Susan Tedeschi – Better Days (1995)

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1. "It's up to You" (Lamond, Tedeschi) – 4:19 2. "Gonna Write Him a Letter" (Tedeschi) – 3:05 3. "Love Never Treats Me Right" (Tedeschi) – 2:11 <u>play</u> 4. "It Hurts Me Too" (James) – 5:04 5. "Locomotive" (Tedeschi) – 4:28 6. "You're on My Hair" [instrumental] (Tedeschi) – 4:12 7. "Better Days" (Hayes) – 6:40 8. "Hound Dog" (Jerry Leiber, Mike Stoller) – 4:03 <u>play</u>

9. "I Don't Want Nobody" (Robey) – 2:58 10. "Ain't Nobody's Business" (Grainger, Robbins) – 7:33

Credits * Susan Tedeschi – guitar, rhythm guitar, vocals * Adrienne Hayes – guitar, rhythm guitar, slide guitar * Jim Lamond – bass * Annie Raines – harmonica

This reissue of the Boston favorite's 1995 debut clearly highlights her greatest strength: her voice. Susan Tedeschi has been singing since she was 4 years old, and it shows; her voice has the power and control that comes from long experience. If her version of "Hound Dog" doesn't blow the top off of Big Mama Thornton's original, it's still a strong effort, and she's just as good with her own material. The title track--penned by Adrienne Hayes, guitarist for Tedeschi's band--is especially good, as the slow tempo allows Tedeschi to stretch her pipes a bit. Unfortunately, even by the release of Just Won't Burn, Tedeschi's guitar hadn't caught up with her voice, and the discrepancy is even more obvious here--there's a spark, but it doesn't quite catch fire. Still, there's no question that her heart's in the right place, and if her guitar work continues to improve, there'll be no stopping her. *--Genevieve Williams*

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