

Marina & the Diamonds – Electra Heart (2012)

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Hypocrates 12 – *Fear and Loathing* 13 – *Radioactive* 14 – *Sex Yeah* 15 – *Lonely Hearts Club*
16 – *Buy the Stars*
Personnel Marina Lambrini Diamandis – vocals Peter Carr – electronic keyboard Dan Gulino
– bass Jonathon Shone – keyboard Sebastian Sternberg – drums

Off-kilter pop siren Marina Diamandis emerged out of Abergavenny via Greece in 2010. To say her second album is the subject of a big label push would be to understate the producerly firepower (Dr Luke, Greg Kurstin) flung at *Electra Heart*, an album concerned with love, identity, femininity and America. All that topspin allows the quirky Diamandis to make pumping glitz like Britney or Katy Perry while retaining some ironic distance, as she does on "Power & Control", a rotten track. Her Heart is not all as craven as that, but these prom queen themes have had a more intriguing musical treatment from Lana del Rey. --- Kitty Empire, guardian.co.uk

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