

The Drift

By Guy Blackman
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Scott Walker's third solo album a dense, cryptic 70-minute opus.

Artist

Scott Walker

Genre

Alternative/Indie

Label

4AD/Remote Control

Since his years of pop stardom with the Walker Brothers in the '60s, Scott Walker has beaten a steady, measured retreat from the modern world, popular culture and musical accessibility.

The Drift, only Walker's third solo album in more than 20 years, may well be the final destination of this process for the 63-year-old singer - a dense, cryptic 70-minute opus that features the sound of a side of beef being slapped, a demented Donald Duck vocal solo, plus songs about Mussolini's mistress and medieval psoriasis.

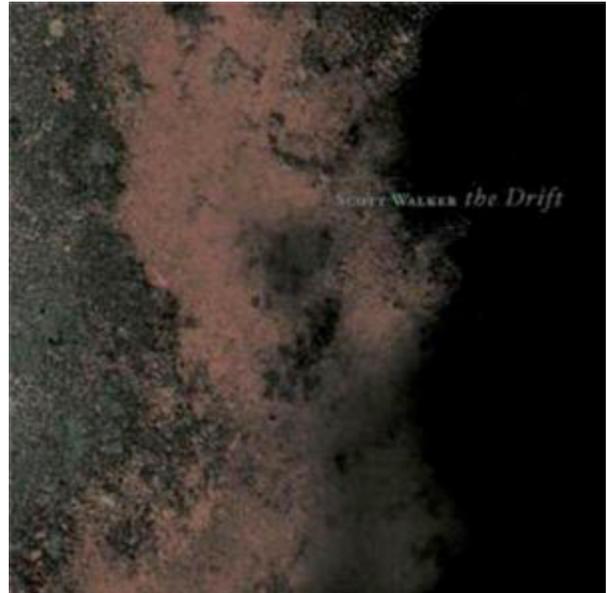
Which is not to say that *The Drift* is anything less than brilliant. The album's sparse arrangements create an atmosphere of foreboding and attenuated beauty, and its 10 tracks are all the more rewarding for their complexity.

Key Track: *Jesse*, an eerie invocation of Elvis Presley talking to his stillborn twin brother.

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