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Laura Love (pop; release 7/27/04)

*You Ain't Got No Easter Clothes*

Producer: Laura Love

Koch (9553)

Singer/songwriter Laura Love has been cutting tracks since 1989. She's worked in bands and done the solo thing, but she's never sounded more immersed in her groove than she does on *You Ain't Got No Easter Clothes*. The record boasts a dozen righteous tunes that take us through some intriguing changes. Love conjures an array of genres here, moving deftly between the modern folk feel of "Good Enough" and "Homage to Omaha" and the languid jazz of "In Lincoln." Love uses blues like a chef wields spices, adding just a taste to "Behind the Door" and "Freak Flag." In a much different mood, she evokes a zouk-like lilt on "Oh Safonda." The album concludes with an emotionally-loaded cover of Stephen Foster's "Hard Times" and a genuine trip to church on "Satisfied." As there is both beauty and strength in diversity, so it is with Love's musical inclinations. This is an outstanding album.

Philip Van Vleck