

For a change, I thought I'd review an album I don't like THAT much. There are a few reasons it's not my cup of (de-caFFEinated) tea, but first up, here's an arrogant lyric for you. Get ready, because it really is intense: 'If I ever die, the stars will drop from the sky. The Gods will mourn me and cry.' Another lyric goes 'Rivers will dry, the pillars will break, Hell feels like Ice, the mountains will shake. If I ever die.' Who the hell do you think you are? That stuff doesn't even happen. If you thought that was bad enough, the lyrical delivery is just way too OTT. It's like Pavarotti in a period of depression and after a loss of skill. Thank God the following track isn't quite so dramatic, and it's certainly less deluded, but still the singer isn't exactly the best musician the band has ever had. Sadly however, it's called 'Hammer of Doom'. Stop saying 'doom'! I understand you're a doom metal band and you're excited about that, but all of your fans know you are. You really are underestimating if not insulting them. Sure people new to the band may not know they play doom metal, but even then, they only need to be told the once.

According to Wikipedia, the Swedish album was gong to be called 'Hammer of Doom' (not exactly an improvement), but there is a German festival that has the same name. STOP IT! Not the Germans as well, now?? I bet the festival doesn't even feature any hammers, it's just people listening to music and getting drunk or something. Hang on... getting drunk? i.e. getting hammered? Hm. Makes sense. Though if you take the name completely literally it does mean getting drunk to the point of death, which sounds like less of a festival and more like the organisers have gone full blown psycho. On the plus side, the songwriting in the LP isn't too bad. The singer ruins it, don't get me wrong, but it could be worse. You know what I think an underrated Candlemass album is? 'From the 13th Sun'. Yes it features the cliched number 13, but at least it's not called 'From the 13th Doom' which WOULD suck. Anyway, the songs in the album I like are actually fairly simple but the singer has style, showing the power of a frontman who doesn't get over excited about how amazing he is, even though there's no evidence to back it up. DMD Song 'House of 1,000 Voices' could suggest he's schizo, unless there's someone in his house who's great at mimicking other people's accents. That is noteworthy, I suppose. A fun guy.

Final track on the album 'Lucifer Rising' says the same two words dozens of times. We get it. He's rising. But at least the mood is dark which obviously makes sense. There is a song on their 'Nightfall' album called 'Samarithan' that is also dark, but the lyrics are about going to Heaven! Do the band want to go to Hell or something? I doubt it as the song about going to the place 'At the Gallows End' is even more morbid. These people clearly need to have a better outlook on life, as they're making me depressed. I've heard great things about going to Heaven, so cheer up. Apparently the genre doom metal got its name from the same band's album 'Epicus Doomicus Metallicus'. That's interesting as Black Sabbath invented the style. It seems the band are more influential than I thought, and it also annoyingly suggests their excessive use of the word 'doom' payed off. -- Would you believe my spellchecker recognises ALL of the album title's three words, even though they're not English OR Latin, but instead legit gibberish? Not sure what's going on there.

So, what score do I give the album? I think 4.0 out of 5 is fair. Would you believe that's the exact score the site Metal-Rules gave the album, and I now work for the company?? The staff clearly know their stuff. But it wasn't me who gave the MR score. Imagine if I did, but I forgot about it. Making things worse, imagine giving the

score way back when the album came out in 2009 and you didn't even know you worked for the site until the year 2022. That would be scary. It's never happened to me at least, but if it does, time to up my meds. The band should write a song about that, rather than going 'Lucifer rising, Lucifer rising, doom, doom, doom, I'm invincible' over and over again. Rock Hard gave the album 10.0 out of 10, implying it's perfect, (just no) and Metal Storm gave the album 8.9 out of 10, implying it's a great album and the critique is incredibly precise and well thought out. Come on. And on that pessimistic note... Bye!