

= 1000 Forms of Fear =

1000 Forms of Fear is the sixth studio album by Australian singer Sia . It was released on 4 July 2014 by Monkey Puzzle and RCA Records worldwide , and Inertia Records in Australia . Primarily an electropop album , the record also incorporates influences from reggae and hip hop . Lyrically , the record showcases Sia struggling to deal with drug addiction and bipolar disorder .

1000 Forms of Fear received mostly positive reviews from music critics , who praised Furler 's vocals as well as the album 's lyrical content . The album debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 with first @-@ week sales of 52 @,@ 000 copies . As of October 26 , 2015 , it has been certified Gold by the RIAA denoting sales of 500 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . The release also charted atop the charts of Australia and Canada , and reached the top five charts of Denmark , New Zealand , Norway , Sweden , Switzerland , and the United Kingdom .

The album spawned four singles . Its lead single , " Chandelier " , released in March 2014 , became a worldwide top @-@ 10 single ; it also peaked at number eight on the US Billboard Hot 100 , becoming the first song by Furler to enter the chart as a lead artist . " Big Girls Cry " was released in June 2014 . Furler 's solo version of " Elastic Heart " , which was originally a collaboration with The Weeknd and Diplo , was released in January 2015 . " Fire Meet Gasoline " was released as the fourth and final single in Germany on June 19 , 2015 . The official music video for Chandelier has been viewed on YouTube more than 1 @.@ 2 billion times , and video for " Elastic Heart " has been viewed more than 600 million times .

To promote the project , Furler appeared on a number of TV shows , including The Ellen DeGeneres Show and Jimmy Kimmel Live ! , where she recruited Maddie Ziegler , who starred in three music videos from the album , as her persona onstage , during 2014 and 2015 . 1000 Forms of Fear earned Furler three ARIA Music Awards in 2014 and was listed as one of the best albums of 2014 by several publications , including The Boston Globe and Rolling Stone . The lead single " Chandelier " received four Grammy nominations for Song of the Year , Record of the Year , Best Pop Solo Performance , and Best Music Video .

= = Background = =

In 2010 , Furler released her fifth studio album , We Are Born , which peaked at number two on the ARIA Albums Chart and was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association . Following the release of We Are Born , Furler decided to retire from the career as a recording artist and established a career as a songwriter . She wrote the song " Titanium " for American singer Alicia Keys , but it was later sent to David Guetta , who included Sia 's original demo vocals on the song and released it as a single in 2011 . " Titanium " was a commercial success worldwide , peaking within the top five of record charts in the United States , Australia and numerous European regions . However , Furler was not pleased with the success of the single : " [...] I never even knew it was gonna happen , and I was really upset . Because I had just retired , I was trying to be a pop songwriter , not an artist . " From 2011 to 2013 , Furler became well known for writing songs for Beyoncé , Flo Rida , Christina Aguilera , and Rihanna .

By September 2013 , Furler was recording vocal tracks at her home studio with the hope of releasing a new album the following spring . Later that year , a team of RCA Records representatives including the label 's CEO Peter Edge met with Furler to discuss a record deal . The singer agreed to a contract for a new album in which she was not obliged to tour or do press appearances to promote the album . In an interview published by NME in February 2015 , Furler revealed that 1000 Forms of Fear was released as a contractual obligation : " Basically , I put this out to get out of my publishing deal . I was planning to be a pop song writer for other artists . But my publishing deal was as an artist so I had to put one more album out . I didn 't want to get famous so I kept all the songs I wanted and had a lot of fun making it . "

= = Composition = =

1000 Forms of Fear is primarily an electropop album , with influences of hip hop and reggae . It opens with " Chandelier " , an electropop song that features a reggae @-@ influenced beat . Lyrically , the track talks about " the glitter and fatigue of a party girl 's life . " The follow @-@ up , " Big Girls Cry " , was compared to Alanis Morissette 's " Hands Clean " . On " Burn the Pages " , Furler described a friend she wants to cheer up : " You 're twisted up like a slipknot / Tied by a juicehead who just took his T @-@ shot . " " Eye of the Needle " is a " military @-@ march " piano ballad , while " Hostage " is a new wave pop and ska track that features Sia 's voice " cracking like a punk singer . " The sixth song , " Straight for the Knife " , is instrumented by strings and lyrically details a tempestuous relationship : " But will someone find me swinging from the rafters / I ? m hanging on your every word . "

" Fair Game " , where Furler sings " Watch me squirm baby , but you 're just what I need , " is a minimalist and string @-@ laden song about the desire to find an equal partner . The solo version of " Elastic Heart " , which originally featured The Weeknd and Diplo , is a trap song . The song addresses " the overwhelming strength [Sia] needed to convince herself that life was worth living after coming out of a crushing relationship . " " Free the Animal " lyrically " imagines being killed in lurid , masochistic detail " with the lyrics " Detonate me / Shoot me like a cannon ball / Granulate me / Kill me like an animal . " The tenth song , " Fire Meet Gasoline " , was compared to Beyoncé 's " Halo " by Harriet Gibsone from The Guardian . " Cellophane " is an electropop track , where Furler likens her self to " a basket filled with pain . " 1000 Forms of Fear concludes with " Dressed in Black " , which Heather Phares of AllMusic described as a ballad " with more depth than the ones she writes for hire . "

= = Singles = =

" Chandelier " served as 1000 Forms of Fear 's lead single . It was released for digital download onto the iTunes Stores on 17 March 2014 . A music video for the song was released on 6 May 2014 and has been viewed on YouTube more than 1 @.@ 2 billion times . It features dancer Maddie Ziegler in a blonde wig resembling a Sia hairstyle . The single became a commercial success , peaking at number eight on the US Billboard Hot 100 , becoming the first single by Furler to appear on the chart as a lead artist . " Chandelier " also peaked within the top five of record charts in Europe and Oceania countries , including : Flanders and France (number one) , Australia and Norway (number two) , New Zealand (number three) , United Kingdom (number six) , and Slovakia (number five) . The track was certified triple platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association and gold by Recorded Music NZ .

" Eye of the Needle " was released digitally on 3 June 2014 as a promotional single. while " Big Girls Cry " was made available for music download on 25 June . " Elastic Heart " was released as the fourth single from 1000 Forms of Fear in January 2015 . A music video for the song was released on 7 January 2015 and features Ziegler in the same blonde wig dancing in a giant birdcage opposite actor Shia LaBeouf . It has been viewed on YouTube more than 500 million times . " Elastic Heart " peaked at number 17 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and charted within the top five charts of several countries , including Australia and Ireland . On 2 April 2015 , a music video for " Big Girls Cry " was released , starring Ziegler in the same blonde wig . " Fire Meet Gasoline " was officially released as a single in Germany on June 19 , 2015 .

= = Promotion = =

In an interview with Dazed & Confused , Furler explained that she had decided not to show her face in videos and press shots in the campaign for 1000 Forms of Fear ; instead , she focused on creating visual art through her videos . During the promotion of the album , Furler recruited Ziegler to be her persona on stage and performed with her back facing to the camera . On 19 May 2014 , Furler performed " Chandelier " on The Ellen DeGeneres Show , where Maddie Ziegler recreated the choreography in the music video . Furler also performed the song on Late Night with Seth Meyers on 9 June 2014 , with Girls star Lena Dunham performing the choreography . On 4 July

2014 , Furler made an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! , where she performed " Chandelier " , " Big Girls Cry " and " Elastic Heart " .

On 30 July 2014 , Furler performed " Chandelier " , " Elastic Heart " and Big Girls Cry " on the VH1 's show " SoundClash " . On 17 January 2015 , Sia performed " Chandelier " and " Elastic Heart " on Saturday Night Live . On 8 February 2015 , Furler and Ziegler together with actress Kristen Wiig performed " Chandelier " in a room reminiscent of the video set on the 2015 Grammy Awards telecast .

= = Critical reception = =

At Metacritic , which assigns a normalised rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 76 , which indicates " generally favorable reviews " , based on 28 reviews . The Boston Globe critic Sarah Rodman described the release as " dynamite " , while Heather Phares from AllMusic called the album " the sound of [Sia] owning her success . " Writing for The Daily Telegraph , Helen Brown praised the album 's production and " inspirational " lyrics showcasing Furler struggling to deal with drug addiction and bipolar disorder . Rolling Stone 's Julianne Escobedo Shepherd simply wrote that " she sounds like a superstar ; " while Maura Johnston of Spin characterised 1000 Forms of Fear as " a chunk of the human emotional spectrum committed to record . " On behalf of The New York Times , Jon Pareles lauded the " loopy , unresolved passions " on the album in favour of " the triumphal , laminated , computer @-@ perfected tone of Sia ? s clients . "

Writing for Slant Magazine , Annie Galvin opined that 1000 Forms of Fear " should be the vessel that rockets the singer out of relative obscurity and into the stratosphere populated by those more recognizable stars who 've come to dominate the pop @-@ music universe thanks , in part , to her songwriting skills . " Mikael Wood writing for the Los Angeles Times praised Sia 's vocals and the production held by Greg Kurstin . Likewise , Entertainment Weekly 's Adam Markovitz positively viewed Sia 's voice as " astonishing , " giving the album a B score .

On a less enthusiastic review , The Guardian Harriet Gibsone shared that the album was so impeccable and " contemporary @-@ sounding " that " its impact may fade with time . " The A.V. Club writer Annie Zaleski wrote : " 1000 Forms of Fear certainly has the songs and contemporary sheen to make Sia a star in her own right , but it 's at the expense of both her emotional intimacy and her offbeat personality . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe labelled 1000 Forms of Fear the " Best Surprise " of 2014 . It ranked number 13 on Digital Spy 's list of Top 15 Albums of 2014 . Jon Pareles from The New York Times placed the album at number 5 on his list of favourite albums of the year . It also appeared on the lists of the best albums of 2014 of Slant Magazine (number 13) and The Daily Telegraph (number 44) . Rolling Stone ranked it number 20 on its list of 20 Best Pop Albums of 2014 . At the ARIA Music Awards of 2014 , Furler won Album of the Year , Best Female Artist and Best Pop Release for 1000 Forms of Fear . The lead single " Chandelier " received four Grammy nominations for Song of the Year , Record of the Year , Best Pop Solo Performance and Best Music Video at the 57th Grammy Awards .

= = Commercial performance = =

1000 Forms of Fear debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 with first @-@ week sales of 52 @, @ 000 copies . By doing so , it became the lowest sales figure for a number @-@ one album on the chart in nearly two years . The Guardian 's Clem Bastow commented on the album 's success in the United States : " Australian artists typically fare better in the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart , but even then , Furler finds herself in rarefied company . " On behalf of The Sydney Morning Herald , George Palathingal opined that the album 's debuting atop the Billboard 200 is the result of " a

stroke of (anti-) marketing genius " and " a case of quality pop music standing proud . " As of December 2015 , 1000 Forms of Fear had sold 374 @,@ 000 copies in the United States , according to Nielsen SoundScan .

In Australia , the release debuted atop the ARIA Albums Chart on 20 July 2014 and remained on the chart for 20 weeks . In April 2015 , the album was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association for having shipped 70 @,@ 000 units in the country . 1000 Forms of Fear also peaked at number one on the Canadian Albums Chart . The release also charted within the top five albums charts of several countries , including Norway (number two) , New Zealand , Sweden and Switzerland (number four) and Denmark (number five) . In the United Kingdom , 1000 Forms of Fear peaked at number 5 on the UK Albums Chart and was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry . As of February 2016 , the album has sold 268 @,@ 949 copies in the United Kingdom .

= = Track listing = =

Credits adapted from 1000 Forms of Fear liner notes

Notes

^ a signifies a vocal producer

^ b signifies a co @-@ producer

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications and sales = =

= = Release history = =