

## OUTBURN

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**AT LAST, ANOTHER BUSTLE:** Finally seeing Down graduate from side-project to the full-time band it has always deserved to be has been a long time coming. Watching the band be put on hold in favor of Superjoint Ritual a few years back was a bitter pill to swallow, and—although however many Eyehategod records the world is blessed with will be one too few—listening to the band's third record in 12 years, there is no question Down is a vital entity. As most fans recognize, Down owes a huge debt to Black Sabbath and the stoner rock/sludge metal scene that keeps the true Sabbath flame alive. The similarities between Down and Sabbath are more than sound deep, however. As Sabbath progressed, the band incorporated more layers, guitar harmonies, complex structures, and spacey, experimental elements. Likewise, Down 2007 is not necessarily better than Down 1995 —*NOLA* is hands down one of the best heavy debuts ever—but it is a much more complicated beast. *Over the Under* is a beautiful record; a near perfect follow-up to 2002's *A Bustle in Your Hedgerow*, which itself was near flawless. Fans of Down will not be disappointed. And to those who are not yet fans of Down: Pick up *Over the Under* if you want to hear this Southern doom thing all the metalcore bands are trying to bite off these days done right. ~ **Shawn Macomber**