

End of Green

Ashes & Gold Tour 2027

The world has always been a terrible place – unfortunately, it is the only one we have. And the fact that everything currently feels even more dreadful is difficult to downplay. It comes as no surprise, then, that on **ASHES & GOLD** **END OF GREEN** operate with a corresponding weight and depth.

END OF GREEN were never truly gone, yet nine years have passed since their last proper record, **VOID ESTATE** (2017). Still, the South German goth metal powerhouse has never pretended to believe in career-optimizing content overload just to keep shit going for shit's sake. Everyone knows: to sustain a meaningful conversation, you need something worth saying. And if that is not the case, **END OF GREEN** have always had the dignity to keep silent. Now, however, **MICHELLE DARKNESS** (vocals), **KERKER** (guitar), **HOUND E.** (bass), **SUFFERMAN** (drums) and **SAD SIR** (guitar) finally have something to get off their chests again.

It is reassuring that not even multiple chart entries have spoiled the band's character. **ASHES & GOLD** is one hell of a monster – consistently dark, dramatic, painted in shades of grey on black, and rooted firmly in a brutally real world. „It only hurts when I breathe,” sings **MICHELLE DARKNESS** in **SLUGLICKER**. This nonchalance has always defined the quintet from Göppingen. No glitter, no glamour, no glossy veneer. This is asphalt. These are scraped knees. Get up and keep going. To hell with the void. And no band captures those moments better, when the vast, unforgiving world crashes into the small realities of everyday life.

Of course, on their tenth album since 1996, **END OF GREEN** do not shy away from darkness and misery—quite the opposite. Yet **ASHES & GOLD** carries a different kind of intensity than the emotional outbursts of the past 30 years. The drama is still there, death still looms, despair still cuts deep, along with that almost nostalgic sense of „no future.” But **END OF GREEN** meet it all with defiance and self-empowerment. **ASHES & GOLD** embraces the light while inviting darkness to dance at the edge of the abyss. And with a certain audacity, the band draws strength from the ugliness of reality. Forward, always forward. Giving up is not an option.

END OF GREEN have never sounded more abrasive than on **ANGRY SON OF AN ANGRY OLD MAN**, never as snotty as on **SLUGLICKER**, never more merciless than in **THE DARK VALLEY**, never more darkly romantic than on **ISOLDE**, nor as playfully unhinged as in **WASTED TIME**. On **ASHES & GOLD**, they clearly relish the luxury of not having to choose between metal, goth, doom, post-punk, post-metal or whatever. Their game, their rules.

And, for heaven's sake, yes—there is goth crooner **MICHELLE DARKNESS**, who

truly gilds himself here. A voice of gold. Not only does he pour his soul into every note with relentless intensity, he is also responsible for the album's tight production. To put it briefly: **ASHES & GOLD**—what a record. **END OF GREEN**—what a band. And what a time to be alive. May it last forever.