

Ecliptica - The Awakening (7/10) - Austria - 2007

Genre: Power Metal
Label: Self-production
Playing time: 28:45
Band homepage: [Ecliptica](#)



Tracklist:

1. The End Of Silence
2. The Awakening
3. A Fairytale...
4. Evil Love
5. Twilight Hall
6. Ecliptica

Just looking at the band name and song titles, several bands come to mind as initial comparisons, SONATA ARCTICA, BLIND GUARDIAN etc., and by trying to deduct a style for Viennese ECLIPTICA from these assumptions doesn't lead you onto the completely wrong path, because they play an epic and at times quite bombastic kind of Melodic Metal, with mostly male, but also a few female vocals.

Unbenownst to me they had released two full albums prior to the EP "The Awakening", so I can't compare the six songs at hand to what they had sounded like before, but there are a few flaws that mar the enjoyment of this release that make me want to be able to check back on how they had sounded like in the past...

After the obligatory intro ECLIPTICA set out at a driving pace, a little Prog and some bombast, before getting a bit straighter with "A Fairytale...", where my main beef with the band comes into play for the first time, the vocals of Evelin Pieler. I can't really put my finger to it, but something puts me off big time whenever she joins in and that is a problem for the relationship between me and the Austrians, something that sees its continuation in "Evil Love", unfortunately.

But the last two tracks show the true potential of the band, I love "Twilight Hall", with a bit of orchestration incorporated into a mostly stomping track with excellent chorus, and "Ecliptica" at the end is the maybe most variable track rhythmically, with symphonic keyboards and dual vocals (which both work on this one), a very good song indeed.

In the end "The Awakening" is a little of a mixed bag due to the mentioned flaws, which detract a bit from the quality songwriting, the last two songs are great and a full album of that quality could make ECLIPTICA take off like their countrymen of SERENITY, but until then they still have some work ahead of them.

(Online August 31, 2007)

ALEX