

**THE BEST OF EXTREME: AN ACCIDENTAL COLLOCATION OF ATOMS  
SHOWS A BAND THAT WAS “MORE THAN WORDS”**

The career of Extreme was extreme indeed. **The Best Of Extreme: An Accidental Collocation Of Atoms** (A&M/UME), released February 15, 2000, chronicles that career, from obscurity to enormous success, from experimentation to pop stardom, from a #1 hit--“More Than Words”--to tracks from each of its four albums. Today, songwriter/guitarist Nuno Bettencourt and lead singer Gary Cherone (briefly with Van Halen) maintain high profiles among fans, but Extreme is where they first gained fame.

An ambitious band alternately rock ‘n’ roll and progressive hard rock, funk metal and pop, acoustic and electric, Extreme was never easy to classify. Formed in 1985 in Boston by Cherone and drummer Paul Geary, the band signed to A&M two years later. With guitar wizard Bettencourt and Pat Badger on bass, Extreme debuted in 1989 with a self-titled album, which included the single “Kid Ego” as well as “Play With Me.”

Then came Extreme II: Pornograffitti (1991). A concept album revolving around the struggle for genuine love and romance in a sleazy, corrupt society, Pornograffitti hit paydirt. Boosted by the acoustic ballad “More Than Words,” which was certified gold, and the #4-charting acoustic-based pop rocker “Hole Hearted,” the album was a double platinum smash hit. From that album, **The Best Of Extreme** also includes the funky horn section workout “Get The Funk Out” and “Decadence Dance.”

If audiences expected more of the same for the group’s third album, 1992’s III Sides To Every Story turned the page. Again a concept album, it was divided into three “sides of the story,” from politically oriented rockers to warm romantic pop songs to progressive rock excess (including several songs recorded with a 70-piece orchestra). Featured on **The Best Of Extreme** are “Rest In Peace,” the romantic pop gems “Tragic Comic” and “Stop The World,” the non-album horn mix of “Cupid’s Dead” and “Am I Ever Gonna Change,” the middle section of a 22-minute orchestral opus called “The Truth.” Though the album hit #10 on the charts and was certified gold, III Sides To Every Story was overwhelmed by the grunge explosion.

After 1995’s Waiting For The Punchline, represented on **The Best Of Extreme** with the pointed “Hip Today” and “Leave Me Alone,” Extreme disbanded the following October. **The Best Of Extreme: An Accidental Collocation Of Atoms** is a tribute to a fearlessly adventurous band whose moment in the spotlight was far too brief.

###

Contact: Sujata Murthy, Universal 818-777-7812  
Todd Nakamine, Universal 818-777-7797