

Today I'll be reviewing Audioslave's self-titled debut album. Let's start things off with a track listing poem! Ok, here are the tracks in order:

1. Cochise
2. Show me how to live
3. Gasoline
4. What you are
5. Like a stone
6. Set it off
7. Shadow on the sun
8. I am the highway
9. Exploder
10. Hypnotize
11. Bring em back alive
12. Light my way
13. Getaway car
14. The last remaining light

Not very good is it? Not to worry, rearrange the tracks and you get...

Cochise gasoline, show me how to live. I am the highway getaway car exploder, light my way. The last remaining light like a stone shadow on the sun. Hypnotize what you are, bring em back alive. Set it off.

What does it mean? First up, 'cochise' means 'having the strength/quality of oak'. Gasoline as strong as oak, show me how to live. I think anyone can take inspiration from strength in general, especially strong as oak gasoline as it can do wonderful things like power cars, so the poem works so far. 'I am the highway getaway car exploder, light my way.' Well, maybe that means he's a criminal who robs banks or whatever, then speeds away, blows 'his' car up to destroy the evidence and wants to be seen. (If he didn't want to be noticed, why light his way?) Ok, we've got a needy criminal wanting to be strong. 'The last remaining light like a stone shadow on the sun'? That could be a fancy way of saying the acts of crime are the only things the singer really enjoys now. Because he's depressed. I'm just saying people associate light with positive things and now only one light remains - crime, because that's all he talks about. It's hard to explain. A stone shadow on the sun? Shadows are dark like depression and the sun is hugely bright. Maybe that suggests everyone else in the ENTIRE world can find happiness but not the singer? If so, that doesn't excuse his actions, in my opinion. Hypnotize what you are? Maybe the singer has trouble sleeping, which does make sense when you consider the enormity of his crimes. Bring em back alive is nice of the singer, but he had to spoil things by 'setting it off' most likely another bomb. Just saying it's his past behaviour. Call me a cynic, but he is going to do it again, isn't he?

Wikipedia says some Audioslave lyrics are ridiculous. Did the prior example sound ridiculous to me? Like Chastaine's, and Machine Head's work, I kinda liked it. Even so, maybe it is a bit ridiculous. Not as ridiculous as the tracks in the order they appear on the album, though, they're plain cryptic. Forgive me for not doing anything too different with this review, but I'm tired and can't be bothered to try harder. I'm going to do this analysis, then another load of random words ranked, and then post

some jokes. Then it's back to reviewing for Metal Rules, and I finally get a break from this site. Phew. Alright, what to say now? I know, I'll check out the apparently OTT lyrics the band come up with (not the ones grossly distorted by me. Or are they?)... Ok, in another AS album we have 'I've been wandering sideways. I've stared straight into the sun and I don't know why you're dying long before your time has come.' Sounds strange to me at least. If you're wandering you're likely to get lost, surely it's going to be a lot worse if you're not even walking properly. And of course, you have to think of the reactions of others. The police will think you're on drugs, and there are clearly some crazy people in the world you don't want to share a cell with. (The car exploder). You've stared straight into the sun? But it will make you blind. That was stupid. You don't know why someone is dying? Ask them? Not just for the sake of curiosity, but at very least as a way of showing much needed thoughtfulness and kindness. Wow. This guy's almost as bad as the maniac just described. He's metaphorically blind too.

Ok, with the metaphor, the song is at least slightly deep but I still don't really understand it. Let's check out another song. 'When I first came to this island that I called by my own name, I was happy in this fortress, in my exile I remained.' England is an island. If I saw someone visit the country and call it 'Peter land' or whatever, I'd think he was the biggest, most selfish moron ever. You can't just name places after yourself. Even if you named an uninhabited island after yourself, you still have to think of all the crabs and tortoises, etc. Are you more important than a tortoise? Maybe you are. But are you more important than hundreds of the animals, along with hundreds of birds, etc.? That's a harder question to answer. To be fair, if I was stuck on a desert island, I probably would think I was more important than all the animals, shown when I eat them. And how did the guy suddenly arrive in a fortified island with no problems? Surely the military had at least a few questions? I have to come clean. The truth is I don't know what makes lyrics ridiculous and what makes them good, at least in this case. There are simply thousands of other songs that I feel similarly about. As I always say, the biggest red flags are childish rhymes. The following song is clearly bad...

'Hello, I'm Simon. I'm not bored, I'm not a sigh man. I do eat ham, but I don't like reading spam. I'm a fan of clams, dams and plans.' Well... it's terrible. Maybe it could improved with a metaphor? Hello, I'm Simon. I'm not a man in solitary confinement, like Stan. I do eat ham, but I don't like reading spam' etc. Of course the metaphor is the man in jail who has nothing to do and is therefore bored. Stan is a fictional character I've just created. Is that a good song? If not, I have one more idea - alliteration. Here goes: 'Say, how are you, I'm Simon. So, I'm not a man in solitary confinement, like Stan.' It's with genuine surprise I do think that's starting to get better. Actually, why not improve it further with hyperbole, onomatopoeia and more alliteration? Here goes 'Say, how are you, I'm Simon. So, I'm not a man in Earth's suckiest solitary confinement, like Stan who is so sick and tired, he's bashing the prison bars, clang, clang, clang.' Well... lol... I don't mean to sound smug, that's CD worthy, I think. Anyway, Audioslave. What rating do I give it? I have to be honest, I think it's a bit meh, so it gets a 7.75/10. My lyric writing on the other hand has gone from a one to a solid 9.5!! Bye!