

= Risk (Megadeth album) =

Risk is the eighth studio album by American thrash metal band Megadeth , released on August 31 , 1999 by Capitol Records . It is also the band 's last album to be released by that label . The first Megadeth album since 1990 to feature a lineup change , Risk marks the studio debut of drummer Jimmy DeGrasso with the band , as well as the final appearance of long @-@ time guitarist Marty Friedman , who announced his departure a year later .

Meant to be a breakthrough on alternative rock radio , Risk received a mixed response because of the great deviation from the band 's traditional sound . The resulting backlash ultimately caused the band to return to a heavier , more typical style with their next album , The World Needs a Hero . Megadeth frontman Dave Mustaine has blamed the record 's lack of success on the fact that it was released under the " Megadeth " name : " if anybody else 's name was on ' Risk ' , it would have sold " .

Despite this , the album debuted at number 16 on the Billboard 200 chart and was certified gold in 1999 by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipping a half million copies in the United States . As with the rest of Megadeth 's studio records released by Capitol Records , the album was remixed and remastered in 2004 , and included several bonus tracks . This reissue also featured a different cover .

= = Background and release = =

Risk followed the band 's 1997 release Cryptic Writings , which according to Nielsen Soundscan , had sold 850 @,@ 000 copies and won widespread praise from rock radio programmers . Referring to the upcoming record , Rob Gordon , a VP of marketing at Capitol Records , stated that " before the last record , we 'd maybe had one track at rock radio , and it would be over . With this record , like the last one , I think we 'll have four @-@ plus again . "

The title stems from a comment by Dave Mustaine 's former Metallica bandmate Lars Ulrich , who suggested to Mustaine that he should take more " risks " with his music . According to Mustaine , he was also encouraged to experiment by Marty Friedman 's desire to indulge in his pop sensibilities . On the other hand , newcomer Jimmy DeGrasso wanted to do a " heavy record " , unlike the rest of the band who wanted to try out something different . As bassist David Ellefson recalls , the band 's manager Bud Prager had told them that they needed " to do something that will make all of their contemporaries knock themselves on the head and say , ' Why didn 't we think of that ' ? " . This decision resulted in mixed reviews for both the band and the album ; a good portion did not favor the new sound and image , while others were more receptive to the band 's attempts at experimenting with their sound and trying something different .

Megadeth chose to produce the album once again with Dann Huff in Nashville , satisfied with the success of their previous record . The band started writing the songs right after finishing the tour in support of Cryptic Writings . It took them five to six weeks to write the songs , and they went to Nashville in January 1999 to record the album . The recording process lasted four months , and according to Ellefson , it was a " long haul " . The original American pressing of the album was released as an Enhanced CD , and featured a brief documentary about the making of the album as bonus content . Several European editions of the album contained a " No Risk Disk " as a bonus item , featuring one song from each of Megadeth 's previous six major label albums . Lastly , the Japanese version of the album includes a bonus track , which is the theme from Duke Nukem .

In 2004 , a remixed and remastered version of the album was released , featuring three bonus tracks , all different mixes of songs on the album . The cover for the remaster was noticeably different from the original , featuring a scene from the music video for " Insomnia " . In addition , a couple of tracks have slightly different song durations ? some shorter , some longer ? with the most noticeable one being " I 'll Be There , " which features an additional 53 seconds .

= = Critical reception = =

The album received a mixed response from music critics . AllMusic 's reviewer Steve Huey gave a sympathetic , if not exactly favorable review of the remixed and remastered 2004 pressing of Risk . Huey stated that the album had " aged gracefully , " compared to Metallica 's Load (1996) and ReLoad (1997) . However , he did note that the band had lost their edge on the album . Entertainment Weekly reviewer Laura Morgan compared " Insomnia " to Broken @-@ era Nine Inch Nails and gave the album a B- , though she criticized Mustaine 's vocal performance on the album . The New Rolling Stone Album Guide gave the album three stars out of five and noted that the album " had its moments " . Mike Stagno of Sputnikmusic , taking into account that the album has a different appeal , was somewhat positive in his review . Stagno cited the first few tracks as the album 's " harder edge " . However , he noted that some of the following softer tracks were " standout tracks " as well . Stagno did note , however , that some of the emotion on the album was " cheesy " . Amy Sciarretto of CMJ New Music Report noted that Risk marked another significant change in Megadeth 's sound and called it a " logical stylistic progression " from their previous album . According to her , Mustaine 's " biting lyrics " and " power riffs " were toned down , finding Megadeth " traveling out of thrash metal territory " .

In a retrospective review , Jeff Treppel from Decibel wrote that Risk was " definitely Megadeth ? s most adventurous record " and characterized it as a " decent hard rock album that should have never been put out under the Megadeth name " . Dave Mustaine has since expressed that , although he believes that Risk is a great record , it " should not have had the name Megadeth on it , because if anybody else 's name was on ' Risk , ' it would have sold " . However , Mustaine has also stated that " Crush ' Em " was " probably the dumbest " song that the band has ever recorded and said that he was " not too fond of " it .

= = Songs = =

Three singles were released in support of the album : " Insomnia " , " Crush ' Em " , and " Breadline " . All three received music videos . Additionally , " Crush ' Em " was featured in Jean @-@ Claude Van Damme 's 1999 movie Universal Soldier : The Return . Mustaine originally wrote the song hoping that it would be adopted at arenas nationwide as a new sports anthem . After its release as a single , the song has been broadcast during NHL games and pro wrestling events .

Jeff Treppel spoke positively about the album 's opener " Insomnia " , naming it " one of the best Megadeth songs of the past 15 years " . The song features swirling Middle Eastern strings , crunching guitar line and , according to Treppel , some of Mustaine ? s most demented lyrics . Treppel further described " Ecstasy " as " grunge ballad " and noted that it sounds like a " reject from Cryptic Writings " . He had mixed feelings about " Seven " , and observed " The Doctor Is Calling " like a tune that " aims for creepy , but hits cheesy instead " . By contrast , DeGrasso felt that " The Doctor Is Calling " along with " Prince of Darkness " were " definitely heavy songs " with " really dark lyrics on them " . Ellefson described the tracks " Breadline " and " Wanderlust " as " melodic " with " very modern @-@ sounding " grooves . Neil Arnold from Metal Forces opined that " Breadline " is " as melodic and commercial as Megadeth gets " , while noting that " Wanderlust " and " I 'll Be There " are " probably two of the band 's most underrated songs " .

All of the released singles charted on the Billboard 's Mainstream Rock Chart , with " Crush ' Em " and " Breadline " breaking into the Top 10 . Aside from just being released as a conventional single , " Breadline " was also released as its own EP in Japan featuring several versions of the song , and remixes of other songs from Risk and Megadeth 's back catalog . After leaving Megadeth , Friedman would later cover this song on his solo album Future Addict .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Dave Mustaine except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Chart performance = =