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Rachel Sage: Haunted By You

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By: Jeremy Wood

Rachel Sage Haunted By You (MPress)

Rachael Sage's latest release - Haunted by You is impossible not to hear the echoes of Tori Amos and Jewel in Sage's velvety voice. There is such a strength and familiarity to the tone of her music that anyone who listened to the top 40 countdowns seventeen years ago will be taken back to those times. Her voice is melodic and soft, but still breathes with the strength of femininity. The listener can hear the frailty of choice within the pitfalls of the woman experience, but the underlying power of change and development between the words is inescapable. Dealing with the weariness of a woman's often cornered life can be a struggle because of the choices unique to the gender, but Sage manages to border on inspirational, never quite letting the trials of frustration overwhelm the potential for personal triumph.

The tracks have a subtle marriage of dependency and personal strength.

The dichotomy she creates between vulnerability and steely independence is impressive. The only aspect more rewarding than her controlled emotional range is the contextual canvas she uses as her medium. Sage can capture the pain of loss in one song but then border on kitschy hope in the plucky and fun lyrics in the next. The disc has a steady flow that melds easily between the tracks. Her mastery of voice and the ivory keys has built an album twchich breathes life into an old niche.

Sage's Haunted by You does haunt the listener, the same way that Sarah MacLachlan and Meredith Brooks still do after the zenith of their careers; she haunts us with the ghosts of good music.

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