



## **VICTORIA BANKS “NEVER BE THE SAME” – SONG BY SONG**

### **COME ON (Victoria Banks/Susan Brown/Danelle Leverett)**

I was at a co-writing appointment with Susan and Danelle (The Jane Dear Girls) in the old remodeled fire hall that Sony Nashville uses for writers’ rooms, and we were self-editing too much so the ideas just weren’t flowing. After a couple of hours of staring at a blank page, we heard someone playing the piano in the other room. It turned out to be Taylor Swift, who had just written a brand new song, so we took a break to listen and absorb it. The moment she finished playing, I thought – “Hey! That’s not so hard! Why was I making it so hard?” I picked up my guitar and the idea for this song started coming through me. That’s what I love about Nashville – the inspiration is everywhere, reminding you to “take the hard out of it” and just let the ideas flow.

### **JACKSON (Victoria Banks)**

I get a lot of ideas when I’m driving – I just start singing to see what comes out. One day, out popped the first few lines of this song...”It’s a long way back to Jackson in a beat up Cadillac with a Bible on the floorboard and a body in the back.” All I had to do was figure out what the rest of the story was.

### **NEVER BE THE SAME (Victoria Banks/Mary Sue England)**

To me, this song sums up the theme of this record. Mary Sue and I have both experienced really tough losses in our lives, and we wanted to express how everything we go through, no matter how wonderful or terrible, becomes a part of the tapestry of who we are as human beings – that’s what life is about. We cried a lot of tears while we were writing this...but they were the kind of tears that felt good to cry.

### **I’M GONE (Victoria Banks)**

This song expresses how I was feeling a few years back when I was completely fed up with my life, right before I got in the car and just started driving – no suitcase, no map, nothing. I ended up hanging out with a Cajun storyteller in a bayou near New Orleans. Sometimes you just have to say, “I’m out of here.”

### **FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN (Victoria Banks/John Lancaster/Rachel Proctor)**

When I was out on tour with Reba, she reminded me that you don’t have to pigeonhole yourself or spoon-feed your fans the same kind of song over and over again like many artists do. Reba can sing a pop uptempo, a love ballad, and a swampy blues song and still be Reba. Variety works, as long the songs are good and they come from the heart. So this song is just a fun, rocking, stylistic departure for me.

**SOMEBODY DOES** (Victoria Banks/Rachel Proctor/Julie Roberts)

I believe in angels, and I have felt their power in my life when I was faced with something that seemed impossible. Sometimes when I'm writing a song, it feels like I'm tapping into something that's not coming from me, and it becomes a message not only for other people, but for myself too. This song feels like one of those messages, to remind me that no matter what, somebody out there is fighting for me, believing in me, and loving me for exactly who I am.

**BLUE AS MY BROKEN HEART** (Victoria Banks/Dani Flowers/Rachel Proctor)

When my Mom died, it was sudden and tragic, and I was paralyzed by it creatively. Songwriting has always been my therapy, but this new pain was too deep to express in my music, so I didn't know what to do with it and I stopped writing for a long time. Exactly a year and a day after Mom's death, Rachel and Dani and I wrote this, and I was finally able to express myself in a song again.

**BAREFOOT GIRL** (Victoria Banks/John Lancaster/Rachel Proctor)

This song is autobiographical. The music business is full of spangly clothing, giant hairdos and thick makeup, but in the middle of all that craziness, I'm just a barefoot girl. Maybe that's not so glamorous, but glamour is overrated.

**MAMA SAID DON'T** (Victoria Banks/Rachel Proctor/Julie Roberts)

I had a lot of fun writing this song with Rachel and Julie. I had the chorus going around in my head for a few weeks, but I didn't know where to go from there. All it took was spending an hour with a couple of bona fide, Sunday-churchgoing, pickup-truck-riding southern girls to get it done.

**REMEMBER THAT** (Victoria Banks/Rachel Proctor)

Rachel and I are both survivors of domestic abuse, but we didn't know it until the first time we sat down to write together. Without knowing why, Rachel had felt compelled to save this title to write with me. When she told me about it, it took my breath away - it was like she had read a page out of my life story. When you love someone, all you want to see is the beauty and goodness in them. But to find the strength to leave an abusive relationship, you have to force yourself to remember the bad stuff. The phrase "Remember That" resonates with me because there was one pivotal moment in my marriage when I specifically told myself "Remember this. Freeze this into your mind, because you are gonna try to make this ok later, but it's not." Rachel experienced that same moment. So when we wrote this, we decided to tell the honest truth and share our own stories line by line, in hopes that someone out there who needs to hear it finds the strength to "Take your heart and run."

**THE OTHER SIDE** (Victoria Banks)

This song woke me up in the middle of the night and wouldn't let me go back to sleep until it was written. It was inspired by the loss of my Grandmother, and how I imagined life after death would be for her. Last year I sang it at my mother's funeral. I didn't know how I was going to have the strength to do it, but when the time came I just stood up and it came out. I had to sing it with my eyes closed, but I sang it with my heart open.