

Scraping Foetus Off the Wheel: Nail (L.P.) This is an absolutely seamless record. Hole becomes a point of departure rather than a point of reference. Nail is simultaneously more simple and more complex. Everything has been immensely refined, and the end result is more beautiful and awe-inspiring than any finely honed machine. Thirwell (Ruin, Foetus, etc.)'s studio genius has become more phenomenal, and his perverse word play is tighter and more disturbing than it's ever been. Dig this: "I rule my body from the throne of agony/ My conscience and constitution's naggin' me/clock up another tracheotomy/ STAB another dagger inna back o' me" Wow. This is a concept album dealing with power, oppression, misery, and other fun topics of that ilk. And when Foetus chronicles this existence ("I'm waitin' to die... I'm waitin' to die/Too much a coward to snuff myself... GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO SUFFER MYSELF"), it really ain't so bad, y' know?—P.A.

LOWLIFE