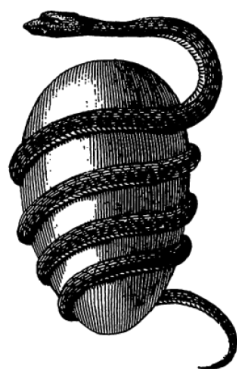


# ADDERGEBROED



## Kasturn – The torchbearer fades

About a hundred punks are gathered in front of an out-of-the-way pub on a drizzly Saturday afternoon in Walthamstow, in north London - soon, Kasturn embarks on its first ever live performance. The band released their first full-length album, "The Torchbearer Fades", at the beginning of February - after an EP and a slew of demos (the latest via Death Hymns), this time it's up to US label Unmatched Dominance to bring the new tape to life.

The three-headed hellhound from London immediately sets off with a ferocious, aggressive sound that they thrust right through the heart of novelty and innovation like a blunt, jagged knife - causing a gush of melancholy-filled blood to rush lustily to earth as the band unceremoniously forces all attendees to their knees. For the next forty minutes, they showcase an impressive body of work, thank Life After Death and Crypt of the Wizard for their steadfastness and once again disappear into icy nothingness until it's time for their next sonic declaration of war.

An overall large part of this first live show consisted of songs from their latest output, "The Torchbearer Fades", and for that, no one in the audience was mournful: despite the unobjectionable quality in predecessors such as "Rehearsal Promo 2023" and their self-titled EP, it is abundantly clear that Kasturn have taken a big step forward with this debut LP: the riffs sound incredibly cold and raw but at the same time possess a lot of timbre - something that is undoubtedly due in part to the mixing and mastering by M. O. of Flaming Ouroboros and Nightfall Dissension fame. The songs are very varied and regularly alternate between compelling mid-tempo riffs and endless cymbal washes, crescendos fitted with devastating double bass, fairy-eyed ambient and unearthly, demonic screeches that seem to emerge from unprecedented depths. Absolute stompers like "Lynched by seasons" and "Stilling of the End" are perfect examples of this

and serve as spot-on testimony to the versatility this band can lay down despite its primal, abrasive and orthodox sound. It should be said, after all: Kasturn can still best distinguish itself from the excess of mediocrity in contemporary black metal through its imposing, blood-curdling and victorious melodies - listen, for instance, to the first magisterial notes on "Betrayed Edict". Where raw black metal usually (deliberately) underperforms in this respect, Kasturn dares to dabble with almost atmospheric passages that keep haunting your mind without ever coming across as forced or goofy in the process.

Ironclad record.

**Jules: 91/100**

### **Kasturn – The torchbearer fades (Unmatched Dominance 2024)**

1. Introduction
2. Through the hyperborean wastelands
3. Lynched by seasons
4. Seed of torment
5. Stilling of the end
6. Strive and subdue
7. Dismal victory
8. Betrayed edict
9. The torchbearer fades

 **Kasturn (UK) - The Torchbearer Fades (Album 2024)**