Warlock - Triumph And Agony (1987/2011)

01. All We Are 02. Three Minute Warning 03. I Rule The Ruins 04. Kiss Of Death 05. Make Time For Love 06. East Meets West play 07. Touch Of Evil 08. Metal Tango play 09. Cold, Cold World 10. Fur Immer 11. East Meets West (Live) (Bonus Track) 12. Angels With Dirty Faces (Bonus Track) 13. Under The Gun (Bonus Track) 14. Something Wicked This Way Comes (Bonus Track)

Doro (vocals); Tommy Bolan, Niko Arvantis (guitar); Tommy Henriksen (bass); Michael Eurich (drums). Cozy Powell (guest drummer).

Triumph and Agony, what a fitting name, because this album is a triumph amongst the agony, the agony of losing both your original guitarists that is and it shows clearly in some of the album's poppier moments. It would be wrong to assume that Doro and crew burned out though, or that this album would be anything less than a traditional heavy metal styled banger. It's poppier sure, cheesy at times but it's still triumphant.

Take just the first 3 tracks for instance, All We Are is metal anthem, basic but memorable mid paced riff and a powerful but sing along chorus melted together with a sweet solo, which then immediately shoots into the fast riffs and more aggressive vocals of Three Minute Warning which in turn gives into I Rule The Ruins which keeps the fast riffs and stronger vocals for verses and bridges but trades for a gentler singing approach on the chorus.

We're now 5 songs in and we've been offered nothing but well written and performed heavy metal, surely there's poppier elements here than just some catchy choruses and a big rocker riff right? Well why not add a love related ballad reminiscent of glam? Turns out there's no reason not to because Warlock understands the thin line between ballad and power ballad. Don't get me wrong it's cheesy with lines like "Love don't let me be afraid of love" but it also delivers a good lead and excellent rock vocals at the end to help off set this.

Now that is about as close to a track by track breakdown as I care to give. It's of course not the hardest hitting album of the 80s, but it's also not light weight by any means. It's mixed well, everything is clearly audible, there might be an argument that it's too polished but it won't be me that makes that argument. ---Grumpy Cat, metal-archives.com

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