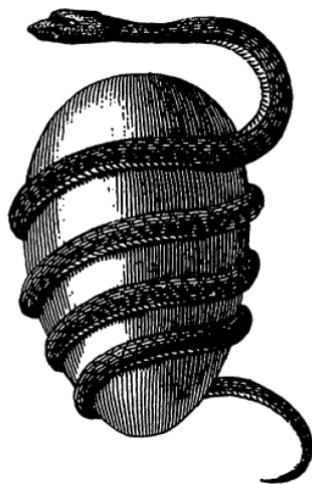


ADDERGEBROED



BAD MANOR - THE HAUNTING

't Was a full moon, proudly and grandly standing out in an otherwise icy and pitch-black sky, when "*The Haunting*", Bad Manor's very first feat, ripped through the speakers yet again. A bleak wind rushed relentlessly and aimlessly through the surrounding trees. Since the arrival of the winter hour, it has also grown suspiciously colder - and rightly so. It may or may not be called a coincidence, but one thing is certain: there is no shortage of symbolism there while penning this review. Bad Manor just as well offers their tribute to the impenetrable darkness that dwells deep inside a lonely house on a hill far away from the civilised world veiled in an undeniably enigmatic and emblematic atmosphere, one that fits perfectly within the equally mysterious nature of the Ordo Vampyr Orientis. The same gang that only last year stirred quite a fire with Bat Magic's excellent "*Feast of Blood*" tape, and shortly afterwards unleashed *Beastial Majesty's* brutal first EP on us. Little or nothing else is known about the members of the collective, except that they operate on American soil and dash out enough riffs to make Van Halen's lips curl. Furthermore, "*The Haunting*" is its very own special kind of monster, and that definitely plays to its advantage: the pretty typical raw sound is brought here in such a way that you are tempted to play the record repeatedly in order to find out what seems to be happening here.

Much of the mystique Bad Manor draws from its concept, as mentioned earlier: the record is accompanied by a short story, shaped by artist Landis Blair; containing a description of what goes on in the manor during an undisclosed amount of time, vehemently surrounded by darkness. The séance is introduced by a certain Stephen R.C. Sicreeve, author and medium, who, all through the five chapters, puts you in touch with the obscure demons that have nestled in the wretched house since what is most likely an eternity.

On a musical level too, Bad Manor is pretty quirky. *"The Room with Six Hundred and Sixty-Six Eyes"* immediately kicks in with theatrical organ on a tapestry of droning, poltergeist-like drums and howling guitar lines, runaway from From Dusk Till Dawn, waltzing out of the speakers like the lamentation of an endlessly deranged and limbo-locked spirit. The almost chorus-like sounding segment in follow-up track *"The Study, Filled with Books"* is so uplifting, with its outrageously insane and imposing vocals, that the whole song seems to be dominated by the total dementia that erupts during this crescendo. All that wailing, screeching, wailing and baulking counts, whichever way you look at it, as one of the most remarkable elements on this record: those who already found Afksy's side project Heltekvad to have very provocative vocal lines, are definitely going to love *"The Haunting"*. What Stephen R.C. Sicreeve and Monsieur Malediction perform here insinuates, of course, that the gentlemen are utterly tormented and possessed by the malevolent phantoms that embody the manor. An obligate note of appreciation here for percussionist The Impaler as well: the man invariably sets up impressive blast beats, but at the same time knows to bring agonisingly slow rhythms to life, provided with the occasional off-key snare hit to get on your nerves all the more. Bad Manor closes its debut album with a message to the lord of the underworld; *"Holy Father, who is in hell, bless us with your power. We offer you the blood of our visitors to protect our family forever."* Amen.

Jules: 90/100

Bad Manor - The Haunting (Avantgarde Music - 2022)

1. The Room with Six Hundred and Sixty-Six Eyes
2. The Study, Filled with Books
3. Through the Garden, to the Graves
4. An Incident in the Nursery at the Witching Hour
5. Hallowed Ground

Link: [Bad Manor - The Haunting \(full album, 2022\)](#)