

BELIEVER

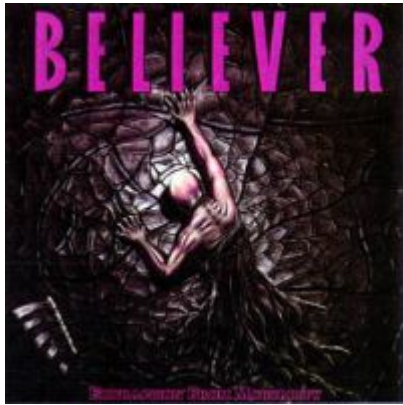
Extraction From Mortality

Sanity Obscure

Dimensions

(re-issues)

Metal Mind



Extraction From Mortality

Although Colebrook, Pennsylvania isn't a noted metal hotbed, given its all-around level of quality it's still a little strange to me that Believer's 1989 debut, *Extraction From Mortality*, only originally saw release on a tiny independent. *Extraction...* is a solid slab of thrash with good production and mix, owing a debt to Slayer with its uber-tight speed picking and riffage, while employing some more melodic guitar work--especially during the shredding trade-off solos--and some carefully calculated dissonance (check the guitar breaks in "Shadow of Death"). Vocalist/guitarist Kurt Bachman's voice isn't far removed from the stylings of Sacrifice's Rob Urbinati. In '89, *Extraction...* was just about as good as any other thrash album not released by the "Big Four." It wasn't long before the watchful eyes of Roadrunner (along with Earache, the best heavy music label in 1990) heard it, recognized the obvious quality and talent, and snapped up the band for future releases.

This collection, although for the most part fairly straightforward in its songwriting--the slow riff in "Shadow of Death" would fit well on any Slayer album, for example--did plant some seeds for the distinctive works that would follow it. Believer's two subsequent albums saw the band's material grow exponentially in complexity and compositional distinctiveness, successively incorporating more and more elements of orchestration (hinted at in the opening minute and a half of *Extraction...*'s title track), dissonance, and meter changes.

Nearly 20 years have passed since this debut, and it's held up pretty well when others its age have not. If you like thrash, jump on this while it's back in print.

B+