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NADA SURF

The Weight Is A Gift

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No novelties—just great songs.

When Nada Surf released their last album, 2002's

brilliant, melancholy *Let Go*, they were a band almost everyone had written off as a novelty one-hit-wonder, thanks to the mid-'90s MTV staple "Popular." If any of those haters are still out there, they'll be silenced forever with *The Weight Is A Gift*, a nearly flawless album full of rocking pop songs that sound instantly timeless. That's thanks in large part to singer/songwriter Matthew Caws, who imbues both driving, jangle-pop like "Blankest Year" and the harmony-driven swell of "What Is Your Secret?" with an inviting, detached energy. So what if much of the album is *Let Go* redux? *The Weight Is A Gift* is a gift itself. **(BARSUK; barsuk.com)** *Jeff Miller*