Outloud – Love Catastrophe (2011)

1. We Came To Rock 03:47 2. Falling Rain 03:31 3. Live Again 03:57 4. Waiting For Your Love 04:11 5. The Night That Never Ends 04:10 6. Someday 04:34 play 7. Underground 04:07 8. Isolation Game 04:41 9. Clean Hands 03:36
play
10. Love Catastrophe 05:09
Musicians: Chandler Mogel - Vocals Bob Katsionis - Guitars, Keyboards Tony Kash - Guitars Sverd T. Soth - Bass Mark Cross - Drums

Here's the second album by the Greek hard rockers OUTLOUD; when their first CD was released back in 2009 I thought it was some kind of an one-off project, since especially keyboardist Bob Katsionis and drummer Mark Cross were loaded with obligations for FIREWIND and enough other projects. Still, the notable success of "Outloud" may have resulted in the solidification of the band's scope for melodic powerful Hard Rock music, which is confirmed now with the latest release of "Love Catastrophe".

If evolution and improvement is primarily witnessed by judging on two continuous efforts, then "Love Catastrophe" looks like it's a winner. The production is more fat and arena-orientated while the band shows they've confirmed their chemistry in this album, with the instrumentation showing no exaggeration but focusing on bringing the songs and melodies themselves in the foreground. One thing to worry, on the other hand, would be the lack of personal identity at least to some extend. The vast majority of melodies and themes in the album look like they're some kinda rip-offs from other songs off this genre from the past. It's a hard task to be revolutionary, let's admit it, but honestly there were times I caught my mind thinking "this part sounds like this" or "that lead reminds me of that"...

Mogel's voice sounds improved in this second album. Knowing him from his deeds with US

melodic rockers TALON some years ago I was pleased to see him in the OUTLOUD lineup two years ago, and I think his throat fits even better in the style of the songs in “Love Catastrophe”. He brings some special kind of feeling in the song-making and adds a lot in the general atmosphere. The same goes for the keyboards work while the guitar leads are fitting like a glove in the specific style.

“Love Catastrophe” is the kind of album you’ll spend good time with, if being a fan of powerful melodic Hard Rock with a slice of more ‘fresh’ elements. Not being a milestone but also not credited as a bad album, this second OUTLOUD CD adds what probably the Greek band needs: the preservation of and little boost in the band’s fame. You may not remember at times it’s added in your CD collection, but if you finally spot it some spinning will add pleasure. --- metalkaoz.com

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