

Lee Ann Womack

The Lonely, the Lonesome & the Gone



Lee Ann Womack has a rare ability to make sentimentality sound sincere, said **Steve Horowitz** in *PopMatters.com*. If you know her mainly for the schmaltzy 2000 megahit "I Hope

You Dance," you might be surprised by the emotional range the 51-year-old country star exhibits on her latest album. It "redeems her from the curse of being overly popular by being so damn good." Right from the start, the 14-track set "has a cinematic quality to it," said **Brittney McKenna** in *NPR.org*. Plaintive a capella vocals open "All the Trouble," one of seven songs written by Womack herself, before rough-and-tumble guitars jump in and she builds to a sinewy chorus that "sparkles like lightning" against a midnight backdrop. The rest "effortlessly ebbs and flows between torch songs and Texas twang," as Womack's voice proves "crystalline enough to shine through dusky arrangements" but raw enough to put complex emotions across. The effort affirms Womack's standing as "one of American roots music's foremost auteurs."