Def Leppard – Slang (1996)



1 Truth? 3:01 2 Turn To Dust 4:22 3 Slang 2:38 4 All I Want Is Everything 5:20 5 Work It Out 4:50 6 Breathe A Sigh 4:07 7 Deliver Me 3:04 8 Gift Of Flesh 3:48 9 Blood Runs Cold 4:27 10 Where Does Love Go When It Dies 4:05 11 Pearl Of Euphoria 6:20 Bass Guitar, Guitar [Acoustic], Bass [Synth], Vocals – Rick Savage Drums, Percussion – Rick Allen Guitar [Electric], Guitar [Acoustic], Dulcimer, Vocals – Vivian Campbell Guitar [Electric], Guitar [Acoustic], Mandolin, Vocals – Phil Collen Lead Vocals – Joe Elliott

After the lackluster performance of Adrenalize, Def Leppard realized it was time to abandon their trademark wall-of-guitars sound. Jettisoning producer Mutt Lange -- who, admittedly, was busy producing his wife, country singer Shania Twain -- the group stripped its sound to the basics for Slang. There are very few layers-of-guitar effects on the album, just straight, crunching chords. Most notably, Rick Allen has returned to playing acoustic drums after playing an electronic kit for nearly a decade. The change in approach is apparent and welcome -- Def Leppard hasn't sounded so immediate since Pyromania. Furthermore, they decided to expand their musical vocabulary slightly, working elements of R&B and funk into the rhythms. Not all of the experiments work, but Def Leppard sound revitalized, particularly when they attack a straightforward rocker. Slang would have been even better if they had come up with a set of hooks that sounded as alive as their performance, but the album is a much-needed return to form for the group. ---Stephen Thomas Erlewine, AllMusic Review

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