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ANTICHRIST SUPERSTAR

SUMMARY:

Antichrist Superstar is the second studio album released by American rock artist Marilyn Manson; Manson was an extremely controversial figure throughout the 90's and 2000's. The majority of this controversy stemmed from Manson's association with the Church of Satan as well as his unique content in his music, and his live acts in concerts which commonly involved defacing the American flag or ripping pages out of the Holy Bible. Despite these uproarious and controversial acts Manson has proven himself to be quite knowledgeable and intellectual in various interviews.



Creation:



Antichrist Superstar was quite a lengthy and extensive album to create needing over 8 months to complete also faced many struggles which were mostly social disagreements many that escalated dangerously, regardless the album was created.

The members involved in the album's creation were Marilyn Manson, Twiggy Ramirez, Madonna Wayne Gacy, and Ginger Fish; Nine Inch Nails's guitarist Robin Finck and Danny Lohner and drummer Chris Vrenna also participated. The producer of the record was alongside vocalist Trent Reznor and former Skinny Puppy producer Dave Ogilvie.

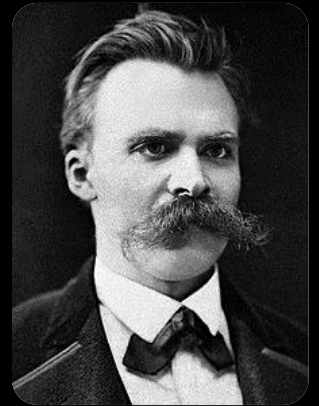
Highlights of the album's creation process includes many experiments involving near-constant drug use and intense sleep deprivation to form a hostile work environment which apparently suited the album's content. Manson has also admitted to experimenting regularly with prescription painkillers, morphine sulphate, hydrocodone (painkiller) while recording; also spoke of how he would insert sewing needles underneath his fingernails to supposedly test his pain threshold.



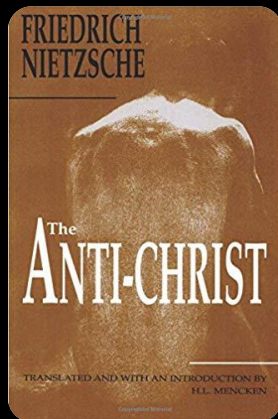
Beginning sessions were unproductive, and commonly resulted in the complete destruction of the studio including some of the group's own equipment and instruments. A high level of antagonism between band members also emerged, most being directed towards guitarist Daisy Berkowitz, Daisy claimed to have been "shut out" of the room while the band recorded, and spoke of his own equipment being destroyed, for example his four-track recorder, along with his own drum machine. It was later discovered that the machine appeared to be thrown out of a second-story window.

Concept:

The main concept that is used in *Antichrist Superstar* is both inspired by and a tribute to the work of German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, which referenced his philosophical concept of an *Urbarmensch* (Superman). The album was also influenced by the quote "the idea of putting yourself through a transformation to become something superhuman" which



Manson had found in one of Nietzsche's literary works; *The Antichrist*; This album is referred to as a social critique and uses this as a metaphor against the perceived fascist elements of the Conservative political movement and the Right Wing Christians in North America. Manson also revealed that David Bowie's "We Are The Dead" had a crucial influence lyrically on the album.



Story:

The storyline of the album involves a supernatural being becoming a demagogic rock star who conquers and controls all political

power from humanity and aims to create an apocalyptic end event that erases all of humanity. The album is sectioned into 3 sections: “The Heirophant”, “Inauguration of the Worm”, and “Disintegrator Rising”.

In the last section the supernatural protagonist transforms into *The Antichrist Superstar* who is a political populist that appeals to the elite upper-class echelons of society and demagogue whose inner ambitions and motivations are completely incomprehensible and transcend any conceivable sense of morality. The being is disgusted by humankind and results in the process of a genocidal extermination of the entire human race, eventually along with the planet.

Track Review

1. *Tourniquet* ***** (5/5 stars)



A quality that Manson possesses is that each of his music videos and songs has their own ‘feel’ and ‘theme’ to them, especially *Tourniquet*. This song has to be one of Manson’s dirtiest and most emotion-filled track, I really like the main chorus to this song as well which is, *Take your hatred out on me; Make your victim my head; You never believed in me; I am your tourniquet;*

I think this song is about the manipulation and exploitation of a relationship, one of the individuals that was in the relationship was benefiting while the other was taking the brunt of the relationship via taking their anger out on the other thus, *Take your hatred out one me; Make your victim my head.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmfQ7gSaJgM> (<--- Music Video)

2. *The Beautiful People (Explicit)* ***** (5/5 stars)



This was the song that got me addicted to Marilyn Manson's sound, I was so entranced by the main riff, the dirty guitar, the anger in Manson's voice as well as his insane outfit and makeup he wears in the music video.

The message that I interpret in this song is essentially how the more wealthy/prestigious citizens of society are crossed out from being punished for their wrong-doings based on the last two lines of the chorus, *Hey, you, are you trying to be mean?; If you live with apes man it's hard to be clean.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypkv0HeUvTc> (<--- Music Video)

3. *Angel With the Scabbed Wings* **** (4/5 stars)



Once again the instant this song starts it automatically establishes its own kind of tone and atmosphere. Manson's unique sound no doubt comes from the

almost ‘grinding’ effect that his guitar produces along with his anger filled vocals creates a truly terrifying but awe inspiring track.

This song is about Manson describing himself as the Antichrist in the first verse, *Hard-drug face, wanna powder his nose; he will deflower the freshest crop; dry up all the wombs with his rock and roll sores;*. “Deflower the freshest crop” is a saying Manson commonly says in some of his performances, “Hard-drug face” is simply Manson describing himself and his abuse of drugs, Manson also describes himself in a way that makes people both terrified, offended by but also fascinated by him at the same time just because of how he portrays himself in the pre-chorus, *The things he has you’ll never want to see;*. Meaning someone who offends the general public, *Man can’t always reap what he sow;*. May be an interpretation of society creating Marilyn Manson based on their strict societal norms, resulting in society becoming completely bewildered by such a character without realizing how they were the ones that created Marilyn Manson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1JOhGVK710> (<--- Standalone audio)

Marilyn Manson is one of the few remaining artists from the latest golden age in industrial metal music which was in the 90s, so many bands of varying genres of metal sprouted during that time and introduced the world with such inspiring performances and sounds. Even if the path that Manson chose to find such ways to create his music wasn’t the most healthy or “sane”, in the end it was his choice to sacrifice his well-being for his work and that is a defining quality that makes an artist.

Thank you for reading my review.