



Four Bitchin Babes "**Some Assembly Required**" Shanachie Entertainment

Suzzy Roche, the new girl in the quartet, opens the Bitches sixth album with a composition she appropriately titles "Changing." Songs composed and performed by The Roches consistently possessed a humorous edge and the aforementioned tune includes the, *we knew that already insight* - "Once I was a daughter, Then I was a mother, And I been a sister, never was a brother though." Her other contributions to this twelve song disc amount to [*her old buddy*] Loudon Wainwright's amusing and insightful "The Doctor," and a tongue-in-cheek tribute to her [*in parallel to music*] acting career, "Spear Carrier : A Life In The Theatre."

A truly democratic organisation Messrs. Fingerett [the remaining *original* Babe], Debi Smith and Camille West supply three self penned numbers each to "**Some Assembly Required.**" It's also worthwhile noting that each artist recorded their tracks individually, with Bitchin' background vocals being added at a later time.

Going by Camille's lyrical slant her tastes apparently run to S-E-X [at least 2 times out of 3], as evidenced by "New Age Swing" [with innuendo filled references to *the late psychic Edgar Cayce, chakras, kundalini* and *that tantric thing*], while in "Nobody Beats My Bob" she tells us all about her new and very satisfying *battery operated boyfriend* [sic. Bob]. As for "These Ruby Shoes," West's lyrics obviously draws inspiration from Dorothy's little adventure in Kansas. Fingerett's opening salvo on this collection is "Don't Mess With Me (I'm Somebody's Mother)," a three episode tale that proves by example that the female of the species, *homo sapien*, makes the rules. Her "I'll Be The One" is a testament to the strength one individual can learn to display by adopting a rigid personal resolve, while "True Love's Gonna Come Along" is a testament to actually finding, as well as holding on to, that rare commodity.

A gooey-eyed teenage schoolgirl is helplessly in love with her *radical 60's* English teacher in "Bob Dylan's Poetry." Personally the concept for the song and even the lyrics, appear dated and sappy, but maybe I totally flunked out on Debi's pitch at irony. Her "I Don't Think I'm Gonna Like It" focuses on a series of "*well I hope that never happens to me*" episodes. Those all too familiar custard pie moments in life when you, for example, tuck your skirt inside your pantyhose or go skinny dipping right next to where a troop of boy scouts are camped. As for Debi's "He Believed In Me" it hinges upon the premise that we gain *inspiration* from people who support us and openly display their belief in what we stand for.

Boiling down the constituent parts into some sort of cohesive overview leaves me with the impression that this was just another Babes album. And definitely not their best effort.....

Folkwax Rating 6 out of 10

Arthur Wood.
Kerrville Kronikles 01/03.