

= Tabloid Junkie =

" Tabloid Junkie " is a pop song performed by American recording artist Michael Jackson . The song appeared as the eleventh track on Jackson 's ninth studio album , entitled HIStory : Past , Present and Future , Book I , which was released in 1995 as a two @-@ disc set . The song was written , composed , and produced by Michael Jackson , Jimmy Jam (James Harris III) and Terry Lewis .

The song received generally positive reviews from music critics . " Tabloid Junkie " is a pop @-@ rock song , with lyrics that pertain to media bias and negative coverage of rumors about Jackson and his personal life , similar to previous songs recorded by Jackson . " Tabloid Junkie " is the seventh song on HIStory : Past , Present And Future , Book I to be aimed at the media . The track was not released as a single .

= = Background = =

Similarly to " Leave Me Alone " (1987) and HIStory : Past , Present and Future , Book I album tracks , " They Don 't Care About Us " , " Scream " and " This Time Around " , amongst others , " Tabloid Junkie " , co @-@ written by Jackson , shows Jackson 's dissatisfaction with the media , particularly the tabloids , because of the bias and negative media coverage of false rumors and the 1993 child sexual abuse accusations made against him . Ever since the late 1980s , Jackson and the press did not have a good relationship . In 1986 , the tabloids ran a story claiming that Jackson slept in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber to slow the aging process , with a picture of him lying down in a glass box ; Jackson stated that the story was untrue . When Jackson bought a pet chimpanzee Bubbles , the media viewed it as evidence of Jackson 's increasing detachment from reality .

It was reported that Jackson had offered to buy the bones of Joseph " The Elephant Man " Merrick ; Jackson stated that the story was false . These stories inspired the nickname " Wacko Jacko " , which Jackson acquired the following year , and would come to despise . Jackson stopped leaking untrue stories to the press , so the media began making up their own . In 1989 , Jackson released the song and music video " Leave Me Alone " , a song about his perceived victimization at the hands of the press . The video shows Jackson poking fun at both the press and himself . In the video , there are newspapers with bizarre headlines , Jackson dancing with the bones of " The Elephant Man " , and an animated nose with a scalpel chasing it across the screen .

In August 1993 , the relationship between Jackson and the press soured entirely when he was accused of child sexual abuse . Although never charged with a crime , Jackson was subject to intense media scrutiny while the criminal investigation took place . Complaints about the coverage included the media using sensational headlines to draw in readers and viewers when the content itself did not support the headline , accepting leaked material from the police investigation and of Jackson 's alleged criminal activity in return for money , a lack of objectivity and using headlines that strongly implied Jackson 's guilt . At the time , Jackson said of the media coverage , " I will say I am particularly upset by the handling of the matter by the incredible , terrible mass media . At every opportunity , the media has dissected and manipulated these allegations to reach their own conclusions . " Jackson began taking painkillers , Valium , Xanax and Ativan to deal with the stress of the allegations made against him . When he left the United States to go into rehabilitation , the media showed him little sympathy .

= = Composition = =

" Tabloid Junkie " is credited as a pop ? funk song , that is similar to New Jack Swing . Throughout the song , Jackson sings in a quick @-@ voice , which some music critics viewed as Jackson " not singing " but " harrumphing " . It is a plea to the public to not believe everything in the tabloids ; and the lyrics are about media bias and sensational journalism about Jackson and in general . This can be heard in lyrics such as , " Just because you read it in the magazine or see it on the TV screen don 't make it factual " .

Jackson uses the song to criticize journalists , commenting " with your pen you torture men " , describing how he was affected by the media coverage about him , and " speculate to break the one you hate " , describing how reporters used sensational writing to mislead people and cast him in a negative view .

" Tabloid Junkie " is played in the key of A ? minor and in common time signature . It has heavy beats throughout with Jackson beatboxing throughout . Jackson 's voice range is from C ? 4 to B ? 7 . The songs tempo is moderate and its metronome is 111 beats per minute .

= = Reception = =

" Tabloid Junkie " received primarily positive reviews from contemporary music critics . James Hunter , a writer for Rolling Stone , described " Tabloid Junkie " , as well as " Scream " , another track from the album , as being " two adventurous Jam and Lewis thumpers " that " work completely " , commenting that " Jackson 's slippery voice is caught in mammoth funk @-@ rock constructions " . Hunter noted that the " choruses of ' Tabloid Junkie ' in particular sing out with quick @-@ voiced warnings about the failings of media truth . " Robert Christgau , a film and music critic , who gave the album * * Honorable Mention () , listed " Tabloid Junkie " as being one out of two of the albums highlights . Jim Farber , of the New York Daily News , commented that " Tabloid Junkie " sounded " like virtual satires " of the " beat @-@ heavy sound devised " by Jam and Lewis in the 1980s .

David Browne , of Entertainment Weekly , noted that " Tabloid Junkie , " comes as " close to transcendence as anywhere on the album " and described the chorus , " Just because you read it in the magazine or see it on the TV screen don 't make it factual " as Jackson 's " grabbiest , most driven refrain in years . " Although Browne praised the song , he commented , " The rest of the song , however , is mucked up with fake tabloid @-@ TV snippets about his ' life , ' and on the verses Jackson 's delivery is so terse (he 's not singing , he 's harrumphing) that his lyrics are all but obliterated . Handed a golden opportunity , he throws it all away ? but then , it wouldn 't be the first time . " Deepika Reedy , of The Daily Collegian , described the " rust in songs " like " Tabloid Junkie " as having a " raw aspect " that Jackson " hasn 't approached since a near @-@ miss with ' Billie Jean ' . " Patrick Macdonald , of The Seattle Times , noted that " Tabloid Junkie " was a " disingenuous attack on sensational news stories " about Jackson , remarked that most of stories were " planted " by Jackson himself .

= = Track listing = =

Album track :

" Tabloid Junkie " - 4 : 32