

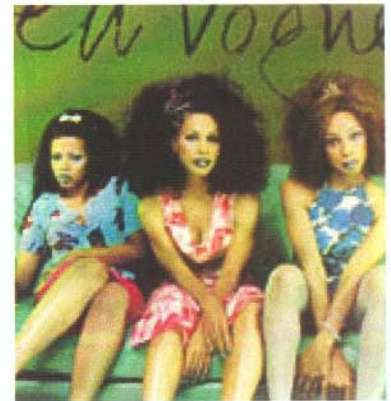
## ALBUM RATING SYSTEM

- \*\*\*\*\* Run to the music store today
- \*\*\*\* Obey all traffic laws, but pick up this album soon
- \*\*\* Check it out before the season is out
- \*\* They'll play the best songs on the radio
- \* Don't waste your time

### \*\*\* EV3 (East West/Elektra)

The title EV3 suggests a new, hipper, more mature attitude for girl group [En Vogue](#) now that Dawn has left the group and Maxine and Cindy have become mothers. While it is refreshing to hear more of the earthy vocals of Maxine Jones this time, the simple three-part harmonies that make up the majority of the album underplay the talent of the three remaining group members. And that new 'tude fades out by the 6th cut of the album. En Vogue is at its best when ripping through lyrics like "What's it gonna be--cause I can't pretend...Don't let go," from the cut "Don't Let Go (Love)" or skillfully crooning over subtle melodies and sassy lyrics, as in "Damn I Wanna Be Your Lover," or flowing with spunk over the funky arrangement of "Let It Flow" and "Love Makes You Do Things." Despite these gems and the socially conscious lyrics of uplifting songs like "Eyes of a Child" and "Does Anybody Hear Me," EV3 does not live up to the amped expectations for this seasoned, chart-topping group.

--[Wilma A. Thomas](#)



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