

Cameo Hill: *Pages of Green*

(10 Records)

www.cameohill.com

It's hard to have a unique sound if you're a female singer-songwriter with an acoustic guitar, but Phoenix-based Cameo Hill manages to pull it off with grade-A songwriting skills. When Hill sings "a sister can look sexy in a pair of combat boots" ("Cinderella") and "When all this bullshit passes over, I'll remember how I fell in love with you" ("Okay"), it's hard not to stop whatever you're doing and just listen.

This is a woman who's got something to say, and she says it succinctly. Musically, it's easy to hear elements of Hill's musical influences (Ani DiFranco, John Mellencamp, Jim Croce and Melissa Etheridge), but the skill of a lifelong musician is also apparent (Hill grew up in Hawaii listening to her father and grandfather play guitar). In fact, it was Hill's father who taught her a D chord on his old Harmony, putting Hill on the path to creating this standout CD.

Hill's intelligence and songwriting skill are rather sexy, and when she sings "I'd let you in to my secret swimsuit party, but I'm afraid there are no swimsuits here" ("Poolside"), I'd just like to say: let me in anyway.

