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Careering into view like a raging typhoon, female-fronted Leeds based Chasing Dragons have just released their new EP 'Checkmate'. Produced, mixed and mastered by Lee Batiuk (Deaf Havana); it's a sprawling beast that incorporates frenetic post-hardcore burst of penetrating guitars, thunderous vocals and a titan-esque rhythm section; all which entwine with moments of alt-metal, hard rock with a defining punk undercurrent.

Unafraid to step outside their realms of metal riffery, the beautiful 'Prelude' opens with whispers and gently tip-toes showcasing vocalist Tank's ability to lull you in, gain your trust and from there she softly directs you throughout the chaos that ensues around her. Thunder crashes, drums menacingly approach and the guitar marches along with an ill meaning intent before it launches you headlong into the

full throttle rock of 'Throw Down Your King'. It whips you on a journey fused with thick molten riffs dripping with an underlining harmony which then slips into a moment of soft melancholia - a blink of an eye and its gone and back into a juggernaut of ear-worming Avenged Sevenfold-esque hooks.

The arousing 'That's Not Love' see's Tanks rasping vocals spit with defiance and almost blues undertones as the shot-gun drumming, frantic bass lines and unrelenting guitar pushes it to the limit as 'For the Sake of Murder' swaggers in; Tank again with teasing sense of mischief is surrounded by a cacophony of rage, defiance and riffs so meaty it could move mountains. Proving they can sweep between pace and tone with effortless ease 'The Last Defence' is a haunting piano led epic of Hollywood proportions. It reaches deep inside, grabs your heart and soul and rouses you to stand up and be counted; do not be bound, do not be tied town - fight and fight to survive. You. Are. The. Last. Defence they roar. Final track 'Broken Jaws' shows what Chasing Dragons do best and that is unrelenting, rocket fuelled rock and roll that you can see Lemmy tipping his Stetson to in approval in the distance somewhere.

Drawing comparisons to Iron Maiden, Avenged Sevenfold, AFI and Aiden, Chasing Dragons are coming out of the traps making some noise and having already shared stages with Pendulum, InMe, Death Angel, The Sweet and Fearless Vampire Killers amongst others. They have played various venues along the way ranging from O2 Academies to Camden Underworld, Local and National Festivals and more. 'Checkmate' is a real statement of intent.

And they intend to grab you by the throat.

Chasing Dragons are: Laurie 'Tank' Carnan (Vocals) / Mitch Sadler (Guitar/Vocals) / Katie Bullock (Drums) and Ant Varenne (Bass/Vocals)

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To listen to 'Checkmate' in full:

<https://soundcloud.com/chasingdragonsuk-1/sets/chasing-dragons-checkmate-ep/s-ILMqx>

'Broken Jaws' Music Video:

[http://youtu.be/o\\_qhSEnuDGs](http://youtu.be/o_qhSEnuDGs)





#### **In response to their new record 'Checkmate', released 02/06/2014:**

"'Checkmate' exudes passion, class and conviction. 8/10"

##### **Powerplay Magazine**

"Clawing out of the speakers with thunderous track 'Broken Jaws', this female fronted Leeds group have a fairly impressive touring past... Singer [Tank] is no prissy girl either and gives it her all, ranging from the soft dulcet tones to wailing rock goddess alongside driving riffs and cacophonous drums in 'Throw Down Your King'... For those that love a little blues-touched hard rock with some female attitude, this will please you indeed."

##### **Big Cheese Magazine**

"I wanted to use an expletive myself here but I won't, Holy Smoke, this band is good... there may be elements of their music that you have heard before but they are seamlessly sewn together in an individual style... I cannot imagine how hard the band had to work to produce an EP of this quality, the musicianship is spot on, the vocals are mind blowing and the production is without flaw. This is the easiest score I've given to an EP yet, no messing... 10/10"

##### **Black Phoenix Rising**

"Every now and then you listen to a piece of music that makes you sit up and take note, and that's exactly what happened when I got my first taste of 'For the Sake of Murder', from Leeds-based Chasing Dragons' new album Checkmate... 'Throw Down Your King' the perfect example of her [Tank's] aggressive approach to vocals... Katie Bullock on drums, who is easily the most kick-ass female drummer I've ever heard. As for the two boys of the band, Mitch Sadler on guitars and Ant Varenne on bass, they are of an equally high musical standard - Chasing Dragons are quite a quartet indeed."

##### **11 Is Louder Than 10**

"From front to back Checkmate is a hard rock and metal exhibition... I genuinely believe it is one of the best records out right now, full stop. I have had the absolute privilege to review some incredible music since I started doing this and this record is right up there with the very best. If Checkmate isn't vying for top spot on your record of the year lists come December pack up and go home because frankly you're doing it wrong. "

##### **The Musical Outcast**

"... the impeccable quality of the recording will be sure to satisfy, as you can hear every scratch, every hit and every breath exactly the way they want you to. Listen to this EP countless times and you will always hear something new... Checkmate gives the band the opportunity to sink their poisonous fangs deep within your very soul, leaving you with a craving that only chasing the dragon can satisfy. This record should come with a warning other than parental guidance. Chasing Dragons have arrived. Belt up."

##### **Hit The Scene**

"'Checkmate' is their latest record and despite being only six tracks long, this is well on its way to becoming one of my favourite EPs of 2014... there is no filler material here and all these tracks are really good."

##### **Metal Talk**

"Chasing Dragons, a Leeds rock band, are on the road to stardom. If you don't believe me, take a listen to their new record Checkmate... It is a flawlessly constructed rock album. Crushing guitars, pumping drums and vocals that will literally shake you from head to toe."

##### **Yorkshire Reporter**

"Brewing a striking fusion of fiery hard rock and ravenous melodic metal, UK's Chasing Dragons are one of those emerging propositions which you can only see going in one direction. Taking new EP Checkmate as evidence, the quartet from Leeds is on a potent ascent pushing an already strong reputation into a new spotlight. Consisting of six tracks which are as rigorously captivating

# CHASING DRAGONS

as they are creatively potent, the new release is a striking marker on the progress of the band... you can only feel the band is well on the way to finding that distinction and thus further recognition... Checkmate is an exciting and impressive offering which keeps Chasing Dragons on course for a richly rewarding career, for them and us so a recommendation to check them out could not be fuller."

## **Ringmaster Reviews**

"Chasing Dragons understand the raw and beautiful spirit of metal and seek to harness it in an exciting new way... They combine some tried and true ideas into something fresh, giving us a tasty little 22 minute EP to keep fans into the band. These guys have a clear passion for their art, knowing what they want to do and how to do, what more can you ask for? Come on in, feel the groove, Chasing Dragons bring the party, and they bring it hard!"

## **Two Guys Metal Reviews**

"Everyone of the six songs is very versatile and shows another musical side of the band. The work on the music is both traditional and modern... there are many surprises in the songs that keep them from becoming one of the many out there."

## **Metal Underdogs**

"Leeds based female-fronted rock band Chasing Dragons are on the war path with their EP Checkmate... will this EP be that platform to the next level? We've had a listen and think it might just be... If female-fronted rock music is your thing, Chasing Dragons are up there with the best of them. Even though we can put them in the genre 'female-fronted rock band', they're not so easily typecast; their sound is unique and the influences they've taken from bands like A7X and Disturbed make them a much heavier alternative"

## **Bring The Noise**

"Checkmate is a record which is technical and accomplished, mixing heavy instrumentals and sections of melody well, switching from Iron Maiden-esque riffs to orchestrals and climbing vocals courtesy of Laurie 'Tank' Carnan who is brilliant throughout and lives up to her alias. "

## **Craig Reviews Music**

"A fine marriage of melody and power, Chasing Dragons have something for everyone."

## **Rock United**



**Tank - Vocals**



**Mitch - Guitar/Vocals**



**Ant - Bass/Vocals**



**Kate - Drum**





#### Live Reviews:

"Honestly, she [Tank], like the group, is a bit of a hidden gem. She's a born performer, stomping, moving with every beat... Combine this with her fellow musicians, Mitch and Ant on guitar and bass respectively and Katie ('the stick figure') on Drums, and the line up becomes a very tight knit group of friends providing, above all else, a fantastic soundtrack to any sort of situation where you just need some badass goddamn noise. Saying that, this 'noise' does not lack technical prowess or complexity, and the rather impressive set up that Kate commands at the drums, acts as authority. Incidentally, I have to say, Kate must be one of, if not the best drummers I've heard live to date... it would be fair to say that the entire group rank pretty damn highly in my favourite performances. Mitch and Ant are both very talented musicians capable of both the twiddly stuff and very catchy, strong, thunderous riffs, deep in tone and making a little paper sign tacked to the right hand camp billow and float... This is a seriously talented group of people. Funny, entertaining and impeccably musical."

#### Cat On The Wall

"From tonight's performance what I can say without fear of contradiction is that Chasing Dragons are all about fun.. enjoyable as anything I have seen recently. Channeling too much energy for the cramped confines of the Empire's stage, Tank took the phrase "music to the people" to a whole other level, getting down

off the stage and up close and personal with the audience... Chasing Dragons are an excellent live band and were, for me, the high point..."

#### Cack Blabbath

"Chasing Dragons were the highlight of the evening... as well as a very good rock cover of Lady Gaga's 'Marry The Night' and not a meat dress in sight! All this, plus a poet and pole and burlesque dancers made for a great evening which culminated in a friendly stage invasion during their last number..."

#### TBFM

"It's that sense of family that made Chasing Dragons special; seeing them play reminded me of a band back home consisting of several of my friends, and how much they enjoyed simply being on stage together and doing what they love."

#### Leeds Music Scene

"The Leeds band reminded me of a mixture of Guns 'n' Roses and Avenged Sevenfold, with the female lead singer, 'Tank', looking very much like Brody Dalle from The Distillers. They were definitely one of my highlights of the night, creating a really old school heavy rock vibe. The guys were really approachable, and Tank was all smiles."

#### Croon

"...I ventured back inside to catch the last 2 numbers by Chasing Dragons. Maybe i should have stayed for the full set. What i saw and heard was one of the tightest and most professional sets i've seen in a long time... What i am going to say is this, if you get a chance, where ever you are, get to see Chasing Dragons and buy their CD"

#### SoundAwesome