



STRAND OF OAKS
LEAVE RUIN

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END IN FLAMES
TWO KIDS
LAWNS BREED SONGS
MOURNING WORKER
NEW PARIS
SISTER EVANGELINE
DOGS OF WAR
DO YOU LIKE TO READ?
LEAVE RUIN

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Album Stream:
www.la-soc.com/leaveruinpreview.html

Strand of Oaks is Timothy Showalter, an Indiana Mennonite turned Pennsylvania Hebrew Dayschool teacher who even drives the school bus for extra cash (and has sing-alongs with the pupils as they ease on down the road). It's like a scene from "Behind the Music" if the weed-soaked Tom Petty was your busdriver, and in this case the metaphors, spread throughout nine tracks, are to be taken quite literally.

Leave Ruin is Strand of Oaks' hometown deathbed-confession hymnal, the soundtrack of an Exodus. It's been back roads and parenthetical side streets for Showalter since he left his ruin of small town America. As a Hoosier transplant, he landed in the fertile musical soil of Northeastern Pennsylvania with a few key twists of fate that would turn his tragedy into trajectory.

While escaping a relationship gone worse, Showalter returned home to a house burned down, leaving all of his earthly possessions charred in flames. Spending nights in downtown hotels and on park benches with a borrowed guitar, he began to face the proverbial demons. Like any good roller coaster ride there came an upside, as inspiration grew like weeds within the rubble; songs led to shows, which led to tours of the US and UK with Jason Anderson and Kimya Dawson. *Leave Ruin* took shape shortly thereafter while touring and collaborating with Lou Rogai (Lewis & Clarke).

Taking cues from such luminaries as Neil Young (*On the Beach* era) and a burgeoning Springsteen, Showalter extends his musical gesture and searches to find modesty in the midst of confusion, addressing insecurities and settling existential debt with a simple and beautiful delivery. The personification of a Midwestern Grandfather's advice, his songs smack with hard truth and poignant severity, from child-like naivete to heart worn wisdom... sparse guitar, hammond, rhodes and wooden instruments support an atmosphere that is tender and raw, at times uncomfortable, shockingly candid, and unforgettable.

*Recorded by Dan McKinney at Dan's House Studio in Bethlehem, PA and Tom Asselin at One Forest in Mountain Home, PA

*Mixed by Lou Rogai and Tom Asselin

*Produced by Lou Rogai

*Mastered at Maja in Philadelphia, PA by John Baker

Previous Selected Press:

"It's one of those recordings that makes me want to hide away from the world, with only a pair of earphones and a bottle of something for company, it's beautiful." - Simple Folk Radio



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Digital Press Kit & Streaming Album:
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www.forcefieldpr.com