Nancy Wilson - I've Never Been To Me (1977)

A1 Flying High A2 All By Myself A3 Love Is Alive A4 Car Of Love A5 I've Never Been To Me B1 Changes B2 Patience My Child B3 Nobody B4 Here It Comes B5 Moments Vocals - Nancy Wilson Arranged By – Garry Sherman (tracks: A2, B1, B4, B5), Gene Page (tracks: A1, A3 to A5, B2, B3) Backing Vocals – Alex Brown, Augie Johnson, Jim Gilstrap, John Lehman, Mortonette Jenkins, Oma Drake, Patricia Hall Bass – Henry Davis, Wilton Felder Concertmaster – Harry Bluestone Conductor – Gene Page (tracks: A1, A3 to A5, B2, B3) Drums – James Gadson English Horn [Solo] – Gene Cipriano Flute [Solo] – Plas Johnson Guitar – David T. Walker, Jay Graydon, Ray Parker, Jr. Keyboards – Gene Page, Sonny Burke Percussion – Jack Ashford, Paulinho Da Costa Saxophone [Soprano Solo] – Ernie Watts

I've Never Been to Me reunites Nancy Wilson with arranger Gene Page, Barry White's longtime partner in the Love Unlimited empire and her collaborator on 1974's underrated All in Love Is Fair. The second time around proves a disappointment, however, undermined by overbaked, pop-inspired production and lackluster material. Page and co-arranger Garry Sherman wrap Wilson in a gauzy, sleepily mellow sound that's more tepid than sophisticated, and the songs don't help -- covers like "All by Myself" are beneath the talents of all involved. The exception is the title cut: Wilson's rendition predates by a few months Charlene's smash hit version, and she avoids the over the top histrionics that composer Ron Miller's melodramatic lyrics so often seem to inspire, stripping away layers of camp to reveal the song's unflinching intimacy and emotional depth. ---Jason Ankeny, AllMusic Review

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