

GARDEN & GUN

MUSIC

The Best Southern Albums of 2019

A Nashville-by-way-of-England country-soul stunner, a scintillating take on modern bluegrass, and nineteen more of this year's best releases

by DACEY ORR SIVEWRIGHT



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Allison Moorer | *Blood*

The audio counterpart to Allison Moorer's memoir of the same name, *Blood* tackles childhood trauma and domestic abuse with nuance and empathy. "Cold, Cold Earth," written twenty years ago and released for the first time on *Blood*, recounts the night Moorer's father killed her mother and then himself when she was fourteen, while "The Rock and the Hill" looks at the hardships her mother endured in an abusive relationship. But the album ultimately carries a hopeful, forward-moving message, closing with the track "Heal": "Help me lay my weapons down / Help me give the love I feel / Help me hold myself with kindness / And help me heal."

Essential Tracks: "Heal," "Bad Weather"