Mp3 David Shane Smith - Cloud Pleaser



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David Shane Smith has been described by some as the new Leonard Cohen but perhaps a hybrid of Cohen, Dylan and Beck would be more appropriate. 10 MP3 Songs in this album (39:34)! Related styles: FOLK: Alternative Folk, POP: Folky Pop People who are interested in Bob Dylan Beck Leonard Cohen should consider this download. Details: David Shane Smith would make a great science fiction writer, and I dont mean the child-fantasy light sabers and spaceships kind. Instead, the decaying futuristic cities Smith evoked on his last 2 releases (Wintertower and Angry Earth) have more in common with the realistic bleakness of, say, Children of Men, Blade Runner, or a Philip K. Dick short story than the genres typical fare. Smith is at his best when painting stark scenes of environmental corrosion, urban degeneracy, and human indifference, and his latest, Cloud Pleaser, is full of them. His recent relocation from New York to Los Angeles has only intensified these themes. Sonically, Smith still draws from a varied array of sources, including folk, electronica, ambient, and, to a lesser degree, hip-hop. Fingerpicked acoustic guitars blend with bedroom beats and jarring sound effects, and the arrangements often make unexpected twists and turns between these styles. Cloud Pleaser sounds like the creation of a guy equally indebted to Amnesiac, Rejoicing In The Hands, Pauls Boutique, and Music Has The Right To Children. Miserablism is a prime example - it begins as a somber acoustic folk song that jarringly morphs into a minimalist, sleepwalking rap about consumerism and superficiality. Tape glitches and military-march percussion punctuate Brand, a song that uses striking images such as futureless eyes, the church has been defaced, its not the least bit controversial to worship militarism to map out the apocalypse and its morning after. The funereal nature of the album is lifted, however, with its closer, Beauty Force, one of the prettiest songs in Smiths canon. Sparse piano melds with Smiths lilting melodies, and the song becomes the proverbial light at the end of the Doomsday tunnel. Cloud Pleaser is not an easy listening experience. The dark beats, strange noises, and ghost-like folk are a far cry from the crowd-pleasing pop the album title puns. Instead it is the most compelling work yet from an outsider artist with a singular vision. Cloud Pleaser possesses the stunning moments of brilliance scattered throughout Wintertower and Angry Earth, but combines them with a new found consistency from song to song. There isnt a weak moment here - 10 songs whose shared mood and themes coalesce into something of a personal addendum to the Book of Revelations. Consider yourself forewarned. James Burns (Pop Headwound)

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