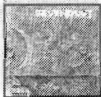


## SOUND BITES

Paul Albert Harper



**SEVENDUST**  
*Chapter VII: Hope and Sorrow*  
ASYLUM

They say that Sevendust is metal, but there's no evidence of that here as they blubber like a Creed tribute band. Oh, sure, there's some perfunctory attempt to trick you into thinking this is metal — they throw in some hot guitar licks for effect, a *faux* vocal rasp now and then — but as soon as they've lulled you into thinking that yes, this is metal, it's back to the whining. "Inside" is the sole interesting track for its intro that forgoes the usual angry metal sound for a creepy Krautrock-inspired static: a little something like the buzzing of insects, a weird itchy noise that you hardly notice until you realize you've been replaying it over in your head for the last hour.

Mike Rosen-Molina