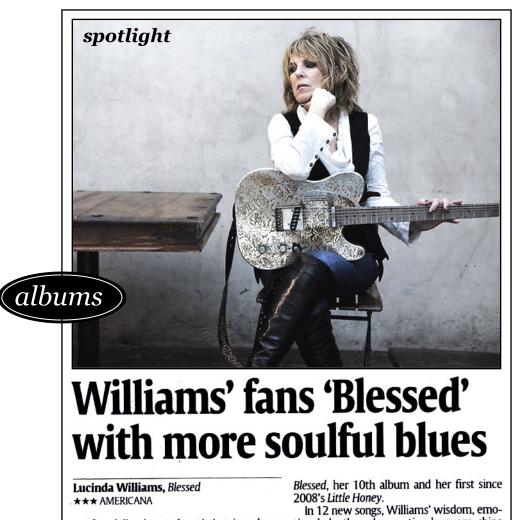


March 1, 2011



her past.

her bluesy, countrified, heartache-drenched

tunes. Her undiminished abilities to spin

a story, sling a venomous line and craft a gorgeous melody are amply evident on

After delivering such artistic triumphs as tional depth and evocative language shine through. Co-produced by Don Was, who 1992's Sweet Old World and 1998's Car shares Williams' taste for a rootsy simplicity, Wheels on a Gravel Road, Lucinda Williams could have spent years struggling with the Blessed opens with the stinging kiss-off Buttercup and ends on the moving Kiss Like Your familiar career curse of competing against Kiss, bookends that underscore her emo-At 58, the Southern singer is in peak form. Her songwriting has only sharpened over tional range. In between are powerful tunes that address love strained by war (Soldier's Song), the suicide of friend Vic Chesnutt time. The years have added grit to a soulful, (Seeing Black) and romantic webs. - Edna sandpapery voice, enhancing the vehicle for

Gundersen

>>Download: Soldier's Song, The Awakening, Kiss Like Your Kiss, To Be Loved, Seeing Black