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Realm

Suiciety [reissue]

[Metal Mind Records](#)

2007

2007, [Metal Mind Records](#)

### **Band Information**

[Official Website](#)

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Realm, "Suiciety [reissue]"

This is a remaster of Realm's 1990 release with an added bonus track. This is the first time I've heard the band despite being around back in the day - just as it is now, so it was then: so many bands, so little time. What can you do? I guess make up for lost time by checking this out.

Realm was a thrash band with some technical prog leanings, deriving influence from Megadeth (particularly the "Peace Sells" album) and Anthrax. The playing is solid, featuring lots of speedy harmonies, moshable riffs, punchy bass, busy drumming and ripping solos. The rhythm guitars are inventive for that era and tend to vary between the

stop-n-go style of Megadeth's "Wake Up Dead" to the marching stomp of most any Anthrax track to break-neck tremolo picking. Musically, any fan of thrash will find plenty to enjoy here - but the vocals may take some time to appreciate. Guitarist/singer Paul Laganowski had a good set of pipes, but he sounds more like a cock-rock vocalist in the vein of Janie Lane (Warrant) than your typical Bay Area screeching banshee. To be fair, Laganowski breaks out high-pitched, heavy-vibrato shrieks with regularity and he does have grit in his regular singing voice (certainly more than Anthrax's Joey Belladonna). Thankfully the lyrics he delivered were more introspective and political than any of the MTV bands of that time were dishing out (although 1990 was the year when grunge destroyed all the big hair corporate bands).

Song arrangements are typically complex, and while choruses do exist, the band took many musical detours getting to them. The title track is almost ten minutes long and breaks out every different tempo trick the group was into (and serves as the best song to sample to see if you dig what they were up to). There's only one old school metal anthem on here ("Knee Deep in Blood"), thus fist-waving, sing-along parts are few and far between - fans of the simple and straight-forward need not apply. Bonus track "One More Red Nightmare" sounds a bit like metallised up Red Hot Chili Peppers - odd, since it's a King Crimson cover (although the extended instrumental passages do drive that point home).

The digi-pack is very sharp, featuring a twelve-page booklet with a band history by the label, some background info from axe-slinger Takis Kinis as well as all of the lyrics and a shot of the group. Since I didn't hear the original, I have no idea how the modern remaster compares, but the production here is mostly clean (a hint of analog mud came along for the ride) and the mix is concise. It's easy to pick out whatever facet of the band you want to focus on - including the poppy bass, which is always something that I appreciate. Each song segues into the next via in-studio special effects magic and there's definitely enough going on that headphones are recommended.

Speaking of recommendations, I was impressed with the album. I think most old school thrash fans will find enough quality playing and intriguing ideas (both musically and lyrically) to get a big kick out of "Suiciety", but I doubt there's enough raw brutality present to get neo-thrash fans bobbing their shaved heads (and Laganowski's shrill vox may curl what's left of their hair).

## **Standout Tracks**

The Brainchild  
Gateway  
Suiciety  
D.Berger