

## Shawn Colvin

★★★★

### These Four Walls

NONESUCH

**Seasoned singer, writer and acoustic guitarist does that fine wine thing.**

With no note of preamble, the title track blurts, "I'm gonna die in these four walls/I've had enough and I tried it all", while So Good To See You says, "Ordinarily I'd have the decency



**Shawn Colvin: resilient reflections.**

to hold my tongue/Then eventually wind up opening a vein." Carefully pared wordsmithery and self-possessed, intimate singing put you right beside Colvin through most of this album's harsh yet resilient reflections on turmoiled times (she's a single mother, twice divorced, on the road 15 years before she made a record). Graceful melodies and arrangements – abetted by co-writer/producer John Leventhal (Rosanne Cash's husband) – underpin a sense of deeply considered emotions held back with difficulty. Now 50, she's artistically starting to match peers like Emmylou Harris, Lucinda Williams and Mary Gauthier; women who make music true to the life lines on their lovely faces.

*Phil Sutcliffe*