SJB SELECTION

REVIEW · BLUES

Old Devils | William Elliott Whitmore

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War.

Prison.

Corruption.

Politicians.

Power.

“Old Devils” doesn’t beat around the bush.

It points.

Whitmore’s voice sounds like burnt wood. It carries earth, smoke and weariness. The rhythm doesn’t run because it doesn’t need to.

It walks.

Heavy.

Every return of the refrain leaves a small thud, like a door that keeps slamming in the same spot.

The song sets past and present face to face and discovers a rather unpleasant resemblance.

The names change.

The uniforms change.

The old devils seem to adapt just fine.

There is a **quiet violence** in the way Whitmore tells all this. There’s no need to shout.

> ***The problem with “Old Devils” isn’t that history might repeat itself. It’s worse: listening to it, you begin to***

> ***suspect that certain mechanisms never really stopped working.***

LISTEN

Old Devils — William Elliott Whitmore — is in our playlist Acoustic Blues, Roots & Dust.

William Elliott Whitmore. Updated every Friday. Selected by ear.

LISTEN FIRST. SELECT SECOND.