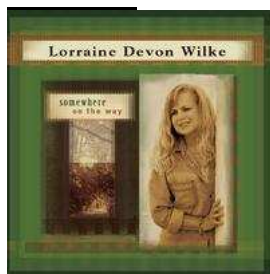


# REVIEW RACK :: music: shoe's music reviews

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- Docs
- Skechers
- Adidas
- Chucks
- Flip Flops



**Lorraine Devon Wilke – Somewhere on the Way**

**website:** <http://www.lorrainedevonwilke.com>

**Review by :** [Kyrby Raine](#)

**Rating:**

Before Melissa Etheridge became a glossy sellout to Adult Contemporary radio, she had the rawness and artistic integrity that Lorraine Devon Wilke, former leader of the obscure Los Angeles group Devon, showcases here. Perhaps it's the difference between being a major-label musician and one that is on her own. No matter. This is the album that I've been waiting for Etheridge to do since I saw her blast through the Grammy Awards begging for water in the late '80s. Much of the material here is confessional; Wilke has a melancholy streak or at least she's been through enough rocky relationships that left towering bruises on her heart. There's pain in her lyrics, real pain: In "It's Not Over," she asks, "Would you step over a heart left on the floor?" Wilke doesn't restrain herself from expressing the hurt inside. "Drowning," for example, is merciless; there is no silver lining here at all. "Maybe this one will be the one to stay/The one who sees behind her eyes/But when he leaves without ever noticing/She reaches out to emptiness and cries," Wilke sings as the story concludes. Her bluesy delivery, carrying the weight of a lifetime's worth of romantic disappointment, films her tales in DVD clarity images. One can almost see these tracks forming a feature film. The heroine struggles through the aches of failure and disillusionment until she finally meets Mr. Right in "My Good Good Man." Since most of today's music is geared towards kids, it's such a rewarding experience to hear a record as mature and ultimately uplifting as this. Lyrics aside, Wilke has top-of-the-line backing musicians who capture the sparks in her words. Indeed, this is almost like a band effort than a solo album. However, it is Wilke who stands tall at the end. Having suffered through a trail of dashed hopes, she does find true love at the end. There's nothing sugarcoated about it, either. Wilke keeps it real, presenting Life As We Know It with no artificial sweeteners.