

Hello, I'm in prison, and have taken part in an English program. For it, I will review Van Halen's debut album, 'Van Halen'. Why? Because I was fucking forced to. I do apologise for my appalling language, the food here, is making me cranky. And don't get me started on the all the rules you have to follow. Piss poor. Whoops, I've done it, again. It seems I have gotten off to a bad start. Which is fitting, as Van Halen are bad-ass! Saved! (Spell and grammar checker save me, too. Isn't modern technology great?) Ok, we start off with 'Runnin' with the Devil'. I SO can relate, I've known pure evil. You know this one guy, I grew up with once gave the finger to a lollipop lady?? Out of all the people in the world! Well, he's gone now, locked up, all alone. Why did the Van start the album with this song? I don't know. Surely, you should start off with something really killer, right? Like 'Atomic Punk'. That's a cool song, that I'm proud to relate to. For example, it goes, 'on every wall and place, my fearsome name is hung. Just look around, (whoa yes)'. I'm partial to a little graffiti, myself. If you've ever seen 'Crazy Jimmy woz here', written in the Cheltenham area, you'll have come across my work. You may have even spotted my doodles of boats, and jumbo jets. My art teacher in jail, says I have a natural gift, and often pats me on the head. No one else gets head pats.

'On Fire', is another fave of mine. Mostly for its guitar work, and riffs, but again, I like the lyrics: 'Turn your radios on, I'll appear right there, yes I will. Turn me up real loud, I'm in your ears...' He's clearly pleased with himself, despite his horrific circumstances; for example he later sings 'I'm on fire! I'm on fire! I'm on fire! I'm on fire!' What can I say? The man's got balls. I have to admit, I don't know what some of the songs on the album, are about. 'Ain't talkin' Bout Love?' 'I'm not talking boxing fight love?' What? I gather it's some kind of pacifist song. I asked my teacher about that one, and she immediately diagnosed me with Asperger's. Apparently it's unusual for such a sufferer to have as low intelligence as mine. I was called special, and got another pat. 'Feel Your Love Tonight', was a musical blunder, and it shouldn't have been on the album. I was talking about why I hate it so much, with a staff member. She asked, 'is it because of its major key?' I thought to myself; '.....What? Big key? Important key? Why key??....', but what I actually said was 'yes'. I would have been honest, but I noticed her about to contact my shrink, on her mobile.

'Ice Cream Man', is just plain annoying. It's another super happy song, that fails to address the gang culture that goes along with the business. 'Now summertime's here babe, need somethin' to keep you cool. Better look out now though, Dave's got somethin' for you. Tell ya what it is'.... Is it a gun? Nope. It continues... 'I got bim bam banana pops, dixie cups, all flavours and push ups, too.' What a disappointment. This is not rock, it's... Oh, God, I dunno... Sock. That's what it is, to me. Would you listen to sock music? Exactly. It's just lame. Jamie's Cryin' is kind of annoying, too. Something to do with big keys, again. Yeah, I still don't understand. Despite the big keys in 'I'm the One', that's pretty cool, and flashy. Now, I'm really confused. Let's just leave the theory.

In spite of the annoyances in this album, I'm now getting into my work, and having a good time. Listening to rock music all day is more fun than playing the feet dangling game, on bunk beds. I don't know what it's called, but it is one of a prisoner's favourite pastimes. I've dangled feet with some of the country's most notorious criminals, I have. I'm not knocking the game, it just gets boring, after a while. Anyway, part of my project requires research, so it's time to get listening to more

stuff. Yeaah, happy times. Ok, here are some bands Van Halen have influenced (any band who's guitarist uses the 'tapping' technique, basically)... Here goes: There's tapping in Iron Maiden, You Me at Six, Rammstein, Darren Housholder, Exodus and Yngwie Malmsteen. (I can basically say anyone, after 1978). You know what, how about I just write a huge list to up my word count? Is that cheating? Yeah, I think so. I want a good grade, to get me a pet fish. I think I've done well so far, so I'm just going to go for it, and ace everything. What else to say, then? How about a cool fact? An online translator tells me, that 'Halen' is Afrikaan for 'get'. So I assume the band name means 'Van Get', or rather 'Get Van', as the Afrikaans would say.

Next, I think it best to research things that rhyme with 'Van Halen'. Nope, couldn't really find anything. I'll just do 'van', then: Anne, ban, can, clan, Dan, fan, flan, gran, man, nan, pan, plan, ran, scan, span, stan and tan. Now, when we replace the word 'Halen', with 'Get', we can come up with new band names. 'Get Anne', 'Get Dan', 'Get Nan', 'Get Stan'. That was an interesting thing to do, I think. I think I'll build on that. Let's combine the new band name with an album of theirs. Here goes: Get Nan A Different Kind of Truth. Now, we're getting somewhere... It makes you wonder... Was that a special secret message, all along?? Very Dan Brown. I think. I've never read his book, and it's not the kind of thing I'm going to do. I mean, yes it is. I've read his masterpiece, and Van Halen IS very Dan Brown. There you go. 5/10. Now where's my fish?