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## Judith de los Santos Shines on ALL OF THE ABOVE



Written by Mike Parker

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### **All of the Above**

By **Judith de los Santos**

Independent



When reviewing an independent artist the temptation is to find someone on the radio to compare them with. But on occasion you come across an artist that makes finding comparisons difficult. Such is the case with **Judith de los Santos**.

Oh, I could throw out some names. Sophie B. Hawkins comes to mind, as does Natalie Imbruglia, and perhaps Cheryl Crow or Jennifer Knapp. But that would be the easy way out, and it doesn't really adequately describe her music anyway.

**All of the Above, de los Santos'** debut project is an exercise in canny songwriting wrapped in a deft amalgam of acoustic and electric guitar-driven melodies. There is an underlying left-at-the-altar bittersweetness that seems to permeate the project, imbuing it with a world-weary melancholy that is suitable for rainy nights and 20 year old cognac. Take "Fairytale," the album's opener, for instance. "Once upon a time you stood me up/ That's twice upon a time you let me down." Or "Everything" - "Scented candles burn your letters to me/ Leave a message I'm not here/ 'Cause I can't handle all that you bring to me/ Every time I let you near." Or "Covered in Red" - "I think of all the ways that I pretend you never left."

But don't get the impression that this is some whiney-rock, a la Alanis, et al. There's not a whine within a mile of **de los Santos**. There may be defiance, acceptance, a grudging embrace of reality and a wistful grasping after what might have been. Maybe even a hint of regret. But no whining.

**Judith de los Santos** possesses a bold alto that is a welcome respite from the dog-whistle sopranos that tend to populate the airwaves. She uses it alternately as a pile driver to hammer home her point on such smoldering rockers as "Run," but knows when to tone it down and deliver gently nuanced poetry on lighter fare such as "High."

**All of the Above** doesn't fit snugly into any particular niche. It is both adventurous and familiar; rock 'n' roll shot through with feminine attitude and a smidgen of folk-pop thrown in for good measure. I dig it.

<http://www.judithonline.com/>

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