

Diamond Dawn - Overdrive (2013)

Written by bluesever

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01. Into Overdrive 02. Take Me Higher 03. Crying 04. Standing As One 05. California Rush 06. Indestructible 07. Turn It Up 08. The Hunter 09. Give It All 10. Don't Walk Away 11. Powergames Musicians: Alexander Strandell - Vocals Jhonny Göransson - Guitars Olle Lindahl - Guitars Mikael Planefeldt - Bass Niklas Arkbro - Keyboard Efraim Larsson – Drums

Sweden's Diamond Dawn wears their influences on their collective sleeves. Their debut album, *Overdrive*, is pure and uncompromising classic melodic hard rock in the best Eighties AOR style.

While that Eighties rock style may be the larger canvas, Diamond Dawn sounds, at times, like a cross between Toto and Survivor, especially on *Take Me Higher*, *Don't Walk Away*, or *Into Overdrive*. Yet, generally, the band works the fundamentals: clear and melodic vocal arrangements, hooks in both composition and choruses, strong lead guitar lines, fervent rhythm section, and a nice layer synths.

It seems strange coming from a band that were likely mere toddlers back in the day. They must have been raised on their parents' record collection. Nevertheless, *Overdrive* sounds great and Diamond Dawn nails the classic rock genre with class, attitude, and energy. Those aforementioned tunes are representative, then add *Cryin'* and *Standing As One* as stand out pieces. However, the signature big Eighties style rocker is likely *Turn It Up*. I wouldn't be surprised if this would be their next video. Diamond Dawn's *Overdrive* is easily recommended to fans of classic AOR melodic hard rock. --- Craig Hartranft, dangerdog.com

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