



Hellbilly Deluxe (By Rob Zombie)

Reviewed by Maximus Chappell

After 13 years of White Zombie being together, Robert Cummings (aka Rob Zombie), Sean Yseult, Jay Yuenger, and John Tempesta decided to break up the band in September 1998. But before Sean, Jay, or John could begin any sort of solo career after the breakup, Rob Zombie was one step ahead of them, with the release of his first-ever solo album in August of 1998 called “HellBilly Deluxe”, which would end up being his best-selling album to date and would help greatly propel his solo career in the metal scene.

A little bit about the album

Released on August 25, 1998, HellBilly Deluxe was Rob’s debut solo album. Even though the album was made months before the eventual breakup of the band, Rob decided he needed a different set of people to help him produce his vision of a perfect “horror-themed” album. Originally, Rob had Nine Inch Nails instrumentalist Charlie Clouser help him with producing the album, but due to contract obligations Clouser had to leave and was replaced by Scott Humphrey, who had previous work with Metallica on keyboards/programming. For his bassist he had Rob "Blasko" Nicholson, Guitarist Mike Riggs, and originally had Tommy Lee from Mötley Crüe on drums who played for a couple tracks on HellBilly Deluxe, but was then replaced with White Zombie Drummer, John Tempesta for the rest of the album.



HellBilly Deluxe

Tracklist:

1. Call Of The Zombie
2. Superbeast*
3. Dragula*
4. Living Dead Girl*
5. Perversion 99
6. Demonoid Phenomenon
7. Spookshow Baby
8. How To Make A Monster
9. Meet The Creeper*
10. The Ballad of Resurrection Joe and Rosa Whore
11. What Lurks On Channel X?
12. Return Of The Phantom Stranger*
13. The Beginning Of The End

Note: Tracks With * Have Descriptions



Star Track Descriptions

1. [Superbeast](#)

Co-written with Charlie Clouser before he left Rob's crew, Superbeast in my opinion, was the best track to start off Hellbilly Deluxe. With its cryptic-like synthesizer and booming drums at the start, then its gravelly vocals, the song perfectly defines what Rob Zombie's iconic sound would be for most of the album. Heavy, hard-hitting drums, plenty of synthesizer, and dark, "demonic" lyrics.

About an 8.5/10 for this one

2. [Dragula](#)

Like many other big fans of Rob Zombie, Dragula is personally one of my favourite tracks off of HellBilly Deluxe. The song gets its name from a drag racer on an old sitcom called "The Munsters" that Rob used to watch when he was younger. This song features more heavy-hitting drums and synthesizer that's incredible catchy and fast that you can't stop banging your head to it. Also, for such a defining Rob Zombie song, it was shocking enough to find out myself that it was the last song to be recorded for the album.

This one definitely deserves a 10/10

3. [Living Dead Girl](#)

With Living Dead Girl, I find the lyrics so catchy I can't stop myself from singing along to it. The lyrics reference a B-rated horror film called "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" which is about a hypnotist using a sleepwalker to commit his murders at night. In my opinion, Living Dead Girl is the perfect blend of B-rated horror movie samples and Rob's "demonic" themed style.

About a 7/10

4. [Meet The Creeper](#)

Meet The Creeper is probably my 2nd favorite track off the album not because of the pounding drums or synthesizer, but probably because of the heavy and catchy guitar riff that's evident throughout the song. The lyrics on the other hand are pretty good in my opinion, but it just isn't the type of song I'd be listening to all day.

Just a 6.5/10, would rather listen to the instrumental of this one

5. [Return Of The Phantom Stranger](#)

Return Of The Phantom Stranger isn't one of my favourites, but it isn't a song I don't like listening to occasionally. The instrumental behind the song isn't the best to me, but the one thing that sticks out to me is what the lyrics talk about. What I mean is how the lyrics talk of this "Phantom Stranger" and when, "All you know is alone, You see a Phantom Stranger!" which could mean those who are isolated in life are somehow connected to this "Phantom Stranger".

6/10, not the best, but also not the worst

