

Suzi Quatro - Suzi Quatro (1973)

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01 - 48 Crash 02 - Glycerine Queen 03 - Shine My Machine 04 - Official Suburbian Superman 05 - I Wanna Be Your Man 06 - Primitive Love 07 - Can The Can 08 - All Shook Up 09 - Sticks & Stones 10 - Skin Tight Skin 11 - Get Back Mama 12 - Shakin' All Over
Suzi Quatro - bass, lead vocals Len Tuckey - guitar, slide guitar, backing vocals Alastair McKenzie - electric piano, grand piano, mellotron, backing vocals Dave Neal - drums, backing vocals

As glam rock debut albums go, you'll have to search a long way to find one that outclasses Suzi Quatro's opening shot. Though her fame and, of course, her hit singles thus far were based around songwriters Nicky Chinn and Mike Chapman's guileless ability to crank out the classics, away from the glare of TV and radio play the pair allowed Quatro and partner Len Tuckey full rein. The result was an album of several very distinct parts, inextricably linked by the sheer power of the Quatro personality. The heart of Suzi Quatro lies in the band's choice of covers. Harking back to Quatro's years in Detroit clubland, there's a Slade-meets-Stonesy grind through "I Wanna Be Your Man," a raucous blast through "All Shook Up," and, restating the song's claim to be the best rock & roller any Briton ever wrote, Johnny Kidd's "Shaking All Over," garageland sexuality oozing out from every pore. Chinnichap's "Primitive Love," one of the finest songs that the duo ever left unnoticed on an LP, then echoes that same intent, seething percussion and unearthly crowd sounds building around a jungle chant that reduces Quatro's characteristic cries to a breathy growl that is pure animal seduction. Of Quatro/Tuckey's own contributions, "Glycerine Queen" (already familiar from a B-side) and "Shine My Machine" are the most in character, straightforward rockers bolstered by the band's already trademark roiling rhythm. "Skin Tight Skin," on the other hand, is the most adventurous, bucking the formula in favor of a slow swing and a vocal that is straight out of West Side Story. Suzi Quatro remains one of the most nakedly sexual albums of the entire glam rock epoch -- and one of the hottest debuts of the decade. --- Dave Thompson, AllMusic Review

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