

PICTURE ME BROKEN

Wide Awake
[Megaforce]

Score: **6.5**

Stream: "Forevermore"

Newcomers Picture Me Broken resemble the older material of Flyleaf in the sense that their songs tend to soar in a metal fashion, while offering screams from time to time. Unfortunately, *Wide Awake* suffers from a lack of focus. Things are at their best when the songs are breaking down and erupting in screams. The first example luckily comes about two and half minutes through the first track, "Dearest (I'm So Sorry)". The problem is the band doesn't do this sort of thing often enough. Instead, their songs tend to go flat or never really reach any height of true interest. The mostly acoustic "Forevermore" certainly aids in making *Wide Awake* more appealing, but then Picture Me Broken follows it with some awkward experimentation. For example, "Nerds And Cigarettes" goes to hell about three minutes in when the band decides to add some Auto-Tune to the vocals and electronics to the musical mix. It also doesn't help that the deep growls feel out of place during this track. It's definitely the slower songs that work best here. If Picture Me Broken could just balance their formula, they may have something here. But for now, *Wide Awake* comes out as only a decent debut. (NL)