



MONO

RAYS OF DARKNESS



LP



CD

ARTIST: MONO
TITLE: Rays of Darkness
CATALOG: TRR243
RELEASE DATE: October 28, 2014
FORMAT: CD / LP
UPC CD: 656605324326
UPC LP: 656605324319
BOX LOT: CD: 35 / LP: 50
NO EXPORT OUTSIDE OF NORTH AMERICA (USA, CAN, MEX)
VINYL IS NON-RETURNABLE

TRACK LISTING

1. Recoil, Ignite (13:19)
2. Surrender (7:41)
3. The Hand That Holds
The Truth (7:45)
4. The Last Rays (6:39)

SALES POINTS

- *Part Two* of two brand new companion studio albums by Japanese experimental rock group

- Total catalog sales over 140,000

- RIYL: **EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY, SIGUR RÓS, ENNIO MORRICONE, GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR**

PRESS

“One of the most distinctive bands of the 21st Century.” – *Pitchfork*

“**MONO** have now well and truly sealed their place in the pantheon of rock history.” – *Rock Sound*



BIO

When **MONO** began in 1999, they set out with a simple mission: From bliss to bludgeon, no matter how long or winding the path may be. Their debut album, *Under The Pipal Tree*, outlined that mission in twisted, psychedelic fury. Subsequent albums would see the band honing their craft, mastering their mission, and ultimately abandoning that path in favor of more grandiose pursuits. Flanked by increasingly larger orchestras, **MONO** performed live at some of the most prestigious venues in New York City, London, Tokyo, and Australia. **MONO** had become an orchestral rock band, a spectacle of extreme melancholy and melodrama. By 2012's *For My Parents*, the band had finally reached the logical conclusion of that era; it was time to remember where they started, and to rethink where they were heading. Less strings? No strings? Louder? Quieter? Lighter? Darker? Yes.

The Last Dawn and *Rays of Darkness* are a pair of new albums by **MONO**. Recorded simultaneously yet conceptually and creatively disparate, the two act as both opposing and complementary sides to a story. No strangers to narratives, the twin albums explore familiar themes for the band: Hope and hopelessness, love and loss, immense joy and unspeakable pain. Those elemental parts of life and the complicated relationships they create have never been more resonant through **MONO**'s music than they are here.

Rays of Darkness is the first **MONO** album in 15 years to feature no orchestral instruments whatsoever. That fact alone is remarkable given the band's reputation for sweeping, dramatic instrumentals that recall Oscar-worthy film scores. Instead, *Rays of Darkness* more closely resembles a jet engine taking off inside a small, crowded auditorium. It is **MONO**'s blackest album ever, a collection of scorched riffs, doom rhythms, and an unexpected contribution from post-hardcore pioneer Tetsu Fukagawa of **Envy**. The album ends with the smoldering wreckage of distorted guitars and ominous drones playing out a eulogy to the days when **MONO** shot blinding rays of light through seemingly endless darkness.



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