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When life gives you ,

you make .

Unless you are  .

Then, you make

**LEMONADE**.

Beyoncé’s new album ‘Lemonade’ is pure black girl magic.

By Lexia Banks  
@Lexia Banks

No one’s a bigger fan of surprises than Beyoncé. She shocked us in 2013 with the unannounced release of her visual self-titled album “Beyoncé.” The world rightfully descended into madness. People were screaming down the streets. They were delving into their grocery budgets so they could buy the album. They were abandoning all responsibilities to cuddle with their laptops and watch Queen Bey’s 14 wonders. There hasn’t been a phenomenon like it since. Because no one can outdo Beyoncé. Except for Beyoncé. On April 23, Beyoncé premiered her new visual album, “Lemonade,” on HBO. The album is a deeply personal narrative of Beyoncé’s marriage to Jay Z after he had an affair. Each song focuses on a different emotion in the process of reconciling their relationship: intuition, denial, anger, apathy, emptiness, accountability, reformation, forgiveness, resurrection, hope and redemption. The film uses the poetry of Warsan Shire to transition between songs. The words speak to the sting of infidelity, the power of forgiveness and the strength of women. But not just any women. Black women. “Lemonade” is radiating with black-girl magic. Beyoncé enlisted the help of dozens of black women to participate in her film, including stars like Serena Williams, Amandla Stenberg, Winnie Harlow, Zendaya Coleman and Quvenzhané Wallis.

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By Madison Hogan  
@MadisonHogan

Whether these tracks destroy the last shreds of faith you had in love or reassure your belief that true kinds live through the storm, there’s no denying that Beyoncé Knowles Carter has juiced as much talent and passion as possible out of a shitty situation to make her new album, “Lemonade.” After a Saturday night debut of

‘LEMONADE’  
Beyoncé  
A+

the visual album on HBO, the music was released exclusively on Tidal (and later, iTunes) and created a kind of whirlwind on social media we haven’t seen since the release of her last album. Though the jabs at Jay-Z about finally having a hundred problems, the probability that no one will ever name their daughter Becky again and a mistaken hate campaign against celebrity chef Rachel Ray are entertaining, don’t let the hype and rumors of the album distract you from the magnificence of the work. Doing so would be a crime almost as shameful as the alleged cheating by the singer’s husband. “Lemonade” is a pure masterpiece of heartbreak, loss, betrayal, hate, redemption and love. And unlike most “break-up” albums, this one has a happy ending — and a final track to grind out your problems to. The album opens with a breathy sequence in “Pray You Catch Me,” where we first learn of the suspicion, intuition and doubt the singer has about her eight-year marriage. The longing is so apparent, you can’t help but dread the pain you know is coming. We move on to “Hold Up,” which pairs happy, thumping beats with air horns and sad lyrics about determining whether to remain “jealous or crazy,” or passive to your lover’s indiscretions. The song could easily be a hit all season long as a beach jam or an aid after a summer romance turns sour.

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