

= The Hunting Party ( album ) =

The Hunting Party is the sixth studio album by American rock band Linkin Park . The album , produced by band members Mike Shinoda and Brad Delson , was released by Warner Bros. Records and Machine Shop on June 13 , 2014 . It is the first album since Meteora ( 2003 ) not to be produced with Rick Rubin , after producing the band 's previous three studio albums . The title The Hunting Party is a contextual metaphor : Linkin Park is the party that is hunting to bring back the energy and soul of rock .

The Hunting Party is a departure from the electronic rock sound of the band 's previous two studio albums . The album , described by Shinoda as simply " a rock record " , serves a statement by the band against contemporary mainstream and active rock bands , accused by him as " trying to be other bands and playing it safe " . Packaged by an artwork by Brandon Parvini based on an original drawing by James Jean , the album took under a year to record and produce , with material being improvisationally written by the band . The album also features guest appearances from Page Hamilton of Helmet , Daron Malakian of System of a Down , Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine , and Rakim , marking the first time Linkin Park has collaborated with other artists on a studio album .

The album was promoted by the band and Warner Bros , with multiple promotional teasers and interviews produced and published in the lead @-@ up to the album 's release and listening parties of the album being held worldwide on multiple dates . The band embarked on the Carnivores Tour , a double @-@ headline tour with Thirty Seconds to Mars , as well as The Hunting Party Tour , in support of the album . Five singles from The Hunting Party have been released ; " Guilty All the Same " in March 2014 , " Until It 's Gone " in May 2014 , and " Wastelands " , " Rebellion " and " Final Masquerade " in June 2014 .

The album has received generally positive reviews , where it has been praised as bringing back the heavier rock sound resembling their older albums . It debuted at number three on Billboard 200 , and has placed at number four on Revolver 's list of " The 20 Best Albums of 2014 " .

= = Background = =

In 2010 and 2012 respectively , Linkin Park released their fourth and fifth studio albums A Thousand Suns and Living Things . The albums , both produced by Rick Rubin and Mike Shinoda , marked a shift in the band 's musical direction from a nu metal @-@ oriented sound , recognized with Hybrid Theory ( 2000 ) and Meteora ( 2003 ) , to a more experimental and " cutting edge " sound . The electronica @-@ influenced albums were commercially successful .

Production on the band 's sixth studio album began as a result of a series of events in which Shinoda decided to drop the electronic and experimental sound of the band 's previous two studio albums . Shinoda had originally recorded and produced demos , which continued the sound of A Thousand Suns and Living Things , for the band 's sixth studio album during the band 's Living Things World Tour in 2013 . He presented the demos to his bandmates , which received positive reception from the rest of the band , and to Rubin , who was also positive towards the demos , though describing them to Shinoda as more " poppy " than he expected . However , Shinoda , after listening to the demos again after the end of the tour , felt a strong negativity towards his material , especially after Rubin 's statements . In a Warner Music interview , Shinoda stated that " I don 't even believe in this music . This is a mistake ; I don 't like what I 'm making . I kind of went backwards into the process and scrapped all of it and started new stuff . "

Following A Thousand Suns and Living Things , albums which were created with leaving behind a sound that was " not new and not cool anymore " in mind , the band 's sixth studio album was approached as a return to the band 's early sound , with the electronic sounds of their previous two studio albums being dropped in favor of the band 's traditional rock instrumentation . Using Hybrid Theory as a template , the band composed and recorded it in context of modern times , in 2014 rather than 2000 . Guitarist Brad Delson jokingly stated that the album was an " alternative Hybrid Theory " and " maybe its prequel " , with the album being inspired by artists the band listened to

before they started their musical career . Shinoda told Rolling Stone about the ideas surrounding The Hunting Party : " We 're not 18 @-@ year @-@ old kids making a loud record ? we 're 37 @-@ year @-@ old adults making a loud record . And what makes a 37 @-@ year @-@ old angry is different than what made us angry back in the day . "

= = Composition = =

The band took a different method in writing new material for The Hunting Party as opposed to their previous albums . While for all their previous albums they used the traditional method of writing , demoing and rerecording in the studio , songs were instead written and composed in the studio itself , with no material being written or composed beforehand . Delson spoke about the methods used on the album in an interview with Premier Guitar , saying that " Something unintentional might be the coolest sound I make all day , and knowing how to allow those mistakes to happen and to shape them potentially makes for some great music . "

The album has been described as alternative metal , nu metal , hard rock and rap rock by professional reviewers . Shinoda described the album 's sound as a 1990s style of rock record " It 's a Rock record ; " it 's loud and it 's Rock , but not in the sense of what you 've heard before , which is more like ' 90s Hardcore @-@ Punk ? Thrash " . He described the " weak " status of modern rock in the music industry as an inspiration in recording a heavier rock album ; to try to bring the sound of the 1990s back to the forefront . In an interview with MusicRadar , Delson stated that the album would feature more guitar solos . He further stated that " this is from someone who was quoted early on as saying I hated them . Not that I hated them as a listener ; I just don 't want to play any ; I shirked guitar solos . Early on , I felt as though the songs we were making aesthetically didn 't want them . This new batch of songs , to me , always want solos . I feel like every song has one . "

= = Recording = =

The Hunting Party was recorded at the Larrabee Sound Studios , located in Hollywood , Los Angeles . During the recording for the band 's sixth studio album , the band would spend five or six days a week at the Larrabee Studios working on the record . The Hunting Party was also recorded in part at EastWest Studios , also located in Hollywood . There , drummer Rob Bourdon and Shinoda would record drums and percussion for the album . The band would also record other material for the album at EastWest on occasion .

In an interview with Rolling Stone , Shinoda said that the album was difficult for drummer Rob Bourdon , where he had to push himself to meet the music speed and style . He commented that " It 's probably the hardest stuff he 's ever played on one of our albums . He had to physically work his way up to it . He had to go running , lift weights , work with a trainer " , eventually Bourdon feels that he had become a better drummer at the end of each day after recording . Shinoda later told Q magazine that Bourdon had to seek help from a chiropractor after he had broken his back recording material for the new album . Shinoda told Q that " Rob was killing himself . He played 10 hours a day for seven days straight and blew his back . "

Orange , Bogner and ENGL brand amplifiers were used on the record by Delson , providing a " core sound " described by engineer Ethan Mates as " a small collection of core tones to be used in a sonically consistent way throughout the record " . Chandler brand amps were also used for overdubs and " higher parts " . Delson spoke about his studio setup for The Hunting Party , stating that " It 's great to have a setup where I can run combinations of heads and cabs simultaneously to get the most appropriate tone , or do something more straightforward like record just one cabinet with two mikes " .

Lead singer Chester Bennington arrived late in the recording process of the album , having been chosen to replace Scott Weiland in the band Stone Temple Pilots , and then proceeded to record High Rise and tour with the band for most of 2013 . When he eventually joined the band in the studio , he was surprised to find the band had reverted to their heavier rock @-@ centric sound . Bennington stated in an interview with Kerrang ! : " Mike wrote tons while I was touring with Stone

Temple Pilots last year . When I got home , there was a lot for me to catch up with , and he was playing me things and I was like , ' Dude , this is fucking awesome ! ' I was really surprised how heavy it was " .

The album features four guest artists ; Rakim from the hip hop duo Eric B. & Rakim on " Guilty All the Same " , Page Hamilton from the American alternative metal band Helmet on " All for Nothing " , Daron Malakian from System of a Down for the song " Rebellion " and Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine fame on the song " Drawbar " . Bennington commented on the collaborations , stating that " We really felt like if we need to be inspired and move in another direction . I think when we got Page in , Mike had written this chorus and sang it , and his voice had this tone , and it was unlike anything I 'd heard from him before . And I was like , " Dude this is crazy , this sounds like a Helmet song ! It 's cool ! " And we were like , " Dude , why don 't we see if we can get like Page in here ? " You know ? And if that 's why the song says it 's feeling like it should be , then why don 't we just go straight to the source " .

= = Packaging = =

= = = Artwork = = =

The album cover for The Hunting Party features a 3D modeled artwork by Brandon Parvini , who had previously designed the artworks for Living Things and the band 's singles during the album 's release cycle . The artwork was based off an original drawing , entitled " Archer " , by visual artist James Jean that was created for the album . It is one of many artworks by Jean to be used in the packaging of the album , which also features , in deluxe editions of the album , a lithograph , T @-@ shirt and a 36 @-@ page art book by him . Jean 's traditional style , notably different to the artwork created for The Hunting Party had been previously described by Dana Jennings of The New York Times as " suffused with a dreamy romanticism and lyricism worthy of Maxfield Parrish , even as Mr. Jean subverts those and other isms . "

Linkin Park had professed that they have been fans of James Jean 's art for a while , describing discussions between the band and Jean as having " started naturally " . Joe Hahn served as a creative director for the artwork of The Hunting Party , instructing Jean to " create a universe inhabited by powerful characters and defined by strange landscapes " , with a general concept of having a unique " character " for each track on the album . Delson also contributed ideas of " internal and external struggles " , metaphorically depicted on a battlefield , where images such as " flesh tearing and transforming into different forms and brittle shards of crystal erupting from organic matter " would recur . Shinoda explained : " We try to approach our art ? packaging , merchandise , tour visuals , videos , anything ? in a holistic way . All the parts are interconnected , and by creating great imagery that can be used in multiple contexts , we can immerse the fans in a universe that is consistent and unique to each release . It 's always a work in progress , but I feel like we 've learned a lot and continue to make it better each time . "

James Jean was invited by Shinoda and Delson to listen to the band 's rough material created early on during the recording sessions for The Hunting Party . He acknowledged the band 's change of musical direction from A Thousand Suns and Living Things , and was inspired by the material to create artworks that were " charged with [ the band 's ] intensity as well as their rationale for that change " . However , Joe Hahn banned Jean from listening to any more material after Jean had performed some of the songs from memory on his piano . Jean originally sketched each individual artwork for The Hunting Party in a personal sketchbook , where it felt more intimate and less precious to Jean . The minimality of the images was intentional , as the artworks would eventually be made into 3D @-@ modelled artworks where lighting and texture would be added to each character . 20 artworks were made in the space of a month by Jean for Brandon Parvini and his team to transform into 3D @-@ modelled artworks , with Parvini choosing exactly which artworks would be modelled for The Hunting Party .

== Title ==

The title of the album , The Hunting Party , is a contextual metaphor . The album , a return to the band 's original harder rock @-@ centric sounds , represents the band 's desire to not only create something different from other rock bands , but to also bring back the " energy and soul " of rock itself , and that Linkin Park are the party that will hunt for that energy and soul . Shinoda elaborated on the title of the album in an interview with Kerrang ! explaining : " We got so sick of other bands trying to be other bands and playing it safe the whole time , so the album name comes from a theory about culture becoming too passive , everyone just standing around waiting for opportunities to come to them instead of going out and getting theirs . I 'm aware there are always going to be heavier bands than us , but The Hunting Party is Linkin Park going out and getting it for ourselves . " The inspiration for the title came from a news article Shinoda read online about a Japanese writer 's concerns about today 's growing society . The writer described the young men of today as " herbivores " , and explained how they are essentially grazing , waiting for an opportunity to come to them , rather than hunting for it .

== Promotion ==

On March 6 , 2014 , the band premiered " Guilty All the Same " , which features Rakim , from the album through Shazam . The track was later released by Warner Bros. on March 7 , 2014 as the lead single promoting the then @-@ unannounced sixth studio album by the band . A music video for " Guilty All the Same " also premiered on YouTube on March 25 , 2014 . The music video , a continuation of the band 's collaboration with Xbox , was made entirely with the in @-@ game engine of Team Dakota 's 2014 sandbox video game Project Spark . Additionally , the course made for the music video was made openly available by the band , giving players of Project Spark on Microsoft Windows and the Xbox One the opportunity of editing and remixing the course .

While information about Linkin Park 's sixth studio album had leaked beforehand , including the album 's title and release date , The Hunting Party was officially unveiled by the band and Warner Bros. Records on April 9 , 2014 . The track listing of the album was additionally unveiled by Shinoda and Linkin Park 's management team on April 27 , 2014 . " Until It 's Gone " became the second track to be unveiled , and was released as the album 's second single on May 6 , 2014 . Pre @-@ orders for the album were also opened on the same day , with " Guilty all the Same " and " Until It 's Gone " released early on the album 's iTunes Store page . A music video for " Until It 's Gone " was then released on June 11 , 2014 . " Wastelands " was released on the iTunes Store on June 1 , 2014 , and later as a single on June 2 . On June 3 , 2014 , Bennington appeared on Zane Lowe 's BBC Radio 1 to premiere the song , " Rebellion " . An official lyric video was released alongside a release of the track on the iTunes Store the same day . It was later released as a single on June 4 , and was released as the album 's fourth retail single on October 13 . On June 8 , 2014 , Linkin Park premiered the third single " Final Masquerade " on MTV .

A listening session for the album took place on May 23 , 2014 in Los Angeles . Further listening sessions for Linkin Park Underground members were announced for June 4 , 2014 in various locations worldwide . The band , additionally , hosted the tenth and eleventh editions of the LPU summit , a convention for Underground members , during the album cycle . The tenth edition was held at the Darien Lake Performing Arts Center in Darien , New York on August 21 , 2014 , and the eleventh edition was held at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands , Texas on September 5 , 2014 .

The band 's first live performance of the The Hunting Party album cycle was on May 24 , 2014 at the KMFA Day music festival , in which they headlined . The band performed " Guilty All the Same " , " Until It 's Gone " and " Wastelands " for the first time . The band also performed as headliners at Rock in Rio Lisboa VI on May 30 , 2014 . During the performance , Shinoda tossed promotional singles containing the studio version of " Wastelands " out into the open audience , days before the song 's official single release . Linkin Park are also set to embark on a double @-@ headline tour of North America with Thirty Seconds to Mars in support of both The Hunting Party and Thirty Seconds

to Mars ' 2013 album Love , Lust , Faith and Dreams . The tour , dubbed the Carnivores Tour , spanned 25 dates in August and September 2014 , with American rock band AFI serving as opening act during the entire tour . The band is currently holding another tour named as " The Hunting Party Tour " , which started in May 30 , 2014 . However , some of the shows on the tour were cancelled due to Bennington breaking his leg .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Upon its release , The Hunting Party received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , the album has received an aggregated score of 65 / 100 , which indicates " generally favorable reviews " , based on 15 reviews . Dave Simpson of The Guardian gave the album a positive review . Upon giving the album three stars , he praised the band 's return to their original sound , stating that " Shinoda 's desire to make a punk rock record and Bennington 's more ethereal electropop segments don 't always make comfortable bedfellows , but Rob Bourdon 's terrific drumming means the energy never lets up " . Despite labeling some tracks of the record like " Until It 's Gone " as cliché , he commented positively on the music and writing of others such as " Drawbar " and " Rebellion " . He further wrote , " Linkin Park certainly know their audience , and here delicately navigate the gulf between their own aspirations and a fanbase who will celebrate the band 's loud return to rocking hard . " Chris Schulz of The New Zealand Herald also gave the album a positive review , describing the record as " Loud , spontaneous and free " , attributes that , he states , " aren 't normally associated with Linkin Park , but The Hunting Party takes just seconds to prove the sixth release from the Californian precision @-@ metal act is a different beast " . He continues to compare the album with the band 's recent discography , describing their previous three albums as having " sagged with overwrought ballads and pretentious soft @-@ rock " , while The Hunting Party " gets on with the task of rap @-@ rocking like it 's 1999 all over again . "

David Renshaw at NME opined that " It might not kill the Mumford and Butler clones , but The Hunting Party is an energetic effort at least . " Renshaw also praises Daron Malakian 's guest spot , but considers Tom Morello 's contribution a disappointment . AllMusic reviewer Stephen Thomas Erlewine observes " Far from sounding as if they 're grasping at straws , Linkin Park seem rejuvenated , proving there is value in the cliché of returning to roots . " Dan Epstein from Revolver described the album as " ... not only the hardest and heaviest thing they 've ever released , but it 's also their first album to pack the sort of guitar firepower that would actually appeal to your average headbanger . " Epstein concludes by stating that it 's proof that bands don 't need to get softer in order to mature . At Billboard , Kenneth Partridge states " ... these Cali rap @-@ rock commandos go rogue , flinging missiles in all directions . They attack record companies , politicians , rule makers , exes , and anyone else in sight , all the while rediscovering the savage fun of super @-@ loud guitars . " Neil McCormick from The Daily Telegraph stated " ... it is sleek , exciting and committed enough to suggest there is life in the rock beast yet . " Jordan Blum at PopMatters rated it a 5 / 10 , describing it as a " solid album " , but considers it " too repetitive , uninspired , and generic " , compared to the three previous albums . Rolling Stone reviewer Jon Dolan states that " on Album Six they 're back with a retro @-@ neo @-@ aggro sound that would 've been too intense for modern @-@ rock radio in 1999 ... these dudes can still bring it like backward @-@ ball @-@ cap warriors hopped up on Mountain Dew and Dad 's fourth divorce . "

= = = Commercial performance = = =

The album debuted at number three on the Billboard 200 chart behind Lana Del Rey 's Ultraviolence and Sam Smith 's In the Lonely Hour , with first @-@ week sales of 110 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . This was the first week of 2014 where three albums sold more than 100 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . In its second week , the album dropped to number nine on

the chart , selling 29 @, @ 000 copies . In its third week the album sold 16 @, @ 000 more copies bringing its total album sales to 155 @, @ 000 in the United States . As of December 2014 , the album has sold 274 @, @ 000 copies in the United States and 900 @, @ 000 copies worldwide .

== = Accolades == =

The Hunting Party was featured in a number of year end " best of " lists . The album also was nominated for the " 2014 Rock Album of the Year " by Loudwire , but lost to " Islander " ' s Violence & Destruction by a close margin of 0 @. @ 29 % of votes . Whereas the band won the " Best Rock Band of 2014 " and " Best Live Act of 2014 " . The song Rebellion from the album got a nomination for " 2014 Rock Song of the Year " where it lost to Three Days Grace 's " Painkiller " .

== Track listing ==

All songs written and composed by Linkin Park , except where noted .

Notes

^ a Live from Mexico is Linkin Park 's 2012 live performance in Monterrey , Mexico , originally recorded for MTV World Stage .

== The Hunting Party ( Acapellas + Instrumentals ) ==

The Hunting Party ( Acapellas + Instrumentals ) is the second instrumental and a cappella tracks performed by Linkin Park , taken from The Hunting Party . The album was released on iTunes and Amazon through Warner Bros. and Machine Shop on August 12 , 2014 . Produced by Shinoda and Delson , the album serves as a sequel to Living Things ( Acapellas and Instrumentals ) ( 2012 ) .

== = Track listing == =

== Personnel ==

== Charts and certifications ==

== = Singles == =

== = Other charted songs == =

== Release history ==