

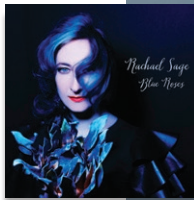
INDIE SCENE

RACHAEL SAGE

Blue Roses

rachaelsage.com

As she sings on "Wax," Rachael Sage must have been absent on whatever day she was supposed to have learned a valuable lesson about love: "If you break one heart, it'll boomerang back." There's lots of breaking and repairing of said organ on this New York City singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, former ballet dancer, and label head's 11th album. Amid all the emotional fluctuations, there are, thankfully, some constants: Sage's unobvious word choices (e.g., "You're tea and I'm English"), her crisp piano and guitar chords, and the way she weaves mournful violin and other instruments into pretty chamber-pop songs that never feel cluttered, musically or lyrically. On "Skywriting," she tells a lover, "We were meant for mystery," which might be her way of saying they were meant for each other. Whatever sadness and



Rachael Sage

Tom Moore

confusion she feels on tracks like that one, "Barbed Wire" and "Misery's Grace" disappears on "Happiness (Maddie's Song)." "I've waited my whole life for a chance to become hopeful," Sage sings, just before a lovely violin solo with accents of trumpet. A lifetime is a long time to wait. At least it wasn't in vain.

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