



Forgotten Tomb: Songs To Leave

Forgotten Tomb is a depressive black metal band from Piacenza, Italy that formed in 1999. While the band now has a full line up of members, at the time of recording “Songs to Leave” (2002), Forgotten Tomb was a one man band. That means that the only member Ferdinando Marchisio, (also known as Herr Morbid) played all the instruments and is on vocals.

“Songs to Leave” is a very dark album, as the theme of it is depression and suicide. Not only is that apparent in the lyrics, but just by listening to it you can tell that’s what it’s about, even without understanding the vocals. That is some great musicianship. Despite the fact that the album is over an hour long, there are only five songs.

- 1)Entombed by Winter
- 2)Solitude Ways
- 3)Steal My Corpse
- 4)No Way Out
- 5)Disheartenment



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The album opens with a soft melancholic intro. Then the vocals kick in and send a chill down your spine. Its a very distinct vocal style. It has a 'screeching' kind of sound to it. The guitar has some interesting contrast to it, as it goes from an aggressive doomy sound, to a more melodic sound. "Entombed by Winter" definitely sets the tone of the album, and Disheartenment is a great track to end a great album. The twenty seven minute finale engulfs the gloomy mood of the album. It ends with the instruments fading out as the vocals sound as though they are gasping for air.

My favourite moment of the album is the outro to "Steal My Corpse". The guitar sounds amazing, and it is the highlight of the album for me.

Forgotten Tomb was influenced by a band called Shining, who are considered to be the first depressive black metal band. Shining is another band I enjoy, however, I prefer Forgotten Tomb



personally.

"Songs to Leave" is a masterpiece in my opinion, but it's not for everyone. Black metal is not an easy genre to get into, but if you're interested in expanding your horizons in music I highly recommend it. Also, I'd recommend it if you are depressed, as this kind of music is cathartic.

