## Katie Webster - Two-Fisted Mama (1990)

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1 Two-Fisted Mama 2 Stood up Again 3 Red Negligee 4 C.Q. Boogie 5 Never Let Me Go 6 Love Deluxe 7 Pussycat Moan 8 Money Honey or Honey Hush 9 I'm Still Leaving You 10 Katie Lee 11 So Far Away Katie Webster (vocals, piano, organ); Vasti Jackson (guitar, background vocals); Gus Thornton (bass); Gerald Warren (drums). The Memphis Horns: Andrew Love (tenor saxophone); Wayne Jackson (trumpet, trombone).

Miss Katie always could talk some trash with the best of 'em, and she's sure not shy about showing it. On the talking/singing "Red Negligee," she spends more than nine minutes getting even with a husband lacking in the attentive-and-responsive department, and has plenty of fun doing it. Then, on the six-minutes-plus "Pussycat Moan," she works the same theme as deep, dark blues with menacing piano and vocals. Backed most of the time only by her crack trio (featuring the understated Vasti Jackson on guitar) but, occasionally, the Memphis Horns as well, Katie has lots more room than usual to stretch out on piano, using it especially impressively on the title song and the instrumental "C.Q. Boogie." Her vocals have grown more confident, and more powerful, by now, too; "Never Let Me Go" is the kind of lush, lovely ballad she might have had trouble pulling off just an album earlier. She's even got her own dance tune this time in "Katie Lee." This is her most diversified album, both ambitious and accomplished, and right up there with Swamp Boogie Queen as her best. --- John Morthland, emusic.com

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