



Josie Kuhn "**La Luna Loca**" no label/self-release

Kuhn's third solo album features a dozen cuts, nine of which were self-penned, while that Austin based fiddle playing prodigy, Mandy Mercier, helped out on "A Man Like Me." Ron Davies, who cut an album for A&M titled "**Silent Song Through The Land**" [1973], and is singer Gail Davies' brother, shares a couple co-writes with Kuhn – "You're Losing Me" and the opening cut "The Lucky One." The narrator in the opener declares that she now feels *free as a bird* after her boyfriend moved on to another woman.

One of the finest electric guitar pickers Britain has ever produced, Albert Lee, contributes some darned fluid licks to eight of the tracks and on "You're Mine Tonight," another love song, he duets with Kuhn. Underpinned by the sound of Mark "Sergio" Webb's Spanish guitar, the album title track "La Luna Loca" ["The Crazy Moon"] is both a gunfighter ballad and a tale of passionate love. A good proportion of this six-minute long track consists of instrumental guitar breaks featuring Messrs. Lee and Webb [Ponty Bone and Richard Dobson].

Born Maria Christina Luisa Cortez the heroine in the Tex-Mex flavoured "Fat Tina's Cantina" losses her parents at the age of fourteen. Undaunted, the youngster sits outside the *gringo hotel* each day making and selling fresh sopapillas [fried dessert bread], and in the process makes her fortune from *flour, water and lard*. In time, her savings accrue and Tina fulfils her dream by opening her own bar. "Here On The Res" was undoubtedly inspired by Josie's Native American heritage and her declared interest in remedying their poor quality of life. In the lyric an Oglala Sioux hitchhiker, Joe Coyote, describes the harshness of life on the reservation.

Set in the high desert mountains of New Mexico, there's a spiritual Native American edge to the lyric to "Ride Where The Wind Blows," while "Stranded In South Dakota" – on a reservation ? - amounts to a humour filled, good time sing-along. In the closing cut, "No Te Quiero Mas" [which translates as "I Don't Want You"] Kuhn tells her "*good for nothing*" man that she no longer has time for him. Apart from those I've already mentioned, the support players include Jeff "Stick" Davis [Amazing Rhythm Aces] on bass, and on mandolin Susie Monick [solo and Richard Dobson].

Folkwax Rating 5 out of 10

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