



## THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

★★★★☆

*With Roots Above And Branches Below*

**Melodic prog screams that rules? Praise Jesus!**



Who saw it coming? Despite their preposterous name and ridiculous song titles ("Big Wiggly Style," "Lord Xenu" and "Assistant To The Regional Manager"), the Devil Wears Prada have become one of American metal's brightest lights. On *With Roots Above And Branches Below*, the post-Botch writhing of their first two albums is replaced by a genuinely epic songwriting sensibility that includes beautifully sung choruses and a tasteful use of keyboards that Dimmu Borgir and HammerFall would envy. The album has no dead spots; it's one crushing melodic death-metal riff after another, with Mike Hranica's raw-throated bellows perfectly offset by Jeremy DePoyster's almost power-metal choruses. The tracks flow together somewhat, but that's more the result of consistent awesomeness than a dearth of unique compositional ideas. TDWP

# OUTBURN

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## THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

*With Roots Above and Branches Below*

(FORGET)

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**EPIC METALCORE:** One of the most common phrases bands use when asked about their new release is, "The heavier parts are heavier, and the melodic parts are more melodic." A lot of the time this is just hyperbole, but if Ohio's The Devil Wears Prada was to make this claim, they would actually be on the money. Kicking off *With Roots Above and Branches Below* with the triple threat of "Sassafras," "I Hate Buffering," and "Assistant to the Regional Manager," they deliver three of the strongest songs of their career, all of them sounding bigger, harder, and more epic than anything they have so far put their name to. Although the band's reliance on their trademark chugging serves to subsequently weaken a few too many of the songs, *With Roots Above and Branches Below* is a record that is steadfastly committed to stirring up mosh pit riots while making sure there is plenty of power behind their sing-along choruses. As with the band's previous releases, comparisons with Underoath abound, and this is not a bad thing, since they have tapped into a similar vein in terms of the heart and soul powering the songs, as well as conveying a sense of otherworldliness that is difficult to accurately describe. In an oversaturated genre, this is definitely one of the better metalcore records to recently emerge. ~ Dan Slessor