From the Swedish spectres that brought you *Children of the Night*, one of the best albums of 2015, comes a truly triumphant masterpiece that further cements the Gothic rockers in the annals of metal history. Skillfully channeling their affection for the dark and macabre, Tribulation has crafted *Down Below*, an album that is a twisted delight to listen to and sets the standard for what a stellar album should be in 2018.

The album begins with the first released single "The Lament," a dark and beautiful track that sets the tone for the rest of the album, highlighting the intricate guitar work of Adam Zaars and Jonathan Hultén as well as the vocal abilities of Johannes Andersson. *Down Below* is also the first venture the band has taken with former Deathstars drummer Oscar Leander, who also shines through on this album as the band's foundation and chugging tempo setter. The second single, Lady Death, from the EP released a month earlier, is incredibly catchy. Even the intermission-style track Purgatorio is a somber beauty, never losing your attention. The beauty of this album lies not only in the musicianship, but in its ability to stick to the established concept without ever seeming uniform or without variance. Every track is unique and every track is awesome. This album reminded me of Tribulation's fellow Swedish rockers in Ghost, who they toured with several years ago, because of the album's song scheme and the style in which they played.

This album is one of my absolute favorites that has come out in the last 6 months. Tribulation is beginning 2018 in an incredibly strong way, and any album that hopes for praise this year is going to have to stand up to *Down Below*. I'll certainly be listening to this album as the year goes on, and I'm hoping Tribulation comes and visits Arizona in support of this incredible album. Decibel doesn't hand out perfect 10/10 scores for nothing, and this album absolutely deserves it.

**Sounds Like:**
- Ghost

**Sounds Like:**
- Tribulation's *Children of the Night*

**Recommended Tracks:**
3. Lady Death - the second single, super catchy, not terribly long, awesome guitars - 3:24
   1. The Lament - first single, longer, intricate and exciting - 5:37
2. Nightbound - a nice middle-ground between the first two tracks, melodic and heavy - 5:29
8. The World - third single off the album, really cool sound, lighter riff, dope - 3:55

Honestly this album is flawless, just roll the dice, you’ll be pleased in any case.

**Name:**
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**Date Reviewed:**
01/31/2018

- Gothic metal [1]
- Gothic Rock [2]
- Metal [3]
- ? [4]