

# AP

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## 4 EMILY HAINES & THE SOFT SKELETON *Knives Don't Have Your Back*

**Metric headmistress walks with ghosts.**

Backed by the men of Metric, Emily Haines is commanding, tender, alluring, unruly and feline. Minus her bandmates, she's each of those things, too—if more quietly—on her first solo collection of intensely cinematic piano ballads. “City Of Night” could be the softest skeleton in Metric’s key-driven closet, but otherwise, that band’s bravado is absent here, replaced by a sort of quiet desperation that encourages goosebumps more than dance-offs. “Doctor Blind” is a sunless stroll through a half-drugged, half-sleeping hyper-reality Haines either lives in or has nightmares about. Even “Our Hell,” the most beautiful and immediate of the disc’s cuts, seems haunting under the wrong light. *Knives Don't Have Your Back* is like the soundtrack to an excellent Alfred Hitchcock film. Our heroine is in peril and the danger—whatever it is—lurks just outside of the frame. But the suspense? It's terrific. (LAST GANG: [lastgangrecords.com](http://lastgangrecords.com)) *Tristan Staddon*

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Fiona Apple's *Tidal*  
Robert Wyatt's *Shleep*  
Brian Eno's  
*Music For Airports*

**KNIVES  
DON'T HAVE  
YOUR BACK**

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& THE SOFT SKELETON