

SOUL ASYLUM/Made to Be Broken/Twin/Tone Records

I don't know what it is about this record that makes me want an overview of the entire Minneapolis scene and dissect every little element of what's been happening over the last coupla years. I suppose it's because when I listen to it, I just can't avoid the image of LOONEY BIN, SOUL ASYLUM's alter ego, out-trashing all that is sacred in prime-time heavy rock 'n' roll, wigs 'n' high heels and dresses and all. What is it about this town that breeds such a disrespect for all that kinda shit? Or is it just grudging reverence to it all, the ultimate in love, the trashing of your most wanted. What is gonna happen to these guys in time? This records presents a most staggering serious side to the band, one that can't be explained away in a few generalizations. It is not without a little fear they must give up this shit, ya know? The personal nature of this is like, obvious. God, but it does sound a little thin, though, the guitar usually sounds much better live, but for some reason when ya tape it and play it back through a cheap car stereo, it sounds more full and properly harsh. This record is definitely a continuation of the future though, and it can be listened to just about everywhere and understood. Not so easy to do that. This is gonna be one of the nicer things to have for awhile, until FULL BLAST puts out an album, anyway. Down the road it'll either be SOUL ASYLUM or LOONEY BIN. I'd give them both a pretty equal shot. (Mike S.)