

Today, I'll be reviewing 'The Coffin Train' by Diamond Head. If you Google the album cover, you'll see a locomotive with a huge skull on the front of it. Isn't that in bad taste? You never see hearses with skulls on them. Ok, the black paint may look sinister, but that's to show seriousness and respect. Skulls on the other hand have never been used to show respect, ever. Can you see the Chief of Police wearing a skull? There you go. Furthermore, you never see priests with skull necklaces/ earrings when giving funeral services. It would simply be too punky. Ever heard of a punk priest? Me neither. I WANT to see one in a twisted way, but not more than once, and only giving a service to a family of similar punks who can't see/don't care about the complete lack of professionalism. Stick to the robes and the book of funny anecdotes about the deceased. A full-blown comedy routine doesn't have to be performed, just something fun.

Imagine if the title track of the album in question was played at a funeral. Talk about a bad idea. Again, a respectful sounding tune is a good idea. Not a tune that says 'Respect me or else' (as in the Godfather theme), but maybe something like 'A Candle in the Wind' could work. Maybe that would be a bit TOO sentimental, but come on. You don't think it's worse than 'The Coffin Train', do you? If the band had any decency, the album would be called 'The Train Of Those Who Passed Away', and on the locomotive, there would be someone looking sad. Even better, scrap the idea entirely, and call the LP one of its other songs. Track 'Belly of the Beast' also wouldn't work at a funeral or indeed anywhere where happiness/positivity is valued, neither would 'Until We Burn', but 'The Sleeper' COULD work in funerals, or anywhere with a nice chilled out vibe.

Oh yeah, the album wasn't intended to be played at funerals. (At least I hope it wasn't. I know it's bad to assume, but I think I'm right about this one). Still though, it doesn't really make sense, even after many minutes of further, deep contemplation. Nope, I can't really think of any reasons why a train would have a huge skull on it. To give the passengers peace of mind? That idea doesn't work at all. To SCARE the passengers? Why? Is the bone used for aesthetic reasons? That idea is more plausible, but I'm sure it would never win a vote if a list of styles was given out. Unless the other ideas were huge rats or maggots. Maybe the skull is a warning to get out of the train's way. But surely if a massive object is coming towards you at great speed, the extra clarification of the bones aren't really necessary. Most people would move out of its way intuitively.

On another note, Diamond Head are a very interesting band in that according to Wikipedia, they have nine studio albums, and TWELVE compilation albums. What kind of sucker buys that many, that are presumably almost exactly the same, just with minor alterations. There are die hard fans and there are idiots/stalkers. Having said that, I do own two best of albums of the band, (that ARE more or less the same) but one was bought for me by someone else. Phew. I'm not mad. As explained in another Diamond Head review, the singer's mum used to be a manager of the group. I wonder if the excessive best ofs were her idea. Was she like 'You're the greatest singer in the world. Everyone will want everything you do...' Very kindhearted and supportive, but deluded.

To sum up, call me paranoid, but do you know how I'm picturing DH's ideal funeral? Hearses with the skulls I mentioned on them; priests wearing leather and chains,

singing early doom song 'Black Sabbath' by Black Sabbath; and everyone going wild. Sure that may be entertaining, but is that what the departed really want? Ok, 'The Coffin Train' is a pretty good album with some nice singing, but does it make any sense? No. Why not go for the full package? The Beatles for example, had great tunes AND lyrics. Would they be so admired if they sung about disrespecting corpses? I very much doubt it. Let's give the release... 8.5/10! Bye!