

CHELSEA PAOLINI

Medicine Cabinet

OVERVIEW

New Hampshire's Chelsea Paolini continues her role as the state's pop-rocks and cola princess, shredding her signature blues-driven psychedelic guitar solos over acoustic rhythm parts and pixie-dust vocals on her new EP "Medicine Cabinet". In the midst of her 7-year run fronting the rock trio People Skills, she recorded just one solo album while three with the band were completed, cementing Paolini's sound as alternative pop-rock. Life after People Skills broke up this past August brought Paolini to Time Creature, an independent, local, recording studio and record label consisting of partners Chris Jordan and Michael Iffland. Together, the three musicians arranged Paolini's songs into their respective fairytale anthems, merging her history of riff-driven rock with matured graces of doo-wop, folk, punk, and pop.

In the opening track, "FM Radio", the melodic twang of one guitar against the aggressive power chords of another make for a cowgirl punk vibe. Austin Sorette of The Sound writes, "with lofty leads and bubbly vocals, the sweet-as-candy love song feels like summer in an otherwise wintery album." As one of two tracks featuring live drums by People Skills drummer and sibling to Chelsea, Andrew Paolini, the tune bounces energetically through mushy, schoolyard lyrics and savory layers of guitars strumming and screaming chaotically yet melodically.

"It Means I'm Sad" features vocals that pay tribute to Cyndi Lauper, with a groove and bassline that fit the nod to the 80s legend. The break-up song exudes relief with its upbeat, major-key melodies and conclusive lyrics. The outro features a guitar solo drenched in distortion weaving in and out of playful vocal parts echoing each other.

Paolini gets snarky and self-deprecating in the modern hobo tale "No Home," where fun, Phish-inspired guitar licks are sprinkled throughout a folk song that's been electrocuted and given speed. The music-box lullaby "How Do I Grow Up, Mom?" gets more vulnerable and personal as it progresses, leaving a nostalgic and regretful taste in the brain. The album ends with the self-accepting, ironically joyful-sounding, "It's OK to be Alone," which is a stripped-down, acoustic lament that declares being lonely the only option.

Sorette writes, "lyrically, Paolini has sharpened the edges of her introspection. The dynamic between her moody, self-deprecating lyrics and her self-proclaimed "lullaby pop" melodies make even the most melancholic observations something to sing along to while you're washing the dishes." "Medicine Cabinet" delivers content that all can relate to with a musical identity crisis that works like peanut butter and jelly.



Album artwork by Sam Paolini.

MEDICINE CABINET

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Track listing:

1. FM Radio
2. It Means I'm Sad
3. How Do I Grow Up, Mom?
4. No Home
5. It's Ok to be Alone

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