

Miranda Lambert

Miranda Lambert is a gun-toting former cheerleader whose big country hit, 2007's "Gunpowder & Lead," about shooting up an abusive boyfriend, transcends the jilted-lover genre. On her new album, *Revolution*, the fiery 25-year-old mixes Loretta Lynn twang, Joan Jett rock, and a few dashes of Kelly Clarkson heartache for a sound that's at odds with her blond aesthetic. And that's a good thing. *Matt Hendrickson*



Your father was a Dallas cop who started a private-investigation business with your mother. Did that affect your songwriting?

Is anyone at risk on your new album?

So you're not as wild as you seem?

Do you really use a rifle butt for a mike stand?

Are you packing heat right now?



We didn't have normal dinner conversations, that's for sure. My dad and mom were the head investigators for Paula Jones when she was suing Bill Clinton. It was crazy, all the cheating. That probably inspired my early songs.

There's a couple, but it's subtler. I've moved from that crazy girl to someone a little wiser. I kill them a little more softly this time around.

No. I was a few years ago—I was constantly on the road, always partying. But isn't that what your early twenties are supposed to be about? I feel like I've lived a lot in the last five years. But you still can't take away my Bacardi.

I do. My tour-bus driver got it for me because I love to hunt and fish. Fill the cooler up with beer, no makeup on, crank up Waylon Jennings—it's total redneck-ville.

Well, I'm on the bus, so I'm always carrying. It's a Colt .45, some old-school Annie Oakley. So don't come knocking.



[THE ALBUMS]



ARCTIC MONKEYS HUMBURG (DOMINO)

After two albums of frantic pop-punk, the English foursome calm down on their darkest but most balanced project to date. Slow-burners like "Dangerous Animals" fit well alongside the psychedelia of "Fire and the Thud," showing that these monkeys have evolved.



DANIEL MERRIWEATHER LOVE & WAR (SONY MUSIC)

Though the Australian crooner is hyped as the male Amy Winehouse, that has more to do with his having the same producer (Mark Ronson) and backing band (the Dap-Kings) than with talent. Only on the bouncy "Change" does he achieve the passion of the beehived wonder.



ROBERT GLASPER DOUBLE-BOOKED (BLUE NOTE)

Glasper is a modern-jazz keyboardist with hip-hop love, and *Double-Booked* is a frenetic tour of both genres. The first half includes a dazzling take on Thelonious Monk's "Think of One," while the second pays homage to another set of legends with vocals from Mos Def.



BIG STAR KEEP AN EYE ON THE SKY (RHINO)

This box set unites a recording of a 1973 gig the power-pop act did in Memphis with 98 demos and unreleased cuts from their hippie-era heyday to show why bands like Wilco and Teenage Fanclub have found them so inspiring.



AVETT BROTHERS I AND LOVE AND YOU (AMERICAN/COLUMBIA)

This North Carolina trio have built a cult following with their blend of bluegrass, country, and a knowing wink of punk. Unfortunately, big-shot producer Rick Rubin slows down most of the songs to a dirgelike pace on what coulda-woulda-shoulda been an epic album.



SOUNDS