



Artist: **Ruggedness & Josephine Sincere**

Song Title: **Jane**



In a beautiful coming together of differing yet equally strong strains of Philly Soul, Illadelph rap game vet Ruggedness' and sixteen year old newcomer Josephine Sincere team up for what turns out to be a true keeper entitled *Jane*.

Obviously, the song is all about a girl named Jane (no not the infamous Jane EPMD introduced the world to) which is nothing especially interesting on the surface. However, once the needle hits the groove you feel the introspective vibe of the song that chronicles Jane's plight and spiraling downfall. You can visualize the story as its being presented to you. They say good songs are the ones that the audience can relate to and in the 215 is there any doubt that we all know someone who's been a Jane? Now if you know anything about your Philly Hip Hop history, you know this had to be a special song for Philly's Ruggedness' to end his prolonged hiatus on the mic. While the last several years have seen him producing bangin' beats for clients from Roc-a-fella to just about every other major label in the rap game he has inexplicably shied away from dropping rhymes on tracks. As he has every time he blessed the mic in the 90's, Ruggedness' comes correct with a verse that adds just the right amount of street credibility to Jane without detracting from the song's commercial potential. Damn it's good to hear Ruggedness' rhyming again.

Now I wouldn't be doing the review justice if I only concentrated on the battle worn emcee's contribution and didn't take time out to address the emotionally charged vocals of Josephine Sincere. This young sista doesn't need to aspire to reach the level of established Illadelph female vocalists Jill Scott, Res or Vivian Greene because artistically and vocally she's already right with them, a blossoming songbird in our midst. Her strong delivery and undeniable presence belie her tender age. From a musical standpoint we're talking about a full grown woman who I imagine is an old soul who's been here before.

The radio friendly Jane is only one component of Josephine Sincere's debut album *Feels So Good*. Although our concentration is Philly Hip Hop, you can't help but notice how damn phat the remainder of Josephine's album is. Especially phenomenal is her interpretation of Roberta Flack's classic *Killing Me Softly*. I thought after what Roberta Flack and Lauryn Hill did to the song there was no way to improve upon it or do it anymore justice. While the notes and vocals remain the same Ms. Sincere no doubt puts her own remarkable stamp on the song. Her inspired rendition of *Killing Me Softly* will bring up inevitable comparisons to Lauryn Hill. Lauryn Hill should be honored.

Strong words indeed but you just remember who was the first one to give you the heads up on Josephine Sincere. I listen to allot of music. Not much of it is special. This is. Damn I'm so proud of my city...

Listen to "Jane" at [kixxrecords.com](http://kixxrecords.com)

Are you feelin' "Jane" or Not?  
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