



Maylene and the Sons of Disaster

IV- (FERRET/WARNER)-True confessions: I grew up in the south. It will always have a place in me. I love "Wise Blood" (both the book and the film). I have a weakness for outlaws. I grin when I read tags like "stoner rock" (another story) & tend to have an open mind toward anything called "metalcore." So I'm determined to ignore the cries of dismay that are being leveled at **Maylene and the Sons of Disaster's** new full-length, **IV**.

I pull the CD out of its wonderfully-burnished-feeling, "grainy" digipak. I do the involuntary wince at the groans the bass is making under the raised-fist vocals on the first track (metal-heads know that wince is a good thing). Whatever "In Dead We Dream" is about, it's killer... until it lapses into the slower chording that fits the "stoner rock" tag. Happily, the slower stuff is brief. But it makes me a little nervous, like: Did we really need that? The next track's a pretty standard, '90s-does '70s anthemic thing with a good run-time and really nice, ringing guitars. "Faith Healer (Bring Me Down)," the third track, is entirely '90s-pleasant; it's the kind of rock that for me doesn't really qualify as rock (the beat's a little two sway-inducing). However, I'm starting to see what long-term **Maylene** fans are on about. The track's much lighter-weight, and more mainstream, than the near-scorching opener. The fourth one, "Open Your Eyes," sounds entirely too much like Christian arena rock masquerading as metallic rock for my personal taste.

What can I say? My recommendation's meant to avoid any further blow-by-blowing: Sample the free stream currently available on AOL. New fans may attach to the less bloodthirsty tracks ("Taking On Water" could induce "the wave" on a show like American Idol). Old fans can still wrap sweaty hands around "In Dead We Dream," "Fate Games," "Cat's Walk," and a couple others. It's not like these guys aren't tight as hell, and very talented.

www.mayleneandthesonsofdisaster.us

