

Flotsam and Jetsam

Cuatro (re-issue)

Metal Mind

In 1992 on their fourth outing (hence the title-*Cuatro*) saw Flotsam ushering a new bass player in to replace Troy



Gregory who left to join Prong. Jason Ward was the new bassist and they let him in on the writing right away as well as collaborating with producer, Eric Braverman who helped shift the thrash dynamic towards the grungier sounds that were dominating at the time.

As a whole the album works fairly well especially, if you're unfamiliar with Flotsam & Jetsam's previous body of work. The first four tracks are okay and *The Message*, co-written by Chris Cornell is the only stand out of the first four. When *Wading*

Through The Darkness cranks up is where the record starts building up a steam that does not quit until the album ends. The thrash variant that comes through on the music and vocals was special for the time and through the rear view mirror it stands up as a monster metal slab.

In the reissue liner notes, vocalist Eric A.K. shares that this was the first record he wasn't singing from his throat. This difference is marked and worthy.

The reissue comes with a bonus track, three remixes and a video for *Wading Through the Darkness*.

-Mike Wilshin