

# EMILY JANE WHITE

# ODE TO SENTIENCE

**STREET DATE JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>** (ANTENNA FARM, ANT539)

There's a rare confidence to Emily Jane White's songwriting: it's at once generous and tough-minded, reflective and unsentimental. White possesses a singular voice inspired by the raveled threads of the uncanny in American culture, including depression-era blues and classic works of gothic literature such as Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *The Yellow Wallpaper*.



White's third album *Ode to Sentience* is her most realized work to date. Drawing upon finger-picked folk, traditional country, classical music and rock, White creates an expansive space for her intuitive lyrics and elegiac vocals. The spare skeletons of the songs on *Ode to Sentience* are fleshed out with subdued electric guitar thrums, diaphanous organ, ethereal pedal steel guitar, lush strings, and White's dusky alto with its signature catch. Her indelible sound has earned White a devoted European following, prompting her to tour there regularly.

*Ode to Sentience* bares an emotional potency, betraying her keen eye for the power dynamics of interpersonal conflict, melancholy, and confinement. In "I Lay to Rest (California)", a meditation upon isolation, oppression, and the redemption of grace, White imbues the potentially morbid statement "You were a body, you were a ghost, now you are nothing, the dark it up and rose, and toward the light it took you, and melted your wings, you were a body and now you are nothing" with the optimistic recitation, "there must be a way out." White doesn't wallow in darkness and morbidity; instead she considers her work to be unifying, an empathetic reflection on the universality of adversity. She sings of individuals "dwelling within oppressive circumstances while seeking liberation despite their isolation and silent suffering."

This sensibility betrays White's provenance. Raised in Fort Bragg, California, a seaside town nestled in the misty, secluded woodland of the Mendocino Coast, it could be said that optimistic melancholy and isolation don't only suffuse White's songwriting, but are in her bones. Her passion for social justice informs her songwriting, evidenced by her previous releases *Dark Undercoat*, which garnered raves from the likes of *Spin* and *Rolling Stone*, and *Victorian America*, which contended with the state of New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina. *Ode to Sentience* is equally engaged as White's previous works, but delves deeper into the fundamental dynamics of injustice.

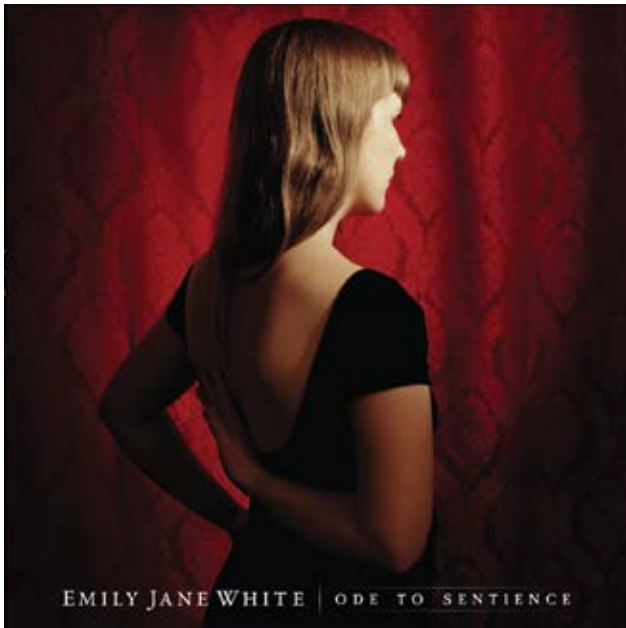


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## ODE TO SENTIENCE



- 1 OH, KATHERINE
- 2 THE CLIFF
- 3 BLACK SILK
- 4 THE BLACK OAK
- 5 I LAY TO REST (CALIFORNIA)
- 6 CLIPPED WINGS
- 7 THE PREACHER
- 8 THE LAW
- 9 REQUIEM WALTZ
- 10 BROKEN WORDS
- 11 SILHOUETTE

Release Date: **June 12th**

Hi-res photos, mp3s and more available at  
[PRESS.ANTENNAFARMRECORDS.COM](http://PRESS.ANTENNAFARMRECORDS.COM)

"...San Francisco-based singer-songwriter with a dark streak, has the perfect voice -- a coarse but beautifully aged alto soaked in rye....a beautifully produced collection of shiver-inducing songs, and one I'll return to many times this year." - **NPR**

"Emily Jane White's smokey, rich vocal timbre is a perfect match for her folky, rustic tunes."  
- **PITCHFORK**

"...Emily Jane White...a ghostly charisma that sets her starkly apart from peers..." -**SPIN**

"...a beautiful piece, both lyrically and musically..."  
- **GORILLA VS BEAR**

"rife with all the drama of Romantic literature... there's exposition, conflict, climax, denouement."  
- **PASTE**

"Emily Jane White swings the pendulum back to music that requires steady listening..." -**VENUS**

"Emily Jane White performs richly descriptive songs that often tell dark and mysterious stories.... the music is filled with a warm physicality."  
- **VOICE OF AMERICA**

"...White gives her wounds names and turns them into living characters, able to break hearts or carry axes. She personifies and abstracts them..." - **FADER**

"White has a voice that is luxuriously dark and peaceful, strumming her guitar with ease and an ear for both a poetic line and a musical phrase...She's a star." - **LA RECORD**

"...endlessly lonely yet undeniably lovely...another quiet triumph." - **ALL MUSIC GUIDE**

"Emily Jane White ensnares the fickle ear with simple melodies, haunting lyrics, and a willowy whispery voice that lopes gracefully through the speakers."  
- **SF WEEKLY**

"...as melancholy as a rainbow glimpsed through the bars of a prison window." - **ROLLING STONE**

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