

= The Slim Shady LP =

The Slim Shady LP is the second and major @-@ label debut studio album by American rapper Eminem . It was released on February 23 , 1999 , under Interscope Records and Dr. Dre 's Aftermath Entertainment . Recorded in Ferndale , Michigan following Eminem 's recruitment by Dr. Dre and Jimmy Iovine , the album features production from Dr. Dre , the Bass Brothers , and Eminem himself . The majority of the record 's lyrical content is written from the perspective of the rapper 's alter ego Slim Shady , whom the rapper created on Slim Shady EP ( 1997 ) . The lyrics are noted for their over @-@ the @-@ top depictions of violence and heavy use of profanity .

The album was met with both critical and commercial success ; critics praised Eminem for his unique lyrical style , and the record debuted at number two on the US Billboard 200 chart behind TLC 's FanMail with 283 @, @ 000 copies sold in its opening week . The first official single , " Just Don 't Give a Fuck " , did not enter the " Billboard " Hot 100 but at least did enter the " Bubbling Under " Hot 100 , peaking at number 14 , which is equivalent to 114 . The second official single , " My Name Is " , peaked at number 36 on the Billboard Hot 100 , becoming his first entry on that chart . The Slim Shady LP went on to be certified quadruple @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . The record won a Grammy Award for Best Rap Album , and in 2012 , the album was ranked number 275 on Rolling Stone magazine 's list of the 500 greatest albums of all time .

The Slim Shady LP turned Eminem from an underground rapper into a high @-@ profile celebrity . Interscope Records awarded him with his own record label , Shady Records , and he embarked on an extensive touring schedule to promote the album . In the summer of 1999 , the rapper frequently performed on the Vans Warped Tour and in hip @-@ hop clubs . He also became a highly controversial figure due to his lyrical content , which some perceived to be misogynistic and a negative influence on American youth .

= = Background = =

Eminem , born Marshall Bruce Mathers III , began rapping at age fourteen . In 1996 , his debut album Infinite , which was recorded at the Bassmint , a recording studio owned by the Bass Brothers , was released under their independent label Web Entertainment . Infinite achieved very little commercial success and was largely ignored by Detroit radio stations . The disappointment from this experience greatly influenced his lyrical style : " After that record , every rhyme I wrote got angrier and angrier . A lot of it was because of the feedback I got . Motherfuckers was like , ' You 're a white boy , what the fuck are you rapping for ? Why don 't you go into rock & roll ? ' All that type of shit started pissing me off . " After the release of Infinite , Eminem 's personal struggles and abuse of drugs and alcohol culminated in a suicide attempt .

The disappointment of Infinite inspired Eminem to create the alter ego Slim Shady : " Boom , the name hit me , and right away I thought of all these words to rhyme with it . " Slim Shady served as Eminem 's vent for his frustrations , and in the spring of 1997 , he recorded the eight @-@ song extended play the Slim Shady EP . During this time , Eminem and his girlfriend Kim Scott lived in a high @-@ crime neighborhood with their newborn daughter Hailie , where their house was burglarized numerous times . After being evicted from his home , Eminem traveled to Los Angeles to participate in the Rap Olympics , an annual nationwide rap battle competition . He placed second , and the staff at Interscope Records who attended the Rap Olympics sent a copy of The Slim Shady EP to company CEO Jimmy Iovine . Iovine played the tape for record producer Dr. Dre , founder of Aftermath Entertainment . Dr. Dre recalled , " In my entire career in the music industry , I have never found anything from a demo tape or a CD . When Jimmy played this , I said , ' Find him . Now . ' " Eminem and Dr. Dre subsequently began work on Eminem 's major label debut album .

= = Recording = =

The Slim Shady LP was recorded at Studio 8 at 430 8 Mile Road in Ferndale , Michigan . Eminem ,

who had idolized Dr. Dre since listening to his group N.W.A as a teenager , was nervous to work with him on the album : " I didn 't want to be starstruck or kiss his ass too much ... I 'm just a little white boy from Detroit . I had never seen stars , let alone Dr. Dre . " However , Eminem became more comfortable working with Dr. Dre after a series of highly productive recording sessions . The recording process generally began with Dr. Dre creating a beat and Eminem using the tracks as a template for his freestyle raps ; " Every beat he would make , I had a rhyme for " , Eminem recalled . He later said : " Every time I sat down with a pen , everything was just like : fuck you , fuck this , fuck them , fuck that , fuck the world , fuck what everybody thinks . Fuck them . " " On the first day of recording , Eminem and Dr. Dre finished " My Name Is " in an hour . Three other songs , including " Role Model " , were also recorded that day .

" ' 97 Bonnie & Clyde " , which was formerly featured on the Slim Shady EP as " Just the Two of Us " , was rerecorded for The Slim Shady LP to feature his daughter Hailie 's vocals . Because the song focuses on disposing of his girlfriend 's corpse , Eminem was not comfortable with explaining the situation to Kim , and instead told her that he would be taking Hailie to Chuck E. Cheese 's . However , he really took her to the recording studio . He explained , " When she found out I used our daughter to write a song about killing her , she fucking blew . We had just got back together for a couple of weeks . Then I played her the song and she bugged the fuck out . " Eminem also said , " When she ( Hailie ) gets old enough , I 'm going to explain it to her . I 'll let her know that Mommy and Daddy weren 't getting along at the time . None of it was to be taken too literally , although at the time I wanted to fucking do it . " The song " Guilty Conscience " contains a humorous reference to an occasion in which Dr. Dre assaulted rapper Dee Barnes . Having only known Dr. Dre for a few days , Eminem was anxious about how he would react to such a line , and to his relief , Dr. Dre " fell out of his chair laughing " upon hearing the lyric . " Ken Kaniff " , a skit involving a prank call to Eminem , featured fellow Detroit rapper Aristotle . After a falling out between the two in the wake of Eminem 's breakthrough success , Eminem instead played Ken Kaniff on skits on future albums .

= = Music = =

= = = Lyrics = = =

Many of the songs from The Slim Shady LP are written from the perspective of Eminem 's alter ego , Slim Shady , and contain cartoonish and over @-@ the @-@ top depictions of violence , which he refers to as " made @-@ up tales of trailer @-@ park stuff " . The rapper explained that this subject matter is intended for entertainment value , likening his music to the horror film genre : " Why can 't people see that records can be like movies ? The only difference between some of my raps and movies is that they aren 't on a screen . " Some of the lyrics have also been considered to be misogynistic by critics and commentators . Eminem acknowledged the accusations , and clarified , " I have a fairly salty relationship with women ... But most of the time , when I 'm saying shit about women , when I 'm saying ' bitches ' and ' hoes ' , its so ridiculous that I 'm taking the stereotypical rapper to the extreme . I don 't hate women in general . They just make me mad sometimes . ' " Despite the record 's explicit nature , Eminem refused to say the word " nigga " on the album , with the rapper noting , " It 's not in my vocabulary . " The Slim Shady LP begins with a " Public Service Announcement " introduction performed by producer Jeff Bass of the Bass Brothers , and serves as a sarcastic disclaimer discussing the album 's explicit lyrical content . Later in the album , a skit entitled " Paul " features a phone call from Paul Rosenberg to Eminem telling him to " tone down " his lyrics .

" Guilty Conscience " is a concept song featuring Dr. Dre . The song focuses on a series of characters who are faced with various situations , while Dr. Dre and Eminem serve as the " angel " and " devil " sides of the characters ' conscience , respectively . The song draws inspiration from a scene in the 1978 comedy film National Lampoon 's Animal House , in which a man takes advice from an angel and devil on his shoulder while considering raping an unconscious girl at a party . In the film , he ends up deciding not to go through with the rape , but in " Guilty Conscience " , the

outcome is unclear . On " My Fault " , Eminem tells the story of a girl who overdoses on psychedelic mushrooms at a rave . " ' 97 Bonnie & Clyde " features Eminem convincing his infant daughter to assist him in disposing of his wife 's corpse . It is an epilogue to the song " Kim " , although " ' 97 Bonnie & Clyde " was released first . Eminem wrote the song at a time in which he felt that Kim was stopping him from seeing his daughter . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic explained that " There have been more violent songs in rap , but few more disturbing , and it 's not because of what it describes , it 's how he describes it -- how the perfectly modulated phrasing enhances the horror and black humor of his words . " On the song " Brain Damage " , Eminem discusses his childhood experiences with bullies at school .

Although many of the lyrics on the album are intended to be humorous , several songs depict Eminem 's frustrations with living in poverty . When discussing The Slim Shady LP , Anthony Bozza of Rolling Stone described Eminem as " probably the only MC in 1999 who boasts low self @-@ esteem . His rhymes are jaw @-@ droppingly perverse , bespeaking a minimum @-@ wage life devoid of hope , flushed with rage and weaned on sci @-@ fi and slasher flicks . " Eminem was inspired to write " Rock Bottom " after being fired from his cooking job at a restaurant days before his daughter 's birthday . The song bemoans human dependency on money , discussing its ability to brainwash an individual . He illustrates his struggles to provide for his daughter , describing himself as " discouraged , hungry , and malnourished . " " If I Had " follows a similar theme , as he describes living on minimum wage and remarks that he is " tired of jobs starting off at \$ 5 @. @ 50 an hour " . In the song , he expresses his irritation with fitting the " white trash " stereotype .

= = = Production = = =

The album 's production was handled primarily by the Bass Brothers , Dr. Dre , and Eminem . The beats have been compared to West Coast hip hop and G @-@ funk musical styles . Kyle Anderson of MTV wrote that " The beats are full of bass @-@ heavy hallucinations and create huge , scary sandboxes that allow Em to play . " According to the staff at IGN , " ' 97 Bonnie & Clyde " is backed by the " lulling serenity of a super silky groove " . " Cum on Everybody " ; which features guest vocals from American singer Dina Rae contains an upbeat dance rhythm , while " My Name Is " , which is built around a piano sample from British musician Labi Siffre 's " I Got The " , features a prominent bassline and psychedelic @-@ style keyboards . " I 'm Shady " was originally written over a Sade track , but after hearing a sample of Curtis Mayfield 's " Pusherman " in Ice @-@ T 's song " I 'm Your Pusher " , Eminem decided it would be more fitting to use " Pusherman " .

Eminem 's vocal inflection on the record has been described as a " nasal whine " ; Jon Pareles of The New York Times likened his " calmly sarcastic delivery " to " the early Beastie Boys turned cynical " . Writing for the Chicago Tribune , columnist Greg Kot compared the rapper 's vocals to " Pee @-@ wee Herman with a nasal Midwestern accent " . A skit entitled " Lounge " appears before " My Fault " featuring Eminem and the Bass Brothers imitating rat pack crooners . Jeff Bass came up with the line " I never meant to give you mushrooms " for the skit , which in turn inspired Eminem to write " My Fault " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Commercial response = = =

In the album 's first week of release , The Slim Shady LP sold 283 @, @ 000 copies , debuting at number two on the Billboard 200 chart behind TLC 's FanMail . The record remained on the Billboard 200 for 100 weeks . It also reached number one on the R & B / Hip Hop Albums chart , staying on the chart for 92 weeks . On April 5 , 1999 , The Slim Shady LP was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for sales of over one million copies . On November 15 , 2000 , the album was certified quadruple platinum by the RIAA . " My Name Is " , the album 's lead single , peaked at number 36 on the Billboard Hot 100 , remaining on the chart for ten weeks .

The single additionally peaked at number 18 on the magazine's R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , 29 on the Pop Songs chart , and 37 on the Alternative Songs chart . " Guilty Conscience " reached number 56 on the Billboard R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , while " Just Don 't Give a Fuck " peaked at number 62 on the chart . By November , 2013 , the album sold 5 @,@ 437 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

Outside of the United States , The Slim Shady LP reached number nine on the weekly Canadian Albums Chart and remained on the chart for twelve weeks . Additionally , the album was certified double platinum by the Canadian Recording Industry Association for shipments of over 200 @,@ 000 units . The record was also certified double platinum in the United Kingdom , where it peaked at number ten on the UK Albums chart and remained on the chart for a total of 114 weeks . In Australia , the album peaked at number 49 on the ARIA Chart , and was eventually certified platinum in the country . The album was also certified gold in the Netherlands and New Zealand , where it peaked at the number 20 and 23 chart positions , respectively .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The album was met with generally positive reviews . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic gave the album five stars out of five , praising the rapper's " expansive vocabulary and vivid imagination " , adding that " Years later , as the shock has faded , it 's those lyrical skills and the subtle mastery of the music that still resonate , and they 're what make The Slim Shady LP one of the great debuts in both hip @-@ hop and modern pop music . " David Browne of Entertainment Weekly described the album's " unapologetic outrageousness " as a reaction to the " soul positivity " of conscious hip hop , noting that " The Slim Shady LP marks the return of irreverent , wiseass attitude to the genre , heard throughout the album in its nonstop barrage of crudely funny rhymes ... Even pop fans deadened to graphic lyrics are likely to flinch . " Soren Baker of the Los Angeles Times gave the album three and a half stars out of four and stated that " He isn 't afraid to say anything ; his lyrics are so clever that he makes murder sound as if it 's a funny act he may indulge in simply to pass the time " but lamented the " sometimes flat production that takes away from the power of Eminem 's verbal mayhem . "

Many reviewers commented on the album's lyrical content . Gilbert Rodman of Popular Communications states , " Eminem 's music contains more than its fair share of misogynistic and homo @-@ phobic lyrics , but simply to reduce it to these ( as many critics do ) doesn 't help to explain Eminem . It merely invokes a platitude or a sound bite to explain him away . " Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone enjoyed the record's comedic nature , writing " Simply put : Eminem will crack you up " , but also felt that the misogynistic lyrics grow tiresome , noting that " the wife @-@ killing jokes of " 97 Bonnie and Clyde " aren 't any funnier than Garth Brooks ' , and " My Fault " belongs on some sorry @-@ ass Bloodhound Gang record . " Nathan Rabin of The A.V. Club felt that although the album is " sophomoric and uninspired " at times , Eminem's " surreal , ultraviolent , trailer @-@ trash / post @-@ gangsta @-@ rap extremism is at least a breath of fresh air in a rap world that 's despairingly low on new ideas . " Mike Rubin of Spin noted that " his scenarios are so far @-@ fetched the songs almost never sound as ugly as they actually are . " Chris Dafoe of The Globe and Mail opined that " Abused by fellow students and teachers , cheated on by his girlfriend , despised by society , Shady goes over the top now and then - or rather way over the top - but Dre 's lean production , full of strange voice and comic interjections , hold things together . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Rolling Stone Magazine ranked The Slim Shady LP number 273 on its list of " The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time " and 33 on its list of the " 100 Best Albums of the ' 90s " . At the 42nd Grammy Awards in 2000 , the record won Best Rap Album , while " My Name Is " won Best Rap Solo Performance . " Ken Kaniff " was listed as number 15 on Complex's " 50 Greatest Hip @-@ Hop Skits " list , while the " Public Service Announcement " introduction to the album , along with the " Public Service Announcement 2000 " introduction from The Marshall Mathers LP , was listed as

number 50 on the list . It also won Outstanding National Album at the 2000 Detroit Music Awards . In 2015 , it was ranked at number 76 by About.com in their list of " 100 best hip @-@ hop albums of all time " .

= = Aftermath = =

After the success of The Slim Shady LP , Eminem went from an underground rapper into a high @-@ profile celebrity . Interscope Records awarded him with his own record label , Shady Records ; the first artist Eminem signed was rapper and his best friend Proof . Eminem , who had previously struggled to provide for his daughter , noted a drastic change in his lifestyle : " This last Christmas , there were so many fucking presents under the tree ... My daughter wasn 't born with a silver spoon in her mouth . But she 's got one now . I can 't stop myself from spoiling her . "

To promote The Slim Shady LP , Eminem embarked on an extensive tour schedule . He joined the Vans Warped Tour as a last @-@ minute replacement for Cypress Hill , a schedule that included 31 North American dates from June 25 to July 31 , beginning in San Antonio and ending in Miami . He often played a show in the afternoon on the Warped Tour , and then drove to another location to perform at a hip hop club at night . During a performance in Hartford , Connecticut near the end of the Warped Tour , Eminem slipped on a puddle of liquid and fell ten feet down off the stage , cracking several ribs . He recalled that the stress of his newfound fame led him to drink excessively , and reflected , " I knew I had to slow it down . The fall was like a reminder . " However , after receiving medical attention , he was well enough to travel to New York the following day for a performance on Total Request Live .

Eminem also became a highly controversial figure due to his lyrical content . He was labeled as " misogynist , a nihilist and an advocate of domestic violence " , and in an editorial by Billboard editor in chief Timothy White , the writer accused Eminem of " making money by exploiting the world 's misery . " During a radio appearance in San Francisco , Eminem reportedly angered local DJ Sista Tamu due to a freestyle about " slapping a pregnant bitch " to the extent that she broke a copy of The Slim Shady LP on @-@ air . The rapper defended himself by saying , " My album isn 't for younger kids to hear . It has an advisory sticker , and you must be eighteen to get it . That doesn 't mean younger kids won 't get it , but I 'm not responsible for every kid out there . I 'm not a role model , and I don 't claim to be . "

= = Lawsuits = =

On September 17 , 1999 , Eminem 's mother , Deborah Nelson , filed a \$ 10 million lawsuit against him for slander based on his claim that she uses drugs in the line " I just found out my mom does more dope than I do " from " My Name Is " . After a two @-@ year @-@ long trial , she was awarded \$ 25 @,@ 000 , of which she received \$ 1 @,@ 600 after legal fees . Eminem was not surprised that his mother had filed the lawsuit against him , referring to her as a " lawsuit queen " , and alleging that " That 's how she makes money . When I was five , she had a job on the cash register at a store that sold chips and soda . Other than that , I don 't remember her working a day in her life . " She later filed another lawsuit against him for emotional damages suffered during the first trial , which was later dismissed .

In December 2001 , DeAngelo Bailey , a janitor living in Roseville , Michigan who was made the subject of the song " Brain Damage " in which he is portrayed as a school bully , filed a \$ 1 million lawsuit against Eminem for slander and invasion of privacy . Bailey 's attorney stated " Eminem is a Caucasian male who faced criticism within the music industry that he had not suffered through difficult circumstances growing up and he was therefore a ' pretender ' in the industry ... Eminem used Bailey , his African @-@ American childhood schoolmate , as a pawn in his effort to stem the tide of criticism . " In 1982 , Eminem 's mother unsuccessfully sued the Roseville school district for not protecting her son , as she claimed that attacks from bullies caused him headaches , nausea , and antisocial behavior . Additionally , Bailey had previously admitted to bullying Eminem in the April 1999 issue of Rolling Stone . The lawsuit was later dismissed by a judge in 2003 , who rapped in her

explanation that the lyrics ? which include the school principal collaborating with Bailey , and Eminem 's entire brain falling out of his head ? were too exaggerated for a listener to believe that they were recalling an actual event . The verdict was upheld in 2005 , and Bailey 's lawyer ruled out any further appeals .

In September 2003 , 70 @-@ year @-@ old widow Harlene Stein filed suit against Eminem and Dr. Dre on the grounds that " Guilty Conscience " contains an unauthorized sample of " Go Home Pigs " composed for the film Getting Straight by her husband , Ronald Stein , who died in 1988 . Although the album 's liner notes state that the song contains an " interpolation " of " Go Home Pigs " , Stein is not credited as a composer and his wife was not paid royalties for use of the song . The lawsuit requested for 5 percent of the retail list price of 90 percent of the all copies of the record sold in America , and 2 @.@ 5 percent of the retail price of 90 percent of the copies of the album sold internationally .

= = Track listing = =

#### Notes

" Bitch " , " Cum On Everybody " , " Just Don 't Give a Fuck " and " Still Don 't Give a Fuck " are retitled " Zoe " , " Come on Everybody " , " Just Don 't Give " and " Still Don 't Give " on the clean version of the album .

" If I Had " loosely references the melody to the chorus of " If I Had \$ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 " by Barenaked Ladies

" ' 97 Bonnie & Clyde " is a merged version of Slim Shady EP 's " Mommy ( skit ) " and " Just the Two of Us " , albeit with a different backing track for the latter

= = Charts and certifications = =