



**Gina Villalobos**  
***Miles Away***

Laughing Outlaw- LORCD094

★★★★

*Second offering succeeds in delighting, let down only slightly by a mediocre cover*

The name Gina Villalobos should be tripping off your tongue by now, or least be found on a well thumbed page of your musical dictionary, following the success of her debut album *ROCK AND ROLL PONY* last year, national radio play and numerous UK dates. And this month, Laughing Outlaw's alt.country poster girl is back with a vengeance on *MILES AWAY*, a vivid emotional portrait of the twists and turns and painful goodbyes of a turbulent relationship.

The title track that kicks off the journey is enthused with a resilience that repeats itself throughout the record, Gina's vocals moving from a cracked and smoky to moist and blossoming against streams of country rock guitar. 'I could burn, but tonight won't fire,' she sings, 'I could fall, but the ground won't go,' with more hooks in the melody than a model's wardrobe. And the rocking *Face On The Sheets* is a sure fire hit, tormented like a bad sleep, full of spunky attitude, with Gina playing tough cookie, much in contrast to the vulnerable girl she appears to be on *Somewhere to Lay Down*.

A cover of the Bee Gees *If I Can't Have You* is the only track that doesn't excite the senses in the same way, veering too close to the middle of the road. Everywhere else she walks that very fine line, balancing the

mixed emotions of love and hate on the tip of her tongue. Fans of Lucinda Williams's *WORLD WITHOUT TEARS* and Kathleen Edwards's *BACK TO ME*, form an orderly line. **HK**

MAVERICK