

**R.E.M.'S CLASSIC SECOND ALBUM, RECKONING, REISSUED AS TWO-CD  
25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY DELUXE EDITION WITH BONUS DISC OF  
PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED 1984 CHICAGO CONCERT**

**Reckoning** “confirms R.E.M. as one of the most beautifully exciting groups on the planet.” wrote NME in 1984. R.E.M.’s second full-length album also prompted The Washington Post to proclaim that “there isn’t an American band worth following more than R.E.M.” Twenty-five years later, **Reckoning** remains a fan favorite for capturing R.E.M. during the youthful freshness of a new, fiercely independent American music scene.

The two-CD **Reckoning - Deluxe Edition** (I.R.S./A&M/UM<sup>e</sup>), released June 23, 2008, features the original album remastered plus a bonus disc of a previously unreleased concert recorded during the band’s *Little America* tour at Chicago’s Aragon Ballroom on July 7, 1984 and broadcast on WXRT. In addition, **Reckoning** and R.E.M.’s 1983 debut album Murmur will be simultaneously reissued on audiophile quality 180 gram vinyl in their complete original packaging.

On the **Deluxe Edition**’s bonus disc, the group not only performs eight of **Reckoning**’s ten songs, “Gardening At Night” from 1982’s Chronic Town EP and “Radio Free Europe,” “9-9” and “Sitting Still” from Murmur but also new songs that had yet to make it onto tape: “Driver 8” would later debut on R.E.M.’s third album and “Hyena” on its fourth.

Inclusion of the live concert is particularly appropriate for **Reckoning - Deluxe Edition**. Whereas Murmur had been complex and painstakingly deliberate, the band’s Bill Berry, Peter Buck, Mike Mills and Michael Stipe, along with producers Mitch Easter and Don Dixon, saw **Reckoning** as a “chance to turn up the volume, tear up the rule book, and capture instead R.E.M.’s on-stage mojo,” according to the **Deluxe Edition** liner notes by author Tony Fletcher. Even as Stipe lyrically delved into darker subject matter and the album included the band’s first true ballads--the melancholic “Time After Time (Annelise)” and “Camera”--other tracks revealed a band steeped in the immediacy of playing gigs in a college town, from the pulsating “7 Chinese Bros.,” hard-rocking “Little America” and anthemic “(Don’t Go Back To) Rockville” to the melodically evocative “So. Central Rain (I’m Sorry),” “Letter Never Sent” and “Pretty Persuasion.”

**Reckoning** peaked on the charts at #27, nine spots higher than Murmur (Rolling Stone’s 1983 Album of the Year) and was eventually certified gold. R.E.M. would go on to score #1-charting quadruple platinum albums and win worldwide adoration. In 2007, in its first year of eligibility, the band was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

###