

# THE BEAUTIFUL ONES



**WHAT HOLDS PARAMORE TOGETHER?** The beloved Tennessee band's decade-plus career is littered with false starts and laborious successes. Lifelong friendships have ended to keep this pop-punk powerhouse alive, and yet, its remaining members now find themselves at a place of critical reinvention.

**AT THE END OF 2010**, after founding brothers Josh and Zac Farro left the group, Josh detailed the reasons for his departure on his *Blogger*. He referred to the pop-punk project as "a manufactured product of a major label," breaking down a then-muddled understanding of their dynamic: Frontwoman Hayley Williams was (and remains) the only person in Paramore signed to *Atlantic Records*, which he believed was treated by the label like a solo project with a few hired guns.

The remaining members of the group: Williams, guitarist Taylor York and bassist Jeremy Davis — responded to the post in an *MTV* special, *Paramore: The Final Word*, essentially confirming most of what Josh said while making irrelevant his most biting claims and revealing that the band would continue on without the Farros. *After Laughter* is a record of unraveling, one that watched the fabric fall and managed to create something new from the old.

**LEFT:** 2017 *After Laughter* photoshoot, featuring band members: Hayley Williams, Taylor York and Zac Farro.