

## Sarah Hethcoat Doesn't Do Bullies

By Staff Writer



Los Angeles' singer/songwriter Sarah Hethcoat is a woman to watch. You may have heard her tracks "Show Me" and "Every Time" on "The Hills." Driven with a force, Hethcoat works at her musical craft every free moment of the day and is building up a string of show dates. This October, Hethcoat released her new EP "Nobody Likes a Bully," produced by Dave Cobb (Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Chris Cornell).

Hethcoat's songs are about recognition of growth in oneself. They're very reflective. They center on learning to love and growing from the trials and tribulations.

Musically, for the entire EP, producer Cobb looked to the 60s for the inspiration. Drums were covered in sheets, the way Ringo Starr used to do to give them a muted "handsy" sound. The sound channels influences from David Bowie to the Bee Gees to Phil Spector and The Ronettes to Cream to even Lou Reed.

Sarah Hethcoat gives Valley Scene the rundown...



VS: Tell us about your new EP "Nobody Likes a Bully." Why that title?

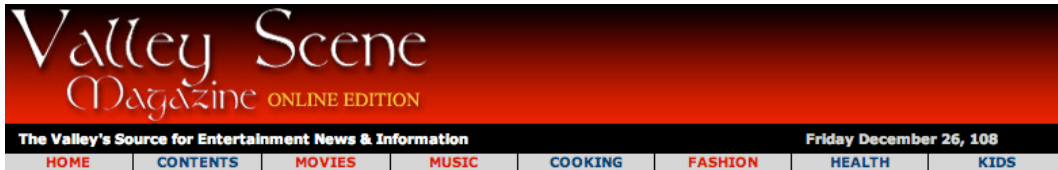
SH: I think the title really represents the journey I've been on, the people I've encountered both professionally and personally. I think it's a universal theme that anyone can relate to, whether you encounter a boss, a friend, lover, relative, anyone who masks their own insecurities by trying to put other people down. The EP as a whole is really about that recognition, understanding that despite all of that we have the power within us to grow, to not succumb to old patterns and behaviors, to not be discouraged and derailed by others, and personally for me finding the strength and courage to keep going!

VS: What is your favorite song on the EP?

SH: That's a tough question. The truth of the matter is I just want to keep writing and growing, so I think my favorite song is yet to come. I'm having so much fun with my band working the songs live and creating the show that it changes everyday! I'm playing guitar now too, instead of just piano, so it's really exciting and I can't wait to start touring! But for this EP I can tell you that "I Got You" was a real starting point for us. I had originally written it as a ballad and it never quite felt right, then Dave and I sat with it and turned it into this rocking empowering song, the viewpoint changed entirely for me which was amazing. That release really helped shape the tone of the other songs on the EP.

VS: How is this new EP different from your past works?

SH: The major difference has been in the process itself. Even though my older works contain my own songs too, they were really influenced by whoever happened to be playing on them, mixing them, recording them. Don't get me wrong, I love collaborating, but ultimately I had songs that really weren't me. My sound was missing. So I took the time to meet with several producers, spoke to them about timing, sounds and textures went through my entire catalog, cleared time to write and collaborate. Even



hen it came time for the mastering I sat in on that session and had the final say, so I was able to really spearhead the effort to make sure it was precisely how I intended it to be.

VS: Why did you and producer David Cobb look to the 60s for musical inspiration on this album?

SH: It wasn't so much that we specifically looked to the 60s or even a specific genre of music, we simply created a feel and sound that matched the tone of my stories. We ended up having a very honest production with minimal effects I think. The EP contains stories of vindication, hurt, heartache, hope, love, raw emotion, the struggles of growing you know, we just wanted the music to reflect those attitudes, so at times it's gritty and dirty, at other times ethereal and open.

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