

RED SKIES by Sophie Dorsten (with Alex Dorsten)

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Sophie Dorsten, a formidable singer/songwriter from the Phoenix area, has just released 'Red Skies' together with her brother Alex. And what a corker of a song it is! I'm blown away as I listen to 'Red Skies', a glass of red wine on the table, all but forgotten. Oddly enough, as I write this, there is also a blood red moon shining outside my window as well.

Sophie is a young artist, but she's been writing songs, singing, performing and recording so long that she's a real pro. This song holds its own against the competition.

The song starts off very softly, just an acoustic guitar, fingerpicked with a drone like bass. The guitar playing is really nicely arranged and well recorded, it just sounds beautiful! With only a slight kick drum, there is an ominous suspense in the first verse.

Sophie's voice is utterly amazing, strong and fragile at the same time, with exceptional tone, control and emotion. She delivers the lyrics in a fashion that is very convincing, this song has meaning. The message being: don't let people treat you like you're a nobody, or even invisible. The arrangement of the song brings this to a point, and the brilliant video makes it even more heart felt.

For the second verse an electric guitar comes in, playing some well chosen licks on top of the arrangement. This is also very well recorded, with a perfect twang, expanding the atmosphere of the song

The Pre Chorus takes it down a notch: the acoustic guitar is doubling Sophie's vocals, while the other guitar is playing some beautiful long chords. Then the chorus takes off: the drums become more intense as the guitar playing becomes more vivid.

For the bridge the song comes to a halt. Once again I'm amazed by the beautiful tone of the guitars and Sophie's voice, as multiple Sophies perform a beautiful "ooh" choir, accompanied by mandolins (or electrics), building a crescendo that leads into the last chorus. A really great song, beautifully arranged and performed by Sophie, Alex and the other musicians.

The video is also very professional, and it has its funny moments, Like when Sophie gets hit by a bean bag in the face, Alex and Sophie showering, fully clad, with a guitar, or the end scene when the curtains are drawn, leaving Sophie and Alex peeping in through the window through a small opening in the curtains.

Sophie uses the hashtag #littleblondegirlbigvoice, and it's obviously true, or that dodge has the world's largest trunk :)