

**CranstoN**

**By**

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**Written by**

**Steve Sheppard**

No nonsense, good down to earth heavy rock, something we need to set the beast free! Ever since I listened to *Tommy Vance* back in the late 70's I have been hooked on rock, *UFO*, supper was ready and a full dose of B.T.O. on the side, (not arf), thankfully today rock is still safe and in the hands of **CranstoN**.

Let's open with **Long Long Way to Go**, a song that proves my opening statement, just go for it, good old honest hard rock, with a *Def Leppard* styled melody, **Phil Vincent's** *Lou Gramm* vocals, pounding rhythmic percussion and a driving guitar, pretty perfect really.

**You Oughta Know** is up next and continues this damn fantastically brilliant release with a resonating base line by the amazing **Paul Sabu**, You will really relish the melody here listeners, the tempo is addictive as is the arrangement, this my friends is real rock n roll!

A quick drum roll *from B.F D'Erole* and were in Van Halen mode with the song, **See You on the Other Side**. Vincent's vocals are in a more guttural mode for this one, in fact the whole song has taken a deeper almost *Metallica* side, but without the double pedal of course.

We got to watch where we go now, as there may be **Trouble Ahead**. **CranstoN** are really becoming inventive with this one, the start was a clever and lured us right down the *Bon Jovi, Wanted Dead or Alive* alley, then they quickly drove off at full speed, into a more throbbing bass filled composition, that literally will bounce off your ears.

**CranstoN** are indeed special, they have that addictive style that you cannot help but like, melodic rock yes, but gutsy and powerful most certainly, this is a band not afraid to really play and the track **Fallen** will emphasise that entirely. Here is a song that contains memorable melodies and classy harmonies, the negative refrain here is simply breath-taking.

Holy *Rolling Stones* Cowbells *Batman!* **CranstoN** goes into *Aerosmith* mode with **Queen of the Pain**, which very quickly morphs into a sultry and sexy *Z.Z Top* beat, I can see this one being really popular at a concert, especially with the female contingent and if there was a pole in the room, well who knows what could happen? Here is a classic, hot, rock till you drop tune.

Its, **Time to let it Go**. There isn't a bad song on this album, there are only good ones, excellent ones and off the damn scale brilliant ones, this is the latter, the keyboards and minor chords here make this truly special, this is the sort of music I used to listen to in the early 80's just to get through the day and thus falls quite nicely into the compartment tagged, songs designed to raise heavy metal thunder.

**Sea of Madness** contained a sweet energy to it that really reminded me at times of the late but great days of Dio with the Sabs, ah those times were heaven and hell! The lyrics here are so evocative and meaningful, I felt for years like I was sailing on this very sea. Vincent raises his game here, this is a song that manifests the best of a true melodic hard rock song, the acoustic here was perfectly mixed and the vocals seem to drift into this vast abyss the place we now know as, the **Sea of Madness**.

Our penultimate offering is called **Hanging On**. Clever drum patterns by D' Ercole and a smooth and stylish guitar from Sabu, give us a song that drives onward with the sweet intensity of rocking bliss.

Reluctantly it's time for us to leave the stadium of **CranstoN**, but before the lights come up, we have one final song that they wish to gift to us, before its time to head on our way to the back, to buy the album and t shirt etc., this one is called **Unwanted**. OK, think *Sabbath*, *Foreigner*, *Dio*, *Def Leppard*, mix them all together and you will have a similar energy blasting from your headphones, this is probably one of the darkest tracks from the album, Sabu's guitar here is

incredible, as he plays, one can feel the two horned fingers going up into the air to salute a **Toni Iommi** styled performance.

**CranstoN**, have produced something here that any true rock fan *since* the 70's will HAVE to buy. **CranstoN** is an album packed wall to wall, speaker to speaker, with good honest true hard rock, melodic yes, soft, defiantly not. To produce a classic rock album of this quality and have 10 equally solid and quite rocktastic tunes is truly wonderful, trust me rock fans, you're going to love this one, go on get it, you know you want to.