

SUSIE FITZGERALD "Restless" (Big Purr Music)

Talk about a pleasant surprise ... "Restless", the second album out of the States this week, from noteworthy singer songwriter Susie Fitzgerald, came to us almost "out of the blue". Because, let's be honest, we had never heard of her, despite the fact that her preceding album "Plenty" was released a year or two ago in her home country to good acclaim.

But for us, truly, here is a very pleasant acquaintance. We were soon captivated by the songs and stories of the bespectacled American. The twelve tracks therein show her fascination with all kinds of relationships, such as those between lovers, friends, enemies and "vrijanden" — loosely translated to the neologism suggested by Fitzgerald, "frienemies" — but also with herself. Quite fascinating!

The musical environment where she appears to have had these meandering thoughts is situated somewhere between Folk, Americana and Roots(y) Rock, with the occasional dash of spice by way of good Jazz and Soul as a bonus. In our opinion, a special mention definitely goes to guitarist Kyle Zender, who, with his tricks on the electric guitar helps lift many a song to a higher level. For example, just listen to the languid rocker "Keep On Driving"! It will certainly not be long before you agree we're more than right with respect to that determination.

We feel "Keep On Driving" is one of the strongest songs of the entire album. We also find the particularly atmospheric, rather somber thoughts enveloping "The Hardest March"; the sympathetic, swinging "Devil Dog"; the splendid country tune "Everywhere & Nowhere"; the game, witty, rocking "Rattlesnake"; the soulful crooner "Restless" and the others are certainly nothing to sneeze at.

As mentioned above, it was very pleasant to get acquainted with this Susie Fitzgerald. And we hope it will be the same for you.

—*Benny Metten, ctl.alt.country, Belgium*