for 'scream') after being in the nu metal band for so many years. Maybe he can't get out of the habit. Again, who knows? My last hypothesis is he is very jealous about the super fast shred solos on the album and can't control his anger. It's interesting that the shoutiest track on the album 'Get Inside' also has the flashiest guitar work. My theory doesn't seem so silly now, does it? Again, imagine if that style of guitar was heard in the 60s. Jimi Hendrix would have instantly gone from legend to just a guitar hating arsonist who pissed off various poor audience members. Personally I think he would have been more popular if he gave his instruments away, but I'm digressing again. It's like burning money in front of a tramp, it's simply not on.

Now I will discuss the name of the band. I've heard it pronounced with an accent on the second word, so you get 'Stone SOUR', as in sour as a stone. Part of me thinks that's cool, but another part of me thinks it's so metal, it's cheesy. I believe most people, myself included, call the group 'STONE Sour', which to me doesn't make as much sense, but if you say it enough it does begin to seem more natural, rightly or wrongly. It's like the band title 'Five Finger Death Punch', it sounds like it's logical, but it's not really. All punches are five finger punches. Have you tried making a fist with less than five digits? It certainly doesn't feel right. Some bands such as Stratovarius just make up words. Ok, it's a hybrid of Stratocaster guitars and Stradivarius violins, but I don't think the power-metallers use either instruments, so yeah. Ok, they may use violins (probably not the ones mentioned though) in their more epic pieces, but only rarely. It's just a confusing and misleading name. Sort yourselves out. And on that irritating and superior note... Bye! Oh, and I guess I give this album 8 out of 10. Great tunes!