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CD REVIEW

POP CD REVIEW: Spotlight shines on Gretchen Peters with her best album so far

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Michael Granberry

Gretchen Peters

A-***Burnt Toast and Offerings*** (Thirty Tigers)

STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT: Gretchen Peters carved out a stellar reputation years ago writing hit songs for artists ranging from Etta James to Bonnie Raitt to Neil Diamond. What many don't know, however, is that Ms. Peters is a gifted singer in her own right.

WRITING FROM EXPERIENCE: *Burnt Toast and Offerings* is her latest recording, and it's her best by far. It's the story of a woman caught in the midst of enormous change. Not long ago, she divorced her husband of 23 years – he also doubled as her manager, booking agent and producer – and much of the album is colored by her "midlife epiphany."

TAKE A LISTEN: The anger and frustration of just one of the cuts, "Ghost," says it all: "There was a girl who used to live here/But you let her beauty go unnoticed/You let her music go unheard/You should have listened when she told you/You should have hung on every word."

BOTTOM LINE: It's an awesome record. A favorite cut? Try "The Way You Love Me."