



GINA VILLALOBOS

Rock 'n' Roll Pony

(KICK MUSIC)

Anyone who was seduced by Kathleen Edwards' recent *Failer* should be bowled over by this even stronger singer-songwriter from Los Angeles, the follow-up to her fine debut *Beg From Me*. Villalobos has the restlessness of the most moving country music, but she combines it with a rock spirit that's always forthright and never forced. On this album, her wild yearning is clear not just in her songs but in her gravelly voice and spirit, like an unapologetic Sheryl Crow. On the opening song, she doesn't just want to travel through "California," she wants to bring it to its knees, get 'dirty,' drink and make obscene postcards. Later she vomits, chokes and asks to get cut open ("I'm Alright"), all in love's grip. Balancing her crazed abandon is a tender, reflective side heard on the sweet "Why" and the heartbreaking "What I'd Give." Villalobos is definitely a unique talent to watch.

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