

RETURNED TO THE EARTH

Fall Of The Watcher RHYTHM DIGITAL

Crossover prog teeming with evocative insights and instrumentation.

Returned To The Earth's second album picks up where 2019's superb *Erebus* left off, offering a moody, inviting yet adventurous mixture of internal reflections and external commentaries. Tracks such as *Drowning* are conventionally structured, but they're also dynamic and exploratory enough to enter the darker art-rock atmospheres of The Pineapple Thief and Riverside.

Vocalist/guitarist Robin Peachey's strikes a balance between self-assurance and fragility that, combined with the energetic and expressive arrangements, make these songs



come alive. *White Room* is simultaneously urgent and peaceful, whereas *Sacrificed In Vain* offsets a similar sort of tranquillity with bursts of aggression reminiscent of Fates Warning's *A Pleasant Shade Of Gray*.

With its dramatic piano chords and acoustic guitar strums, *Lack Of Information* channels the contemplative spaciness of *Cosmography*, and closing elegy *April Sky* provides closure via tranquil soundscapes, brooding strings and pensive singing. It's the serene final piece of *Fall Of The Watcher's* inspired and rewarding puzzle. **JMB**