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Metal Review – Premortal Breath: They

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Heavy Metal

Self-release

June 26h, 2014

Release length: 39:47

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Premortal Breath hails from Rauenberg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. The five-piece Heavy Metal group came together in 2010, and has been making their live rounds ever since, all the while honing their sound. Unlike many bands out there, these guys held off on releasing demos or small recordings like an EP or a split of any kind, instead working hard at crafting their self-released debut album *They*, which saw release in late June of 2014. But does this entity present eight solid tracks well worth experiencing, or are they not even worthy of being associated with the term Heavy Metal, but more along the lines of Metalcore?

Well, *They* doesn't always pack the heaviest of punches, but that doesn't necessarily mean this five-piece is a mainstream radio ready entity. Each track ends up littered with catchy Heavy Metal hooks and a rougher vocal harmonization. There's also the traditional Hard Rock elements that come into play after a while. A fine example of this is "Into the Light". The tighter main verses take advantage of the crisp, digital production well by throwing some

rather complex hooks at you in a faster pace with the bass and drums perfectly supporting them, all the while allowing the introduction and bridges to weave a gritty eighties back-alley sensation. The chorus, however, ends up a bit out of place in that it sounds more like something meant to highlight a school dance or sock hop from the sixties at times, such as approaching the three minute mark.

“Your Ruin”, however, is essentially your staple early Heavy Metal performance with a deeper vocal range that once in a great while ushers in a hint of Lemmy Kilmister (**Motorhead**) when coupled with decent growling amid the more restrained rougher harmonizations akin to James Hetfield (**Metallica**). But the softer bass driven chorus presents a darker, yet oddly uplifting atmosphere that acts as a nice abstract to the somewhat technical main verses and bridges. That latter band influence can be heard throughout a good deal of the album by the time you reach the third track.

Then you get some edgier material like “Fuck My Brain”. There’s a good deal of Heavy Metal riffage throughout, but there’s an undeniable Thrash Metal overtone to the main verses and bridges, not to mention a rich melody to the chorus that winds up baring some Metalcore traits here and there, such as the decent breakdown that wraps everything up. It’s a well executed mixture that, while fluid and laid back, has enough power to really get the listener fired up, not to mention carries over to the Hardcore tinged “Pain” with some subtle Thrash Metal influence. There’s also “Trapped”, which starts off with cleaner notes that brace you for a power ballad, but instead greet you with some moody vintage Metal hooks and a modern Hard Rock touch to the main verses and scattered passages of aggression.

They is like listening to a less epic **Metallica** album circa *Loaded*, just with a little extra variety across a few other genres. It’s not the most cohesive of recordings, but the overall product is executed with one well paced performance after another. The problem is that, while every song at least can get your head moving along to the rhythm, there’s not a lot of hard hitting cuts to really get you in the mood to mosh, or at the very least bang your head in a violent manner. Of course, this in no way means *They* is a pot luck of quality. There’s no denying the band can use a little more refining, or at the very least more of an analog touch to give the instruments some bite than just relying on atmosphere, mood and pacing. At this point in the game, **Premortal Breath** is refined enough to grab the attention of listeners looking for something that takes its time instead of just slamming one furious riff after another in an attempt to get your blood pounding, which is highly commendable. If this sounds like something you can get into, then *They* is worth at least checking out to see if it suits your needs.

- 02. Into the Light – 4:42
- 03. Fuck My Brain – 5:41
- 04. Pain – 4:18
- 05. They – 4:11
- 06. Pleasure – 6:08
- 07. Trapped – 4:58
- 08. Bloody Baby Shower – 5:11



Digital review copy of this release provided by **Premortal Breath**
via **Metalmessage PR.**

