

Crowsview – *Lost Resistance* (2018)

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Over the course of years, I've noticed increasing sentimental tendencies in my ways. Of course, they also find their way to my understanding of music. Although I'm into a lot of new stuff, I most often prefer older releases. They just taste much better. I'd be a fool if I didn't know that it's all connected with becoming more mature. I still treasure the days of yore. Despite my own weaknesses, I'll always claim that older albums had that kind of magic and unique qualities that are sorely missed nowadays. Therefore, there are not so many bands whose members don't avoid citing sources of inspiration which are a part of their sound and style in general. A great example of such a band is Crowsview – a Belgian group whose debut LP entitled *Lost Resistance* kicks asses just as hard as albums released 20 years earlier.

For an adept listener, it is sufficient to read names of the bands that are listed as influences in order to pigeonhole a given group's style. Of course, there's often a great difference between the influences and the influenced bands. Nonetheless, in the case of Crowsview, there's no need to worry – the level of musicianship is incredibly high, and their music is really well executed. The Belgians seem to explore familiar territories which were earlier discovered by compatriot bands, such as Kickback, Arkangel, or Length of Time. Try as one might, it was virtually impossible to underestimate their style and sound, which were unique but still belonged to the same subgenre labelled as *evil metalcore*. Those bands would often keep in with the straight edge and animal rights movements. Their lyrics are rife with apocalyptic themes in which mankind is the sole reason for impending doom.

Crowsview neatly merges the message and the style of hardcore music with a large number of metal riffs and sinister atmosphere. The songs are maintained in mid-tempo riffing and are dominated by downpicking and leads in the vein of Slayer. There's a solid portion of bass drums here that go along pretty well with the guitars. The band avoids using breakdowns and djentish leads, which is pretty much enjoyable to me. Kevin Rouserez is the guy on the mic. He shouts at the top of his lungs at everybody and everything. The singer adds the necessary element of aggression to the already energetic sound of Crowsview. The icing on the cake are the guest appearances of Ross Demon (Length of Time, Angel Crew, ex-Enthroned) and Ché Snelting (Amma Gathas, ex-Born from Pain) in Burn it Down and Of Skin and Nails respectively.

I'd like to get much more of this! *Lost Resistance* suits my taste perfectly. I've always preferred more "virile" and vigorous music without some exaggerated technical wankery or superfluous embellishments. *Lost Resistance* is a raw and clear cut in its very nature – it's a magnificent addition to my beloved hardcore/metal scene. Let's just keep our fingers crossed it's not the last time we heard about Crowsview because there's a glaring shortage of such bands nowadays, and the Belgian formation does a really great job.

Mark: **9/10**