

RODNEY CROWELL

SAME

stars on the water/ Just wanta dance/ She ain't going nowhere/ Don't need no other now/ Shame on the moon/ Only two hearts/ Victim of a fool/ All you've got to Do/ 'Til I gain control again/ Old pipeliner.
(warner Bros. 56934).

Of the ten tracks featured on this, Rodney's third and self produced solo album, he has had a hand in composing seven of the songs, two with Cherry Bomber, Hank De Vito.

Rodney's favourite writer Keith Syke² supplies the up-tempo rocker, 'Just wanta dance' while his close friend Guy Clark penned, 'She ain't going nowhere'. The latter track was featured on Clark's eponymous 1975 album, 'Old No1' and Rodney's sympathetic interpretation makes for one of my favourite tracks on this album.

There are a number of potential singles here, and I was particularly impressed by Rodney's version of the old Emmylou Harris favourite, 'Til I gain control again'. He has avoided the pitfall of featuring too many voices on the harmony vocals and given his song, what I feel, is its most distinctive interpretation to date. Albert Lee's lead guitar licks flow effortlessly on this track, and many others on the album, and his middle break to 'Til I gain control again' is a stone classic.

This album has a better balance between up-tempo and ballad material than his previous ones, and Rodney has undoubtedly honed his skill as a producer. The sound possesses more clarity and depth than before, and backing supplied mainly by Messrs De Vito, Gordy, Londin and Brown, The Cherry Bombs is extremely tight.

Other stand out tracks are; 'Shame on the moon'(complete with 40's style chorus), 'Only two hearts' and 'Victim or a fool'. Of course the album wouldn't be complete without a hot rock 'n roll number to close on, and the Ray King/ Tommy Hill song, 'Old Pipeliner' is certainly that.

This is undoubtedly Rodney's most accessible album to date, and with his reputation as a songwriter and producer currently at an all-time high, I think this album is the one that will break him as a solo act.

Written by,
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