## Mp3 Renee Cologne - Rock & Roll Housewife



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Melodic, electronic, orchestral pop songs, staggering through a dramatic landscape of what to do with the FedEx man, how to buy a dryer at Sears and the best way to lick the salt off the edge of a margarita this album will break your heart. 11 MP3 Songs ELECTRONIC: Pop Crossover, POP: with Electronic Production Details: Its a conundrum that Renee Cologne has been living in New York City for 20 years, when, as she likes to joke, she is only 16 in record company years an inside jab referring to record companies practice of signing and promoting very young artists. Not that she minds that so much, her path is one she wouldnt trade for the world, and began 16 years ago :) . . . Born to a traveling circus troupe based in Raleigh, NC, it didnt take long for her to discover a sanctuary in music. Not for her, the bright lights and show biz glamorous environment that surrounded her. She was a more quiet, introverted child given to melancholy Spanish music and epic poetry. While other children fantasized about growing up and being famous, all she wanted was to live a normal middle class existence marry a nice man, have dinner on the table for him after a hard days work at the office and maybe have some kids. The bearded lady in the circus troupe felt sorry for Renee and bought her an EZ Bake oven. Ever-resourceful, she made little cup cakes and other baked goods and sold them at a profit to the children who came to see the circus. Her family, Mom, clown Junebug and Dad, Samuel, conquistador and ringmaster, indulged her and allowed her to go to college, rather than join the troupe. That is how she found herself studying classical music and baroque harmony at the University of North Carolina in Greenville. But they wouldnt let her wear the costumes she was so comfortable in and wanted her to sing this beautiful but not-natural-to-her-voice music called Opera. It was all way too stifling. So, she went on to Berklee College of Music, where real live jazz musicians studied and taught. They didnt care what she looked like as long as she could sight read jazz vocal charts and orchestrate for big bands, both of which she learned to do.

Ah, and her life-long need to know how things work found its voice, finally in audio recording and engineering and production. Armed with a Bachelors of Music Degree in music production and engineering, she moved to New York, where our story began 16 (wink wink) years ago. Renee made the rounds in New York, performing at all the Songwriter Circles, and many of the clubs in the city before being awarded a New York Foundation of the Arts grant, starting her own record label, Backdoor Records, and setting up her first home recording studio. She released her first record in 1994 entitled Aromatherapy because, how can you not call your first record that when your last name is Cologne? She still hopes to release her own fragrance at some point, or at least include a scratch and sniff label on her CD releases. During her years in New York, she also formed a band with fellow musicians called Big Panty, the shows and recordings of which, are still legendary, if only in their own minds. She sang on movie soundtracks and composed for dance troupes and experimental theater. But the wanderlust of being born to a traveling circus troupe crept its way back into her heart and soon, she was off on her own adventures to Jamaica to soak up the sun and the musical ways of Jimmy Cliff, Peter Tosh, and Bob Marley and she learned to wail. Next, she was on to England, where she solidified her love of dark English beers and English men in the pubs of London. More importantly, but maybe not as risque, were the influential artists who continued to help mold the sound and world that Renee was honing: artists like the Beatles, Queen, Elton John and Peter Gabriel. A friend she met in London brought her to Slovenia and Yugoslavia to tour, twice there she learned about life and death nationalism and the Bulgarian Womens Choirs, which influenced her to write her own collection of a cappella choral pieces entitled Hymns for a Hungry Planet. In 2003, she completed a record 2 1/2 years in the making, entitled The Opposite Of; a project utilizing industrial loops, strings and horns, whereby Renee played drums, guitar, bass and sang and got to make weird noises in the name of Art. Putting her aforementioned engineering degree to work, Renee recorded the album almost exclusively in her studio in the old Wonder Bread Factory in Hoboken, NJ; although, she did mix the record in a real studio, the now defunct Hit Factory (NYC) with guitar god and freakishly-talented Pat Thrall. But, in a great twist of fate, Renees roots reared their head again and she fell in love with the star trapeze artist in Cirque du Soleil, who not surprisingly, encouraged her bourgeoning obsession with flying and costumes. They moved into a house in the suburbs of New Jersey and in between gardening, barbecues and having play dates with the neighborhood kids, she began in earnest her latest masterpiece. Donning her costumes and headpieces

for inspiration, she threw herself headlong into the music and recording, but bumped her head in the process, which was a happy accident and only helped her discover new ways into the soundscapes she was creating. Utilizing many of the same elements present in The Opposite Of, soaring string lines, crunchy stuttering beats and rich, thick, sensual vocals, the new record was becoming sharper somehow, infused with hooks that sneak up on you and grab you by the throat when you least expect it. Like a song you heard in a dream that comes back to haunt you. Lyrically, she tackles the everyday life of a housewife what to do with the FedEx man, how to buy appliances at Sears and when it is time to resort to yelling at the top of your lungs. She emerges blinking into the sun from her attic studio in the suburbs with a martini in one hand and her new record in the other appropriately titled, Rock Roll Housewife. Pour yourself a drink or a coffee, turn it up real loud, and we really hope you love it. Can you stay for dinner?

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