

= Enter the Grave =

Enter the Grave is the debut album by the English thrash metal band Evile . Released on 27 August 2007 in Europe and on 25 September in North America and Japan , the album received generally favorable reviews and entered the UK Rock Chart at number 33 . It was produced by Flemming Rasmussen and recorded at Sweet Silence Studios , Copenhagen , Denmark . Rasmussen had produced three Metallica albums , which raised the profile of the album 's release . The track " Thrasher " was included on the 2008 Earache Thrash Pack , a downloadable selection of songs for the music video console game Rock Band .

The album 's lyrics were inspired by films scripts , recounts of the life of Countess Bathory and witch burnings . Enter the Grave was re @-@ released as a limited @-@ edition " redux " version on 13 October 2008 in Europe and on 28 October in North America . According to the Huddersfield Daily Examiner , Enter the Grave had shifted 30 @,@ 000 copies by September 2009 .

= = Recording = =

On 18 October 2006 , Earache Records announced that it had signed a record contract with Evile . Looking for a producer for their debut album , the band decided they would send a request by email to producer Flemming Rasmussen " for a laugh " ; Rasmussen had previously produced three Metallica albums ; 1984 's Ride the Lightning , 1986 's Master of Puppets , and 1988 's ... And Justice for All . Lead vocalist / rhythm guitarist Matt Drake typed Rasmussen 's name into Google , and the first result returned was the producer 's official website . Drake emailed Rasmussen asking if he would be interested . The producer replied a few days later , asking him to send several tracks . Drake emailed a number of mp3 files , but Rasmussen did not reply , leading Drake to worry that the producer " hated them , and thought they were shit . " Earache Records subsequently emailed Rasmussen to formally ask if he would produce Evile 's debut album , to which Rasmussen replied , " Yes " . On 12 March 2007 , his involvement was made public .

Pre @-@ production with Rasmussen began on 28 ? 29 April at Evile 's Huddersfield , West Yorkshire rehearsal space . Soon after the band performed a live set at Tottenham Court Road , London 's Fopp record store , which Rasmussen attended to observe Evile 's live sound , and further gain a feel for the group 's music . The album was recorded and mixed at Sweet Silence Studios , Copenhagen , Denmark . Enter the Grave was produced , engineered , mixed and mastered by Rasmussen , who also supplied additional backing vocals to title track " Enter the Grave " . Anders H. Mortensen , meanwhile , acted as assistant engineer . Photographs taken during the album 's recording sessions were posted at Evile 's official MySpace blog , where fans were also invited to ask the band 's members questions about the recording process for Enter the Grave .

In turn , Evile 's guitarists went into a room where another person sat with a microphone , ready to capture the sound . From the control room , Rasmussen would say " Right , play something " . The respective guitarist would play his instrument , to which Rasmussen would respond " Right , move it left " . Moving the guitar left , the respective guitarist would play again , Rasmussen replying with " Move it right . Alright , leave it there . Don 't touch it " . The respective guitarist would leave his instrument in that position , and the " record " button would be pressed . From there , the musician in question would play his parts . A Mesa Boogie Dual Rectifier amplifier was tested alongside a Marshall amplifier , but according to Drake , " the Mesa (sound) was nowhere near as good " . Evile chose to record Enter the Grave 's guitar parts using a Marshall amplifier , and spent roughly ten minutes attempting to achieve a " decent " sound . Slightly more time was spent testing the drums so that a " nice " sound could be achieved , and so that the drums could be tuned .

By 5 June , recording for Enter the Grave had been completed , and Rasmussen had begun mixing the album . Video footage shot during recording sessions was uploaded to Earache Records ' official YouTube account on 4 July , providing an exclusive glimpse behind the scenes . In reviewing Enter the Grave , some journalists commented on Rasmussen 's role as producer . Chris Kee of Zero Tolerance Magazine said that " getting Flemming Rasmussen to produce [Enter the Grave] is a major coup and as you 'd expect he 's done a sterling job , these fine songs all being blessed with a

clean , crisp , uncluttered sound " , whereas Ian Webster of Terrorizer felt that " booking a band into Sweet Silence Studios in Copenhagen to record their debut with legendary Metallica producer Flemming Rasmussen is one hell of a statement of intent from Earache . " Eduardo Rivadavia of Allmusic also commented on Rasmussen 's involvement , declaring that his production " is surely one large reason why the album is characterized by a distinctively crunchy , rhythmically airtight attack . "

= = Marketing and promotion = =

On 23 April 2007 Earache released a six @-@ CD collection entitled Metal : A Headbanger 's Companion which included a demo version of " Enter the Grave " on its third disc . Six days later , following a pre @-@ production session , Evile performed a live set at Tottenham Court Road , London 's Fopp store . " Enter the Grave " , " Schizophrenia " and " Armoured Assault " were made available for streaming on the group 's official website on 25 June . " Enter the Grave " was further included on an Earache summer sampler CD given out free with the August 2007 issue of Decibel .

Fans who pre @-@ ordered the album from Earache 's webstore received an exclusive red 7 " vinyl single , along with an Evile poster . This vinyl was limited to a thousand copies and featured two unreleased demo tracks ? " Darkness Shall Bring Death " and " Sacrificial " . The 7 " single was also available to purchase from selected independent retailers . On the day of the album 's release outside of North America and Japan , Evile performed an in @-@ store show at Manchester 's Virgin Megastore .

Released in Europe and North America on 21 January 2008 and 5 February respectively , the song " Thrasher " surfaced on the compilation Thrashing Like A Maniac . " Thrasher " was also part of the Earache Thrash Pack , downloadable content made available on 18 March for the music video console game Rock Band . With producer Dan Fernbach of Static Films , Evile filmed a music video for the track on 28 August in South London .

= = Lyrical themes = =

Enter the Grave 's liner notes credit Evile as a whole for having written the album 's lyrics . In discussing his lyrical contributions during an October 2007 interview , lead vocalist / rhythm guitarist Matt Drake said that he was " really inspired by films " ; " First Blood " ' s lyrics were inspired by the 1982 film of the same name , whereas " We Who Are About to Die " ' s lyrics were inspired by the 2000 epic Gladiator . Inspired by an urban legend about Countess Bathory , the lyrics for " Bathe In Blood " were written by Drake while Evile were recording at Sweet Silence Studios ? after penning the track 's lyrics , he thought he " had gone too far " . " Burned Alive " , meanwhile , was about burning witches ; reading about witches and " how they were dealt with in olden times " , Drake " thought it might be interesting to add a devilish slant to it " . Inspired by what he read , Drake wrote about burned witches going to Hell , returning , and then killing everyone . Drake also wrote the lyrics to title track " Enter the Grave " , and " Schizophrenia " , the former being about a serial killer .

Written by bassist Mike Alexander , the lyrics to " Armoured Assault " describe a giant tank @-@ like war machine . Alexander wrote " Killer From the Deep " ' s lyrics as well , which Drake thinks might have been inspired by 1975 thriller Jaws . Drummer Ben Carter contributed lyrics for Enter the Grave , writing the lyrics to " Man Against Machine " .

Eduardo Rivadavia of Allmusic felt that the album 's lyrics were characterized by " splatter @-@ demonic lyrics , reminiscent of Bay Area staples like Exodus and Forbidden ? even early Slayer for brief , exceptionally inspired moments . " Metal Maniacs ' Kevin Stewart @-@ Panko commented that Enter the Grave contained " songs about such need @-@ to @-@ know topics as John Rambo (" First Blood ") , sharks (" Killer From the Deep ") and , umm , thrash (" Thrasher ") , " deeming the album 's lyrical content " escapist ridiculousness . "

= = Critical reception = =

Originally scheduled for issue in early 2007 , Enter the Grave was released in Europe on 27 August 2007 by Earache Records and debuted at number 33 on the UK Rock Chart . Released in North America and Japan almost one month later on 25 September by Earache Records and Howling Bull Records respectively , the album sold 200 copies in the United States during its first week of release . Its Japanese edition included the bonus demo tracks " Darkness Shall Bring Death " and " Sacrificial " , both of which were also available as an exclusive red 7 " single vinyl . A limited @-@ edition " redux " version of the album was issued on 13 October in Europe and on 28 October in North America , housed in a slipcase . This re @-@ release included three bonus tracks , an Enter the Grave patch , a guitar pick , and a two @-@ hour DVD including the entire full @-@ length played live in rehearsal , live footage from Evile 's February 2008 European tour with Megadeth , band interviews , and exclusive behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage of the group on the road .

Writing mostly favourable reviews of the album , many journalists referenced 1980s thrash groups , particularly Exodus , Slayer and Testament . Awarding the album eight out of ten stars , Dom Lawson of Classic Rock described Enter the Grave as " a monstrous , life @-@ affirming metal album that craftily welds misty @-@ eyed nostalgia for the glory days of Exodus , Testament and Arise @-@ era Sepultura to contemporary sonic values " . Rock Sound writer Ronnie Kerswell observed that " title track " Enter the Grave " nods towards Slayer 's classic " Angel of Death " " , and summarized by calling the full @-@ length " old school as fuck " , while awarding Enter the Grave eight out of ten stars . Dave Ling of Metal Hammer gave the album eight out of ten stars as well , feeling that " with the galloping likes of " Bathe In Blood " , " Thrasher " and " First Blood " , Evile have fulfilled their side of the deal " . Chris Kee of Zero Tolerance Magazine noted that " the influences are easy to spot ? Metallica , Exodus , Testament , Forbidden , Laaz Rockit , Slayer " , but still called Enter the Grave " a triumph , a resounding war cry from the spearhead of the new UK thrash assault " , awarding four and a half out of five stars .

Ian Webster of Terrorizer wrote that " First Blood " is ultra @-@ Exodus and goes head to head with the Slayer attack of " Schizophrenia " and " Armoured Assault " " , and hailed the album as " the best UK thrash debut since Sabbath 's History of a Time to Come " , awarding nine out of ten stars . Giving Enter the Grave four out of five stars , Kerrang ! ' s James Hoare commented that the album was " honed on a steady diet of early Slayer , Sacred Reich and Nuclear Assault " , summarizing the full @-@ length as " an absolute hair @-@ swirling , air @-@ punching beast " . Terrorizer dubbed Enter the Grave the nineteenth best album of 2007 , whereas Classic Rock rated the full @-@ length the thirty @-@ eighth best album of 2007 .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Matt Drake ? lead vocals , rhythm guitar , 3rd guitar solo on " We , Who are About to Die "

OI Drake ? lead guitar , cover concept

Mike Alexander ? bass guitar

Ben Carter ? drums

Flemming Rasmussen ? Producer , engineer , mixer , masterer and additional backing vocals on " Enter the Grave "

Anders H Mortensen ? Assistant engineer

Vitaly S Alexius ? Cover illustration

Tom Warner ? Layout

Lucy Swift ? Photos