

I decided to review Nighttime Birds by The Gathering as I'm feeling ever so slightly rebellious. As we all know, gatherings aren't allowed in this period of mass lockdown. But not only am I 'gathering' so are you, by reading! (You could say). Very badass. Like being in an online 1920s speakeasy, without the gangsters, obviously. (As you know, all visitors of my sight are mild-mannered truth seekers). Only joking (yes, again). It's not really like a banned pub and rightly so. What if I get accused of gathering people and everyone gets forced into complete lockdown where you can't even shop or exercise? How popular would that make me? At least serial killers only have a few victims. Anyway, the band review. Here goes: Impressively, Allmusic.com gives the LP 4 and a half stars. Not to be sniffed at. Sure the rating was long before the coronavirus outbreak. If it was reviewed recently, it may have just got one star, so as to make people law abiding. I mean you never know - don't knock the power of subconscious influencing. As I found no reviews of the album this month on Google, maybe there IS some kind of censorship going on.

I mentioned in an interview with myself that I've previously tried to put pizza anecdotes into these kinds of reviews twice, but with no success. I also said I would keep trying. But what better time to talk about pizza than now! Sure pizza has NOTHING to do with this album's subject matter, but it HAS got to do with the lockdown situation in that many people are eating such takeaways to escape the pain. (And because such foods cause less kerfuffle). If only there was a way to make a stronger connection, though. To my disappointment I've just found out the band are Dutch, not Italian as I previously thought. (Yes, the home of the pizza). However, Lacuna Coil ARE Italian and the bands are similar in style! I've done it! Has my achievement added to this critique though? Call it delusional thinking in times of stress, but I think yes.

Let's be more traditional, though. Let's review the songwriting and instrumentation and all that. Well it got 4 and a half stars, didn't it? You can kind of assume everything is good. What's the point of elaborating further when I could talk about pizza? (Yes, I'm doing what I couldn't do before and am really going for it now, with much more careful thought than previously. It shows right?) So, I don't mean to sound like a suck-up, but once you've had a few Papa John's pizzas, you really don't go back to less quality stuff. Not only that, their pizzas tend to be cheaper because of the amazing deals they do! It really is quite ridiculous. But do you know what also is ridiculous? The great singing on the album! Yes, another connection! Expert and innovative writing is clearly going on, here. I've never actually seen a music review like it. Could I ever get a job at Allmusic.com? Hm... I dunno. I guess no? I just have this inkling, but I'll keep thinking about the question.

Ohhh, I know how to sound intellectual enough for the site: Some of the peaceful mid tempos in the release kind of bring to mind nighttime birds. How fitting, right? Actually, it was more deep than anything else. Now can I apply? Unfortunately the site already has another version of this review, doesn't it? Am I saying this one is better than the previous one and it should be replaced? Maybe not yet. Here's more deepness: What is the point really in adding near identical songs at the end that have been mixed very slightly differently? It gets monotonous. Like a coronavirus lockdown. Hm. The live tracks are also unnecessary as they are just like the studio versions, but not as good. A double whammy of things that suck. Does coronavirus suck in just two ways? Mmm... No. Seems I've been getting overconfident with my

abilities. Still though, at least I'm not afraid to review the album, like others clearly are. Again, I nailed the pizza stuff, too. Go me! Bye! (9/10).