

# Goldmine

The Collectors Record and Compact Disc Marketplace



**Roswell Six**

*Terra Incognita: A Line in the Sand*

ProgRock Records (PRR721)

Grade: ★★★

The second title in the Terra Incognita series furthers a cross-marketing effort in which sci-fi/fantasy author Kevin J. Anderson pens both a novel and lyrics for a companion CD. Last year's *Beyond the Horizon*, released under the project name Roswell Six, was a multi-musician symphonic-prog album based on Anderson's epic novel, *The Edge of the World*, featuring vocalists James LaBrie (Dream Theater) and John Payne (Asia).

The grittier *A Line in the Sand* coincides with the publication of *The Map of All Things* and includes vocals from Steve Walsh (Kansas), Michael Sadler (ex-Saga) and Sass Jordan. The story focuses on a devastating, generations-long war between continents, and the heavy music – written by Frameshift's Henning Pauly – reflects that tension.

Walsh sounds raw, while Jordan proves she could have been another Melissa Etheridge. A sleepy battle-themed love song doesn't quite work, but an a cappella performance and a climactic instrumental do. The over-the-top finale, "Victory," suits this project better than much of the music that precedes it.

— Michael Popke