ACDC – Powerage (1978)



- 1. "Rock 'n' Roll Damnation" 3:37 2. "Down Payment Blues" 6:03 3. "Gimme a Bullet" 3:21 play
- 4. "Riff Raff" 5:11 5. "Sin City" 4:45 6. "What's Next to the Moon" 3:31 play
- 7. "Gone Shootin" 5:05 8. "Up to My Neck in You" 4:13 9. "Kicked in the Teeth" 3:53

 Cliff Williams Bass Angus Young Guitar Malcolm Young Guitar Phil Rudd Drums Bon Scott Vocals

Powerage was a first in the sense that it debuted bassist Cliff Williams, but it really is more of a final curtain to the band's early years. It would be the last produced by Vanda & Young, the legendary Australian production team who also helmed hits by the Easybeats, and it was the last before AC/DC became superstars. As such, it's perhaps the most overlooked of their '70s records, also because, frankly, it is the most uneven of them. Not that it's a bad record -- far from it, actually. There are a few genuine classics here, most notably "Down Payment Blues" and "Up to My Neck in You," and there's a real appeal in how Bon Scott's gutter poems of excess are reaching a mythic level; there's a real sense that he truly does believe that rock & roll leads straight to hell on "Rock 'n' Roll Damnation." But overall, the record is just a bit too wobbly, one where the parts don't add up to a record as hard and addictive as before -- but there's still plenty worth hearing here. --- Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AMG

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