

HULDER – INTRIGUED BY A DEPRAVED VERSION OF HUMANITY

Hulder is a Portland, Oregon based one-woman black metal band whose first signs of life were released by underground label Stygian Black Hand. Our Ancient Future compiled both demo tapes on the Dutch entitled compilation tape "*De oproeping van middeleeuwse duisternis*". In the meantime, this compilation raised Germany based label Iron Bonehead's attention who decided to re-release the compilation on vinyl. The fact that Hulder seemed to have a link with my home country Belgium, sparked the idea to contact The Inquisitor for a conversation about medieval folklore and her Belgian roots. (JOKKE)

Hails, not much info about Hulder is known. When and why did you decide to start this one-woman project and why didn't you want to involve other people?

I started Hulder shortly after relocating to Oregon. The project had been a concept for quite some time, and ultimately could not lay dormant any longer. Thus the "*Ascending the raven stone*" demo was conjured up. Other members were not necessary at the time as I had a clear vision and technical ability to execute all aspects in a fashion that accurately portrayed my vision.

Your second demo is a rehearsal tape. How the hell do you record a rehearsal tape on your own, unless you can combine both playing the guitar and the drums?



As mentioned in the liner notes, the bass and drum duties on that rehearsal tape were executed by CK and Necreon both of whom were recruited as temporary live musicians. The rehearsal was in preparation for the one and only Hulder live appearance to date.

This demo together with the first one ("*Ascending the raven stone*") was released as "*De oproeping van middeleeuwse duisternis*" compilation on CD, tape and vinyl by a bunch of different labels. Iron Bonehead will also re-release this compilation on vinyl. Will this version be different from the previous vinyl-release? Did you sign a deal with this German label for future releases as well?

The Iron Bonehead version has been re-mastered by VK (Diocletian, Vassafor, Blasphemy, etc) in addition to the alternate full color sleeve and updated layout skillfully crafted by Dan Fried. News of future plans is to come.

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Being Belgian myself, the Dutch title of this compilation struck me since I considered Hulder a US-band, but it seems you have your roots in Belgium. Where did you grow up and when did you decide to leave to the US and more specifically Portland in Oregon?

I was born in Duffel, raised in Mechelen and the initial move to the US was circumstantial. The longing for cold weather and woods that was ingrained in me never subsided. Oregon seemed to offer the most suitable surroundings for me on this continent.

Do you still feel connected in one way or another with your home country? Do you follow the Belgian black metal scene?

There are many ways in which I have a strong connection to my homeland. I follow past and current Belgian black metal offerings closely.

Your band name refers to a hulder (or huldra), which is a seductive forest creature found in Scandinavian folklore. Why did you choose this name? Do you feel yourself connected with this creature? Do you know the Flemish black metal band Huldrefolk whose name also refers to these creatures?

There are certain aspects of the Folklore that ring true to the idea of Hulder. I will leave those details open for interpretation if one decides to delve into the tales or deeper meaning themselves. I am vaguely familiar with the band Huldrefolk.

Metal Archives states that besides medieval stuff and torture techniques, your lyrics are also based on Belgian folklore. Can you shed some light on your lyrical content?

Besides the concepts listed above being closely related, many of Hulder's lyrics are based on tales passed down for generations by my grandparents who were of Belgian and Swiss origin. That being said, my intrigue with Belgian literature and folklore is continuous.

I was wondering if the medieval cover picture of the first demo depicts a Belgian location?

Yes, the cover of the demo is the main gate to the Abbey of Tongerlo.



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What attracts you to the middle ages? Are you born 500 years too late?

It is an intrigue with a primal and depraved version of humanity contrasted by the unmatched intricacy of art and architecture.

The cover of your latest EP *“Embraced by darkness mysts”* shows a picture of you in medieval clothes and adorned with black metal spikes and a crucifix, standing in a forest. All clichés are present, but that’s what black metal fanatics like, although it might look silly for outsiders. Is there a big difference between your personality in everyday life and The Inquisitor once you put on your corpse paint and stage outfit?

There is not. Besides the ritual adornments that accompany the visual aspects of Hulder, there is not any sort of “alter ego” involved.

This EP shows great progress in both songwriting and performing. While the drumming on the demos was very basic, it improved a lot on the new EP.

Again, as stated in the liner notes, session drumming was outsourced for recording purposes on the *“Embraced by Darkness mysts”* EP. The drums on the *“Ascending..”* demo were programmed by myself.



The rehearsal tape contains a cover version of the legendary Celtic Frost classic *“Into the crypts of rays”*. What other (black) metal bands inspired you to start Hulder?

This should be pretty simple to gather on your own.

Are there any plans for a full-length release and/or live shows?

I will go into the studio early March to start recording the full length. A few announcements regarding live appearances are to come. Multiple tours are on the horizon upon release of the album. This is only the beginning!

This interview was released in March 2020 at www.addergebroed.com