Candye Kane – Superhero (2009)

01. Superhero 02. Hey! Toughen Up! 03. I Put A Hex On You play 04. I'm A Bad, Bad Girl 05. Ik Hou Van Je (I Love You) 06. Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed? 07. Don't Cry For Me New Jersey 08. You Need Love 09. I Like 'Em Stacked Like That 10. Till You Go Too Far 11. Picture Of You 12. You Can't Stop Me From Loving You 13. I Didn't Listen To My Heart play
14. Throw It in The Trash Can Love 15. I'm Gonna Be Just Fine
Candye Kane (vocals); Laura Chavez (vocals, guitar, acoustic guitar, baritone guitar); Mitch Kashmar (vocals, harmonica); Kid Ramos (guitar); Dave Gonzales (baritone guitar); Jonny Viau (saxophone); Greg Rutledge (piano); Paul Loranger (bass instrument); Stephen Hodges (drums, percussion); Evan Caleb, Evan Caleb (drums).

Any time a musician survives a life-altering change, you can be sure that will be reflected in the music that follows. Often a breakup/divorce, new love/marriage, drug rehabilitation/habit or religious transformation has been responsible for some of pop's most memorable music. So it's no surprise that after Candye Kane was clear of the pancreatic cancer that could easily have been her death sentence, she would reference that experience on the album immediately following the harrowing situation. Kane doesn't waste any time doing that as the opening title track to her first post-cancer effort kicks off with the brassy singer bellowing the lyrics "I've always been a fighter" followed in the chorus by "there's no way I'm laying down and dying." Based on the aural evidence here, she has bounced back in a big way, ripping into her usual potpourri of jump blues ("Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed?"), surfy rockabilly ("Throw It in the Trash Can Love" with ex-Paladin Dave Gonzales on guitar), straight-ahead Chuck Berry rocking ("You Can't Stop Me from Loving You"), and blues-based retro Americana classic pop ("Picture of You"). As usual , there are plenty of double entendres flying, especially on the jazzy "I Like 'Em Stacked Like That" where Kane goes toe to toe with Mitch Kashmar, who drops his harp to spar with Kane on vocals only to pick it up on the following tough shuffle, "Till You Go Too Far." The sassy singer writes ten of the 15 tracks, all of them sharp, peppy, and perfectly suited to her roots/blues sensibilities. She's in terrific voice throughout, sexy when needed but also vulnerable on the Leslie Gore-styled swinging twist of "I Didn't Listen to My Heart." Kane co-produced with right-hand guitarist Laura Chavez, and the duo finds the sweet spot in every

tune, keeping the spotlight on the vocalist where it belongs, yet giving the songs room to breathe. Kane's previous albums are typically spirited affairs, but here she sings with the passion, vitality, and sheer joy of someone who has been given a new lease on life and is determined to make the most of it. *---Hal Horowitz, allmusic.com*

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