

Red Skies – Sophie Dorsten

Review – Leigh Thomas

Brecon Indie Review Ream

The latest offering from Sophie Dorsten consolidates the trend of recent releases where the artist explores darker tones both musically and lyrically. Perhaps because of her musical and personal maturation, Sophie expresses both liberating and perhaps rebellious desires to be independent of the judgements placed upon her by others. Her statement is reiterated, as if with some finality, by the haunting atmosphere of the music and supplicating nature of the vocal delivery.

The song is certainly not a dirge, from the get-go it is energetic and authoritative, and one is instantly drawn into its power. The song opens and the tone is set with a defining acoustic guitar riff from Alex, which carries the song until it takes on a life of its own, never tiring. Momentum is magically sustained throughout, sometimes by Sophie's vocal alone.

Without doubt, Red Skies owes its identity to the mournful yet soulful melodies brought forth with masterful precision and expression by Sophie. Melodies dance and weave in and out of minor scales, rising and falling to subtle yet powerful crescendos. Unmistakable elements of gothic lavished Americana become infused within the layering of dreamy, reverb-soaked electric guitar. This and a subtle driving rhythm provide a wonderful canvas for Sophie's flawless vocal track.

Red Skies is yet another fine release from Sophie and Alex, which will only strengthen an already highly impressive catalogue.

Red Skies is also accompanied by a brilliantly shot, creative and entertaining video which expertly echoes the themes of isolation and ostracism expressed in the song.