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Music to Pick Up/Download

By [Page Two Team](#) Thursday, Feb 10 2011

SUSAN JAMES: *Highways, Ghosts, Hearts and Home*

[self-released, Feb. 15] Susan James takes country on an acid trip in her fourth release, but she doesn't let on about it right away. "Airstream Girl" and "A Weed Is Not a Weed" start out traditional-twangy enough, like a sweeter version of [Julie Roberts](#). But by fourth track "On Your Side," the musical lines get blurry and you start seeing trails. James sings about the supernatural, her voice going to surprising places, infusing her guitar-picking with unexpected vocal moves. Mysterious, left-field melodies add to the mystery of these strangely pleasing songs.

Show Preview:

Tonight, folk-country singer-guitarist Susan James climbs down from her [Topanga](#) mountain home after an extended exile to celebrate the release of her long-awaited (and fittingly titled) fourth album, *Highways, Ghosts, Hearts & Home*. The album sweetly examines the competing pulls between domestic, familial loyalties and a musician's love of the open road. (Falling James)