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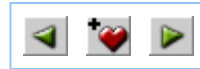
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mtoland ([mtoland](#)) wrote in [highbias](#),
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Solitude Aeturnus - reissues

SOLITUDE AETURNUS

Into the Depths of Sorrow
Beyond the Crimson Horizon
([RoadRacer/Metal Mind](#))

Just in time for its exceptional new album **Alone**, Arlington, Texas-based metal act Solitude Aeturnus sees its first two album reissued in nice digipaks with remastered sound and bonus tracks. **Into the Depths of Sorrow**, originally released in 1991, shows a young band still amalgamating its influences, specifically the dinosaur crunge of Black Sabbath (both the Ozzy and Dio eras), the prog-shaded power metal of Iron Maiden and the pioneering doom metal of Candlemass and Trouble. But the group's greatest assets—flashy guitar solos that avoid mindless wankery, a love of melody that keeps the songs engaging and Robert Lowe's emotional vocals—are already present, and if the latter aren't quite as soaring as they would become, they're still more than enough to put the band hairy head-and-shoulders above its peers. The bonus tracks are three demos, one ("Transcending Sentinels") featuring original singer Kris Gabehart and two ("Opaque Divinity" and "Mirror of Sorrow," still one of Solitude's finest creations) that, as accurately noted in bandleader John Perez's notes, are stronger tracks than the official versions.

1992's **Beyond the Crimson Horizon** continues the quintet's development, with more uptempo songs, more powerful singing from Lowe and a sense of contained energy that wouldn't be unleashed until the band finally went on tour. Tunes like "It Came Upon One Night" (Christian lyrics courtesy of Gabehart) and "Black Castle" pound harder than Solitude's previous work, setting a more brutal tone. The band sometimes sacrifices atmosphere for aggressive riffery, which would prove to be an unusual occurrence, but thrash is part of Solitude's genetic makeup as much as anything else, after all. Still, **Beyond the Crimson Horizon** is a transitional work, building on the foundation of the debut, but not erecting the polished edifices that would come from Solitude Aeturnus in the future. The bonus tracks on this edition include a 1988 demo of "It Came Upon One Night" with Gabehart manning the mic, and the crudely recorded but otherwise unreleased speed metal monster "City of Armageddon." *Michael Toland*

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