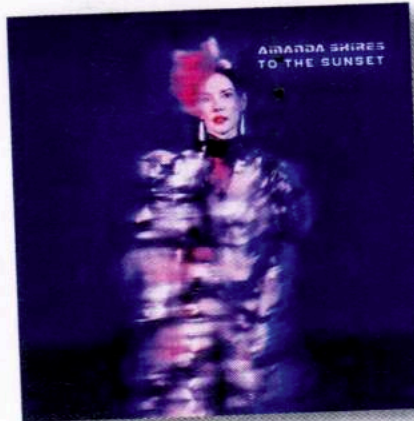


SEPTEMBER 2018 *Chris Nelson*



Amanda Shires



To The Sunset

SILVER KNIFE. [CD/DL/LP](#)

Latest from in-demand singer/songwriter/violinist is more rock than roots.

Amanda Shires made her name in Americana circles through consistent touring and recording, on her own and alongside John Prine, Jason Isbell (her now husband) and others. On this seventh album, Shire's characters are all too aware that anything could change in an instant. In *Parking Lot Pirouette*, it's spinning around for another look at a potential lover. Just 42 seconds in, she soars unexpectedly on the chorus, suggesting surprises lie ahead. *Break Out The Champagne* takes a 1999-ish approach. A partner's leaving; a plane is crashing; it's the very apocalypse. "Let's get on with the shit show," she laughs with brash fatalism. She closes with *Wasn't I Paying Attention*, a devastating story about someone who missed all the signs of a friend's downward spiral. Like the character, we should've seen this one coming. And still it's a gut punch.