



Terri Hendrix "**The Ring**" Wilory Farm Records

On "**The Ring**" Hendrix employs the same team as her last three albums – Lloyd Maines - co-writing, co-production and guitars etc., Glenn Fukunaga – bass, and Paul Percy – drums and percussion. Among those aiding and abetting Hendrix & Co. are Riley Osbourn [keyboards] and Sara Hickman [background vocals].

The eleven cuts boil down to five co-writes with Maines, one with Fukunaga [a first], and three tunes that Terri penned on her own. The covers amount to "Long Time Coming" [Marcus Hummon/Martie Seidel Maguire] and the lyrically heartfelt closer "Prayer For My Friends" [Jeff Barbra/Sarah Pickle]. Martie Seidel is one third of those chart-hit makers, The Dixie Chicks, a line-up that features Maines' daughter, Natalie.

There has always been a boisterous, happy-go-lucky edge to Hendrix's music and "**The Ring**" doesn't break that well-established mould, although she's marginally more restrained on this set. The wisdom that comes with age! The title song recalls a ring that her father created from a 1955 half-dollar coin. According to Hendrix "*this poor, barefoot boy from Alabama,*" felt compelled to fight in Korea and Vietnam, began making the ring on his way back from the latter conflict. Years in the making, her father, a man of quiet grace, would leave the house whenever a family argument was brewing. If the ring was much more than a symbolic expression of a man's love for his wife, his daughter's creation is an equally appropriate declaration of deep affection for her father.

Elsewhere "Night Wolves," the Fukunaga co-write, is a paean to those folks who regularly suffer from insomnia, while "From Another Planet" sets out a manic pace which doesn't ease as Hendrix scats her way through a series of images that are, frankly, *other worldly*. "Truth Is Strange" concludes that honesty in all our personal dealings is the [only] truth path. What's more, a "*what do you want to hear*" approach only leads to *losing face* after being *found out* at some later date. Now ain't that the truth.

With Hendrix *w-y-s-l-w-y-g* and that's a winning formula.

Folkwax Rating 6 out of 10

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