



Christine Kane **"Rain And Mud And Wild And Green"** Big Fat Music

"Rain And Mud And Wild And Green" is Kane's third studio album, and was preceded in Y2K by **"Live."** Cut at The Down Home in Johnson City, Tennessee, Christine's *concert* album merged four songs each from her first and second albums with three new numbers – "Made of Steel," "Southern Girl" and "(You Don't Have To) Say Goodnight."

Raised in Virginia, Kane makes her home these days in Asheville, North Carolina. In "The Way Clouds Do," a road song and the opening cut of **"Rain And Mud..."**, in the lines *"Me and the girls we grew up, In homes they built on battlefields, Ponytails and panic, We were bad, bored and bulimic, We longed for something real,"* Kane recalls her youthful years of innocence while growing up in Fairfax, Virginia. These days her *something real* is the horizon [and the highway that takes her to the next gig]. At ground level cars rush *to and from* that distant point, while up above in a constantly changing world, Kane reflects that, *"The clouds are changing, The way clouds do."* The only co-write in this set of Kane originals is the gently paced love song "She Don't Like Roses," penned with Nashville based song-smith, Tom Kimmel. Richard Shindell provides the harmony vocal on the latter, instantly memorable, cut, which possesses the lyrical punch line *"You met her on a Monday, You were in love by Tuesday night."*

In the liner booklet "Everything Green," a song that focuses on the preservation of our natural environment, bears the dedication *"For my dear friend Suzi, and inspired by the amazing Julia Butterfly Hill."* The opening guitar riff on this cut, played by Larry Campbell, intricately twists and turns like an uncoiling and re-coiling reptile. The lyric features the *rain, mud, wild and green* that furnish the album with its title. Kane's lyrics are certainly a *cut above* on this collection, and the same can be said for her melodies. For instance, the ascending skyward and falling earthward wrap around sounds of "Times Three" makes for one of the finest melodies on the disc.

Adopting a *tragi-comic* voice to deliver the stinging and honest lyric of "(No Such Thing As) Girls Like That" Kane tirades at the exploitation of women in music videos [record labels, MTV and the ilk] and lingerie catalogues. Finally, with the spotlight on the *plastic princess* – Barbie - Kane states that in *real life* the doll's physical attributes would equate to a bra size of 41" and a 12" waist, with osteoporosis being *guaranteed* somewhere between the ages of 50 and 60.

Elsewhere on this engaging collection "All The Relatives" is the portrait of *"an overly emotional girl"* who, for many years, has *"been crazy with her radical ways."* The narrator in "The Way You Say Goodbye" surveys the end of a love affair, while "Or Just Heading Home" is another road song that merges current events with flashbacks from the narrator's life. The album closes with a gentle and thoughtful love song, "One Once More."

There's an intimately confessional feel to Kane's words that, song after song on **"Rain And Mud And Wild And Green,"** seductively drew this listener in and before I knew it, I was hooked. Recorded in NYC, a first for Kane, Ben Wisch the noted producer of *contemporary songpoets* [Lucy Kaplansky, Richard Shindell, Cheryl Wheeler, David Wilcox] was aided by star pickers such as Larry Campbell [Dylan, Shindell, Kaplansky], Marc Shulman [Kaplansky, Patty Larkin, Burns Sisters] and Ben Wittman [Kaplansky, Eileen Ivers]. The result - Wisch has created a *keeper*, featuring eleven well constructed Christine Kane songs.

Folkwax Rating 8 out of 10

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