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Home.



About.



Nobody Else Will Be There
Day I Die
Walk It Back
The System Only Dreams in Total Darkness
Born to Beg
Turtleneck
Empire Line
I'll Still Destroy You
Guilty Party
Carin at the Liquor Store
Dark Side of the Gym
Sleep Well Beast

REVIEW . SASHA GEFFEN

There's something sinister swimming around beneath the surface of The National's seventh album. It's not the spiders crowding the basement of Matt Berninger's brain on the New York band's 2005 song "Secret Meeting"; it isn't the killers who came calling on 2007's "Gospel"; and it's not the swarm of bees who dumped the lead singer in the Midwest on 2010's "Bloodbuzz Ohio". Whatever's skulking around down there is more subtle, more bitter, and more venomous than any demon The National have wrestled before.

You can hear it throughout *Sleep Well Beast*, the band's first album since 2013's warmhearted, radio-ready *Trouble Will Find Me*. It gasps for air in the background of the synth-heavy "Walk It Back", gnashes its teeth behind Berninger's easy, comforting vocal melody on "Dark Side of the Gym".

Whatever it is, this beast, it's shadowed for the duration of the album, only showing up in stray glints and whispers. But that's enough to cast a pall on the band, who have stepped in and out of darkness throughout their 18-year career even if they've never surrendered their sound to that darkness the way they do now.

Home.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL.

They're the world's greatest indie, alternative, post-punk revival, art, folk-rock band of the past 20 odd years.

**They have 10 albums in total.
They still tour and make music.
Their most recent album inspired a short film by director Mike Mills.**

That's all you need to know.



Albums.

Albums.

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About.



Albums.
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