

Must-have reissue**REM Reckoning:
Deluxe Edition (Universal)**

We're told that when REM went into the studio late in 1983 to record the follow-up to their debut, *Murmur*, they were trying to catch the "live magic" of the band. Well, however great *Reckoning* is, and however important its place in the development of alt-rock, they appear to have failed. This remastered version brings a welcome clarity and vibrancy to REM classics such as *So*, *Central Rain* and *(Don't Go Back To) Rockville*, but the second CD, with a gig from 1984, reveals that as a live unit, REM were racing ahead of their recorded selves. After a shaky start, they explode into life, playing *Reckoning*, some early gems and *Driver 8*. Even if you know *Reckoning* forwards, backwards and sideways, the live disc makes this deluxe edition a must-have. **ME**

