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**VADER - *Sothis***

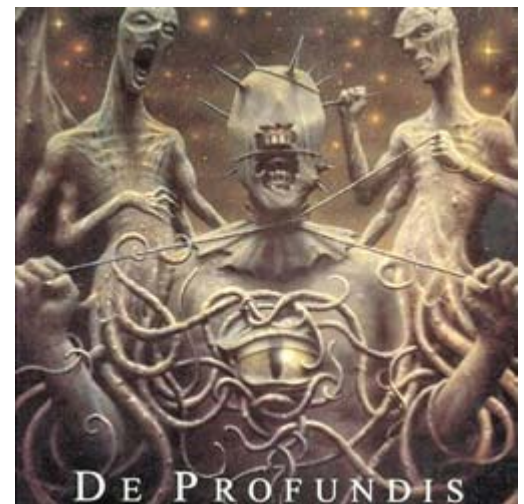
**VADER - *De Profundis***

**Review by Rev. Keith A. Gordon, copyright 2006**

Well-respected for almost twenty years now by the metal underground across the globe, Poland's Vader nevertheless has had a hard go of it through the years. They suffered through the dark-90s when heavy metal was considered "passé" by young grunge fans, relying on few-and-far-between-live shows to pay the bills. The band's albums have generally been poorly distributed, released as they were by a handful of ill-funded indie metal labels. Lately Vader's prospects have been looking up, though. Industry leaders Candlelight recently released the band's monster Impressions In Blood disc and The Art Of War EP. Opening gigs for bands like Metallica, Napalm Death and Slayer have raised the band's profile among metal fans. The re-release of these two early albums by [Metal Mind](#), distributed by [MVD Audio](#) in the US, should be a cause to celebrate for fans of truly HEAVY metal.

The seven-song mini-album *Sothis* was released by Vader in 1994, and has been in-and-out-of-print ever since. *Sothis* is a solid metal album, with the band introducing elements of doom and death into its standard thrash-attack for this second studio recording. In many ways, however, *Sothis* merely whets fan's appetites for the more toothsome *De Profundis* a year later. Make no mistake, *Sothis* still kicks serious ass -- "Hymn To The Ancient Ones" is straight out of the Necromonicon playbook, while the title cut is a heavy-handed thrashy glee-fest of unbelievable power. "The Wrath" firmly places the band in death-metal territory, with guttural vocals driven towards insanity by an unrelenting musical onslaught and a foreboding cover of Black Sabbath's signature tune is afforded an imaginative and truly haunting performance. The *De Profundis* reissue includes a rare bonus track, the wildest cover of Depeche Mode's "I Feel You" that you may ever hear.

*De Profundis*, released by Vader in 1995, is more of the same, only better. From the opening barrage of "Silent Empire," *De Profundis* drops on your head like a building imploding. The drums are larger and more explosive; the guitars are as tight as a garrote around the throat and the vocalist sounds like he's alternately being strangled with a motorcycle chain or fed a live kitten. The band revisits a couple of songs from *Sothis*, namely the title track and "Vision And The Voice," providing both a louder voice and, presumably, a slightly larger recording budget. Other material here stands tall as it knocks you down the black hole of despair. Feedback is used as a deadly weapon on "Blood Of Kinggu," "Revolt" explodes from your speakers like a rabid wildebeest and "Reborn In Flames" is as musically terrifying as the alien demons portrayed on the CD cover. Lyrically, Vader tread the same gruesome ground as many death-metal oriented bands, bringing, perhaps, a touch more literary influence to their dark poetry...when you can figure out the words beneath the screaming guitars and massive



rhythms.

Vader's recorded legacy is impressive, the band standing a notch or two beneath giants like Megadeth, Slayer or Venom in the heavy metal hierarchy, but moving up the career ladder with each excellent new release. ([Metal Mind](#) / [MVD Audio](#))

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