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Stemm - Blood Scent



There's a strong scent of Shadows Fall in this album...

After a few listens to metalcore group Stemm's latest album, *Blood Scent*, it becomes hard to tell if the band is its own entity, or if Shadows Fall decided to create more music under a different moniker. The music structure of *Blood Scent* is very similar to any of the recent Shadows Falls albums: the music is groovy and crunching while paired with shouted vocals mixed in with some singing. The album itself tends to switch off between the two between tracks. Starting out with "Blood Soaked," there's a sample clip from what sounds to be in an emergency room and then the guitars and drums kick in with the vocalist roaring all the way. The second track, "House of Cards" is still heavy but it invokes a lot more singing (and even the singing sounds a lot like Brian Fair of Shadows Fall at times). The singing is more polished than the shouting and goes along well with the music, and the music is a bit more melodic than holding that metalcore ferocity to it like the other tracks do.



From this point on, the rest of the album follows suit. The next track features more screaming mixed with the singing, the following one a lot more singing than screaming, and so and so forth. The track "The Devil Walks Among Us" holds some echo warble to the vocals and a little more lengthy solos, but that is about the only distinguishable track from the rest of the music. There's a Nine Inch Nail cover of "Wish" amongst all the hubub, but Stemm unfortunately turn it into some mangled metalcore monster by demolishing it of any of its former industrial beauty. There's even about a wasted minute of "noise," which doesn't really merit much about the industrial genre. "Beneath My Skin" is about as close to a metal ballad as one can get, and sadly Stemm ruin it by making to much use of overlapping vocals which tends to take away the power of the vocals altogether. "Casualty," the final track, is a monster of a closer, hard and leaving a masting impression, before there's a few seconds of silence and the band performs an acoustic version of one of their songs. It's a nice Easter egg that fans will probably enjoy, or scoff at, depending on their opinions of acoustic music done by metal or heavy rock bands. Overall, Shadows Fall fans will enjoy this a lot, and maybe even the recent Throwdown fans too, but if someone's looking for something a little more original or varied, then this may not be for them.



(Catch 22 Records)

Added: January 22nd 2010
Reviewer: Colin McNamara
Score: ★★★★★☆☆☆☆☆
Related Link: [Official Website](#)
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