

should. Even so, it practically vibrates with pleasure.—MW

## KRIS ALLEN

**Kris Allen**

**Producers:** *various*

*19/Jive*

**Release Date:** *Nov. 17*

In a way, the media buzz surrounding Adam Lambert could be a blessing for Kris Allen. Unlike most "American Idol" winners, he's a perpetual underdog who mustn't live up to hype so much as defy reserved expectations. Allen does this with ease on his self-titled debut, continuing in the AC-friendly, guitar-driven pop direction he established in the spring while sounding supremely confident throughout. It's a wonder why the song "The Truth" wasn't chosen as the Arkansas singer/songwriter's first single, since it has the kind of anthemic thrust he'll need to please fans while recruiting new ones. "Honesty is honestly the hardest thing for me right now," he belts over the chorus' surging guitars and piano. The track "Before We Come Undone" boasts one of the album's catchiest hooks, while a Sal-

throbs with beat. Allen genres and runner-up but he did majority of his an "Idol"—ers on the pr on TV.—MH

## R&B

### JAY SEA

**All or Nothing**

**Producers:**

*Bobbybass,*

*Cash Money*

*Universal R*

**Release Da**

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