

MALCOLM HOLCOMBE

To Drink The Rain



The eighth album by this Texas émigré, recorded with a bunch of crack pickers including ex-Johnny Cash bassist Dave Roe, is stripped-down Americana at its best – evocative and straightforward. With a nod to classic Steve Earle, the benefits of the deceptively simple production, with sparse dobro and fiddle stabs, allow the focus to fall squarely on Holcombe's glorious whisky-soaked voice and driving guitar. Like all great storytellers he knows how to wring every ounce of emotion from his material, celebrating the mundane on a song like 'One Leg At A Time', but equally convincing on the title track where he comes over like a crazed Captain Beefheart, or growling on about twisted memories on 'Those Who Wander'. Shot through with bloodshot eyes, it's all very endearing.

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