



## ALLISON MOORER

*Mockingbird* • New Line

This lady needs to sing more blues. It's difficult to fault **Allison Moorer** for celebrating the female voice with an album of covers by women songwriters ranging from June Carter Cash to Patti Smith. But it's also difficult not to

hear that Moorer's true vocal talent comes alive on the blues-based numbers. Listen to the range and vocal quality on Moorer's tune "Mockingbird," and you'll wonder why Moorer's isn't a household name in contemporary country music. "Dancing Barefoot," "Daddy Goodbye Blues" and "Orphan Train" allow Moorer's lush vocals to soar above minimal instrumentation, beautifully forming musical snapshots of life's beauty and sorrows. But there's something missing in her renditions of "Ring of Fire" and "Where Is My Love—perhaps passion. While Moorer is extraordinarily talented, some of these selections don't highlight her gift. ★ *Nancy Dunham*