

There Were Zero Things Better This Week Than Beyoncé's Braid

Except maybe Henry Cavill's magical beard in "Mission: Impossible 6."

Travis Waldron 08/04/2018

Welcome to Good Stuff, HuffPost's weekly recommendation series devoted to the least bad things on and off the internet.

A Good Week In Music

This was a really good music week. NPR kicked it off with a project that ranked ["the top 200 songs by 21st century women+"](#) — an awesome cross-genre compilation of music from the last 18 years that I've spent most of the week cycling through. As a country fan, I was happy to see so many women from a genre that usually ignores them get their due, and while I naturally have some small quibbles (I might have chosen different songs by Miranda Lambert and Kacey Musgraves), the list overall was a great installment in NPR's ongoing effort to celebrate pop music in "more inclusive — and accurate — ways."

Then, on Friday morning, a friend on Twitter pointed me toward "To The Sunset," a new album from Americana/folk/country crossover artist Amanda Shires. "To The Sunset" is yet another album that doesn't fit neatly into any single pop genre — Shires called it "futuristic" in [an interview with The Boot](#) this week, and has openly talked about breaking from the traditionalism of both country and Americana. You can hear that sort of sound from the opening notes of "Parking Lot Pirouette," the album's opening track. And "Break Out The Champagne" might wind up as one of my favorite songs of the summer.

"I don't usually toot my own horn, but it's a pretty good record," Shires said in The Boot interview. I've only made it all the way through once as of this writing, but so far, "pretty good" is a pretty big understatement.