

Today I'll be reviewing 'Am I evil? The Best of Diamond Head', by Diamond Head. (Duh). I have to say I feel a bit bad for the group, as they really should be more famous. That's something that often gets said of them. So what went wrong?? According to Wikipedia, the band was managed by the singer's mum and she had never managed anyone before. Ahhhh. (No offence to any mums, but that's not cool AND it's crazy). Ok, ok, I'm exaggerating for comedic effect, the group was also managed by a guy called 'Reg Fellows'. Don't get too excited though, he had no experience, either. Furthermore, the drummer's not very good. Oh yes, and the label they signed to forced them to be 'more commercial.' If you're a heavy metal fan, you'll know that being called 'commercial' is about as offensive as someone calling you a huge prick. Personally I think that's an overreaction, as all bands need to be at least a bit commercial or next to no one will ever know about them, and those that do will have to pay a fortune for one of their CDs.

In my opinion, ALL bands need to be at least part (offensive word of your choosing). Finding the right level of dickhead is extremely complicated, if you're a musician. Fittingly however, it's more an art than a science. Well, I never got taught that stuff in science, anyway. (Ok, I didn't study that stuff in art or music either, but I should have done because people often think of me as a twat. >:( ) There is one track on this album I don't like listening to, however. 'Sucking my Love' is just too graphic for me. I'm not sure why the singer thought it would be a good idea. The live version is even worse, it's just awkward. If you can't be bothered to check out the song on Youtube, I'll give you an idea of what to expect: 'Ohhhhhhh, yeah. Ohhhhhhh yeah, oooooohhhhhhhh.' That goes on and on and on. I can only imagine what the singer's mum thought of THAT. It really takes the birds and the bees to a whole new level.

Metallica covered a few of DH's songs on their Garage Inc. CD. Did one of the most successful bands of all time make DH mainstream? Nope. I guess that says something about the latter band. Maybe as well as being poorly managed, they just plain suck. Well, that's a reasonable thing to think, but it's simply not true. If newcomers to the band are anything like me, they'd definitely be put off by the 'Ohhhhhh God!' song, though. DH aren't a band that has been plagued by bad luck alone, though. I have to be honest, the songs at the end of the best of album (the ones later on in their career) aren't very good. There's no blaming poor mum and Reg anymore, if you have crappy songs no one can help you. Having said that, I heard DH's latest song (which was pretty cool) on Youtube, and have bought their newest album for my B-day. I'm sure the singer's mum has something to be positive about if she's still working for the band. But she must be in her 80s or 90s by now, which is a little bit weird BUT something I'd genuinely like to see.

As my brother bought this CD for my birthday ages ago, and I had a different DH best of album before that, I actually have two 'best ofs' from the band. (I didn't buy the same one twice accidentally, thank God). Is 'Am I Evil' the best of the best of albums? No. I would have reviewed the other one, (simply and more accurately called 'Best of Diamond Head') but it's not playing on my CD player for whatever reason. However, because I'm nice and reasonable, I will be ranking the better of the best ofs. Let's give it a solid 9.25/10. I don't know why 'Am I Evil' features weaker and rawer versions of the more famous versions, maybe that was an idea from you know who. Only a man of stone would tell her own mother to choose another

profession and to leave her son alone, but as I said earlier, you do need be at least a bit of a jerk. Eternal success or pleased mum? Not necessarily an easy choice to make. And on that thoughtful note... Bye!