

Interestingly (to me at least) 'Archetype' by Fear Factory is widely regarded as one of the band's worst albums of all time. If you're looking for releases to unappreciate, why not pick on FF's 'Obsolete'? It's basic AF. Yes many people including myself think of it as 'fun', but still at the end of the day, fans of the release will be aware of the fact its individual songs were most likely written a few days at the most. The variety of machine gun rhythms in Archetype is first rate, however. You get the short burst gunfire, super-fast shooting and shooting so relentless it's ridiculous. And it's not simple, either. And what do you expect to be sung over the crazy drumming and chugging guitars? A madman going 'AAAAARGHHH!!!!' all the time? No, no, just some of the time. A lot of the vocals are surprisingly melodic. All of that and more is why this is my favourite FF album that I've heard, and I know pretty much all their stuff.

Clearly the instrumentation is intense, and you won't be surprised to hear the words are equally so. One lyric goes 'sometimes I wish I were deaf and blind'. (A 'well done' goes to the band for using correct grammar - many similar bands simply don't care). You wish you were deaf and blind? Instead of gauging out your own eyeballs and piercing your eardrums because you don't like your current situation or whatever... perhaps go on a holiday? I mean you don't have to go CRAZY... Some of the other lyrics are plain untruthful. The song 'Cyber Waste' goes 'NOTHING YOU SAY MATTERS TO US!!!' If that was true why go out of your way to write a song about whoever you're talking about? The song 'Bonescraper' is even worse. It goes 'rip my skin from my bones, I won't bleed. Rip my heart from my chest, I won't scream'. Yes, that's a huge exaggeration, but it is pretty badass to be fair.

Album closer 'School', originally by Nirvana, is a bit of a strange song to cover. As far as I'm aware it's about working as a janitor in a school and how that sucks. But prior in Archetype, subjects such as war, cool super robots and unstoppable personalities were covered. Ending the LP with a song about being a cleaner just doesn't work for me. 'Oh my God, the Fear put a completely unrelated cover song on the end of their album, lolz'. True, but in the band's defence, at least they didn't include a cover of a Charles Manson song on the end of their LP, like Guns 'n' Roses did with their 'The Spaghetti Incident'. 'But the band didn't pay tribute to the serial killer just because he's a lunatic, he genuinely wrote a very good song.' Yeah. Right. 'Look at your game, girl.' It goes. That REALLY makes sense. 'Play your game', fine. 'Win the game', again, fine. Ok, you can look at board games I suppose, but the song implies the person 'with the game' has it around with her constantly or at least can very easily access it whenever she wants to. Do you know anyone who carries Monopoly with them 24/7? Me neither. Remember the song was written in the 60s, before you could play video games.

Let's compare the album being reviewed to the band's so called 'best release', 'Demanufacture', and in particular, its song also called 'Demanufacture'. The lyrics go 'I've got no more goddamn regrets, I've got no more goddamn respect. I've got no more goddamn regrets, I've got no more goddamn respect. I've got no more goddamn regrets, I've got no more goddamn respect. Regrets, respect, regrets, respect, regrrrreeets, reeespeeect, regreeets, respeeect!' I mean there's milking ideas and then there's laziness in writing. 'But the singer is just trying to get his point across about how he's got no more respect or regrets'. Yes, but the guitars and drums are angry enough already; the repetitions simply aren't necessary. Let's end

this review by discussing one more song on the so called best effort. It's called 'H - K (Hunter Killer)' and it goes like this: 'I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. Criminal! Criminal! Criminaaaaal!! I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminal. I am a criminaaaaal.' Again, you don't find any of that kind of rubbish on Archetype. To sum up, the subject of this review is hugely underrated and it should really earn a perfectly respectable 9 out of 10. Bye!