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REVIEW

Music Review: Deborah Bonham - *Duchess*

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"Jack Past 8" is a fantastic, funky track, lifted even higher by her exceptional vocals. "Hole In My Heart" slows it down nicely this time with a soulful vocal approach. Next up is the duet with Paul Rodgers. There's no need for me to say anything more except when you combine two singers like this, the magic doesn't just spark, it simply glows.

The lyrics too are worthy of mention and are the subject of her message within the album cover notes. She writes, "Open your eyes and look at what's been given to you". She explains, "It's taken me some time, like most of us I've not been without my fair share of heartache and grief, but at long last I think I'm opening my eyes. You can never forget but time can be a healer, if you let it". Much of this heartfelt emotion, and more, is contained within her songs on this album.

There are simply no tracks on *Duchess* that aren't transformed into something quite special by her voice. The up tempo, "Love Lies", the smoothly effective "Pretty Lies", and the blues ballad that is "Love You So" all underline that point. The only cover in the set is a lovely version of The Sutherland Brothers "Chains", a haunting folk tale. "How Do You Feel" and "Duchess And The Shufflemeister" never allow the overall effect to dip.

The tail end has the Janis-like ballad "Waiting So Long", an incredibly sad "(If You) Had A Little Love", which slowly builds around her voice until suddenly coming to an end. "Blue" brings it all to a close with some pedal steel from BJ Cole.

The Old Hyde, named after the Bonham family farm where she grew up, was an excellent album. But now *Duchess* takes her career even further. It is the perfect platform for this rare gem of a voice.

Visit Deborah Bonham's [official website](#) or listen to tracks from *Duchess* on her [MySpace profile](#) page.

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Jeff is a writer who lives in France. He writes CD/DVD box sets, reviews and has had a book published about David Byron of Uriah Heep. He is 'busy' exploring both the music and football of Europe with his wife Debbie and dog Dylan. It's Dylan that does the writing of course. He has two music series - Eurorock & Classic Eurorock to check out. There is also a new European football feature - Euroscore - in the Sports section.

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