

= Let Go ( Avril Lavigne album ) =

Let Go is the debut studio album by Canadian singer @-@ songwriter Avril Lavigne , released on 4 June 2002 . For a year after signing a record deal with Arista , Lavigne struggled due to conflicts in musical direction . She relocated to Los Angeles , California , and recorded there , her earlier materials for the album ; the kind of sound to which the label was not amenable . She was paired to the production team The Matrix , who understood her vision for the album .

The album was credited as the biggest pop debut of 2002 , and was certified 6 × Platinum in the United States . It was released to generally positive reviews , although Lavigne 's songwriting received some criticism . It also did extremely well in Canada , receiving a diamond certification from the Canadian Recording Industry Association , as well as reaching multi @-@ platinum in many countries around the world , including the UK in which she became the youngest female solo artist to have a number @-@ one album in the region .

As of December 2013 , Let Go had sold over 20 million copies worldwide , becoming Lavigne 's highest @-@ selling album to date . According to Billboard magazine , the album was the number 21 top @-@ selling album of the decade . A Rolling Stone readers poll named Let Go as the fourth best album of the 2000s .

On 18 March 2013 , Let Go was re @-@ released as a double disc @-@ set paired with her second studio album , Under My Skin , which is released under RCA Records .

= = Background = =

Lavigne relocated to Los Angeles , where she collaborated with songwriter @-@ producer Clif Magness , who gave her ample creative control in the writing process . Lavigne and Magness wrote " Losing Grip " and " Unwanted " , songs that she deemed reflective of her vision for the entire album . However , Arista was not thrilled with the heavy @-@ guitar laden songs that Lavigne was writing , prompting the label to look for other producers to match their demands .

Now two years since she signed the deal , Lavigne , who was then unknown , came to the attention of the three @-@ piece production team The Matrix . Arista could not find the right direction for Lavigne , so the team 's manager , Sandy Roberton , suggested that they work together : " Why don 't you put her together with The Matrix for a couple of days ? " According to member Lauren Christy , they had been listening to Lavigne 's early songs and felt they contained " a Faith Hill kind of vibe " . As soon as they saw Lavigne coming into their studio , The Matrix felt that her musical direction was incongruous to her image and attitude . After talking to Lavigne for an hour , " we cottoned on that she wasn 't happy but couldn 't quite figure out where to go " . The Matrix played her songs with Faith Hill influences , because it was those kind of songs the label wanted Lavigne to sing . But Lavigne dismissed it , saying she wanted songs with punk rock inclinations . Lavigne played The Matrix a song that she had recorded and really loved , a track with sounds in the likes of the rock band System of a Down . Fortunately, prior to forming The Matrix , its members ' early projects were in the pop @-@ rock type , so they readily figured out what Lavigne wanted to record and knew exactly what to do with her . They told her to come back the following day , and in the afternoon during that day , they wrote a song that evolved into " Complicated " and another song called " Falling Down " ( Falling Down appears on the Sweet Home Alabama Soundtrack ) . They played it to Lavigne when she came back the following day , inspiring her what path she should take .

When Josh Sarubin , the A & R executive who signed Lavigne to the imprint , heard the song , he knew it was right for her . Lavigne presented the song to Reid , who agreed the musical direction Lavigne and The Matrix were taking , and set " Complicated " as the album 's lead single . Reid sent Lavigne back to The Matrix to work with them , initially for a month . Arista gave the team carte blanche to write and produce 10 songs , which took them two months . The album was originally entitled Anything But Ordinary , after the track of the same name that The Matrix produced , but Lavigne asked Reid for the album to be called Let Go instead .

Critics described Let Go as an alternative rock album with pop rock influences and post @-@

grunge @-@ oriented sound .

= = Writing and recording = =

With The Matrix , Lavigne recorded tracks in Decoy Studios , situated in a Los Angeles suburb known as Valley Village . She also worked with producer @-@ songwriter Curt Frasca and Peter Zizzo , whose Manhattan studio Lavigne was checked in prior to securing a record deal with Arista , and where Lavigne also recorded some of the tracks . The Matrix member Scott Spock was their principal engineer for the project , while Tom Lord @-@ Alge was assigned to mix the tracks . Lavigne recorded complete takes " against the largely finished instrumental tracks " . Spocks revealed Lavigne normally recorded each song in five or six takes , " and probably 90 percent of what was finally used came from the first or second takes " . The Matrix also contributed backing vocals .

Introduced as a singer @-@ songwriter , Lavigne 's involvement produced significant issues . Lavigne has implied that she is the primary author of the album . In an article published in Rolling Stone magazine , Lavigne stated that while working with The Matrix , one member would be in the recording studio while they were writing , but did not write the guitar parts , lyrics , or the melody . According to Lavigne , she and Christy wrote all the lyrics together . Graham would come up with some guitar parts , " and I 'd be like , ' Yeah , I like that , ' or ' No , I don 't like that . ' None of those songs aren 't from me . "

The Matrix , who produced six songs for Lavigne , five of which appear in the album , had another explanation of how the collaboration went . According to them , they wrote much of the portions in the three singles : " Complicated " , " Sk8er Boi " , and " I 'm with You " , which were conceived using a guitar and piano . Christy said , " Avril would come in and sing a few melodies , change a word here or there . " Reid complemented the issue over the credits : " If I 'm looking for a single for an artist , I don 't care who writes it . Avril had the freedom to do as she really pleased , and the songs show her point of view . ... Avril has always been confident about her ideas . "

Although she needed pop songs " to break " into the industry , Lavigne felt " Complicated " does not reflect her and her songwriting skills . Nonetheless , she was grateful for the song as it successfully launched her career . She favors more " Losing Grip " , because " it means so much more when it comes straight from the artist " .

= = Release and promotion = =

The album was released on 4 June 2002 , in Canada and the United States . Later , on 22 July , Let Go hit record stores worldwide , and on 26 August in some parts of Europe , including the United Kingdom and Ireland . A DataPlay version of the album was released in September 2002 . Arista had established a deal with DataPlay earlier in 2002 , and included Let Go alongside albums by rock singer Santana and singer Whitney Houston in the release .

Although Lavigne was targeted to the teen audience , a marketing strategy credited with the successful launch of her career ; Lavigne performed on a host of radio @-@ sponsored multi @-@ artist holiday shows throughout the United States , a marketing strategy that induced higher sales of the album during the season . She embarked on her first headlining tour , Try To Shut Me Up Tour , which took place on 23 January 2003 , and ended on 4 June 2003 . Lavigne toured with her band ? drummer Matthew Brann , bassist Mark Spicoluk , and guitarists Jesse Colburn and Evan Taubenfeld ? which she had grouped after signing the deal . In the tour , she included all songs off Let Go , B @-@ sides , and cover versions of " Knockin ' on Heaven 's Door " by Bob Dylan and " Basket Case " by Green Day .

Lavigne filmed her performance in Buffalo , New York , on 18 May 2003 , the final date of her five @-@ week headlining North American tour . The tour DVD My World was released on 4 November 2003 , on joint venture by Arista Records and 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment . The DVD features the concert , a behind @-@ the @-@ scenes featurette , five music videos and a six @-@ song bonus audio CD that includes an unreleased track " Why " .

## == Singles ==

" Complicated " was released by Arista as the album 's lead single , which was seen as an across @-@ all @-@ age @-@ groups introduction to Lavigne . Thought to produce wide cross @-@ demographic appeal , however , the music video to the single features Lavigne and her band wreaking havoc in a mall , " the sort of imagery that might have grown @-@ ups thinking ' Clean that mess up ! ' more than clamoring for the record " . The song was a worldwide No. 1 hit and was nominated for two Grammy Awards for Song of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance .

" Sk8er Boi " The follow @-@ up single was aimed at pop @-@ punk oriented kids . The release of " Sk8er Boi " created disagreement among many radio programming directors . However , their impressions were diverted as listeners helped change their minds ; early rotation of the single proved successful , showing it was as popular with post @-@ collegiate listeners as with teens . The song even went to No. 1 in U.S. mainstream radio .

" I 'm with You " The adult ballad hit record stores in late November 2002 , close to Christmas holidays to remind parents about the album to , if not to buy it themselves , to purchase it for any children in their family . The song ended up being another hit for Lavigne reaching No. 4 in the Billboard Hot 100 , No. 1 in mainstream radio and top 10 in the UK and Canada . It was not officially released in Australia but received radio and television airplay , this song was also nominated for two Grammy Awards the same categories as " Complicated " . The release arrangement of the album 's singles , with " I 'm With You " being served as the third , was regarded as " controversial " , given that " I 'm With You " was " thought by some to be the biggest potential smash on the album " , and could have established Lavigne as a more mature artist if it was released first . According to Reid , " Some people just really didn 't get that . And with the first video , there was some concern that maybe because it 's so young and so playful , it might alienate more serious music lovers . "

" Losing Grip " was released as the fourth single off the album , " to act as a bridge into her next album " , which Lavigne stated would be " harder @-@ rocking " than her debut . In 2004 , it was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance However , it was the least successful single on the album .

" Mobile " was released in Australia and New Zealand as the final single from the album in those regions . It was later used in 2003 's The Medallion , the 2004 film Wimbledon , and a brief appearance in the film Just Married . In 2011 , a music video for the song leaked onto the internet made from official footage that was never finished .

## == Other songs ==

Other songs were released as regional radio @-@ only singles . " Things I 'll Never Say " was released as a radio @-@ only single in Italy . " Unwanted " was released as a promotional single in the United Kingdom . The song " Tomorrow " was played in one episode of the second season of the Warner Bros. series Smallville , while the song " Anything But Ordinary " was played in one episode of the TV series Birds of Prey .

## == Reception ==

## == Critical reaction ==

Let Go has earned mostly positive responses from critics , earning 68 points on Metacritic based on the collated reviews from 7 publications . Rolling Stone magazine 's music critic Pat Blashill wrote that the album " comes fully loaded with another dozen infectious hymns of Total Request angst " . Blashill complimented Lavigne on having a " great voice " , adding she crafted the album with " a qualified staff of hitmakers " . Christina Saraceno of AllMusic noted that Lavigne " handles a variety of styles deftly " , while also complimenting her as " a capable songwriter with vocal chops " .

Nonetheless , Saraceno opined that " at her age , one imagines , she is still finding her feet , borrowing from the music she 's grown up listening to " . John Perry of Blender magazine summarized Let Go into an " outstanding guitar @-@ pop debut " . A review in Q magazine praised Lavigne for displaying " a musical guile way beyond her years " . Kaj Roth of Melodic felt that Lavigne " sings lovely and some of the songs goes in the Alanis Morissette [ sic ] vein . " For Jon Caramanica of Entertainment Weekly magazine ( who gave the album a B ? ) , " Lavigne 's monochromatic debut set of unimaginative guitar rock is saved only by the earnestness of her songs . "

Some reviewers had similar sentiments toward the quality of the lyrics to some songs in the album . Saraceno said that Lavigne " still has some growing up to do lyrically " , asserting " Sk8er Boi " shows her " lyrical shortcomings " and calling the phrasing in " Too Much to Ask " " awkward and sometimes silly " . Perry noted the lyrics to " Sk8er Boi " as " endearingly naive " .

The album earned Lavigne numerous awards from organizations around the world . The success of the album 's commercial performance led Lavigne to be named Best New Artist at the 2002 MTV Video Music Awards as well as winning a World Music Award for Best @-@ Selling Canadian Singer . She won three awards ? Favorite Female Artist , Favorite Breakthrough Artist , and the Style Award ? the most of any performer at the 2003 MTV Asia Awards . She received five nominations for the album at the 2003 Grammy Awards , including Best New Artist and Best Pop Vocal Album . The album 's singles " Complicated " and " I 'm With You " were nominated Song of the Year at the 2003 and 2004 ceremony , respectively , accumulating eight nominations for the album . Lavigne was nominated for six categories at the 2003 Juno Awards ? which were presented in Ottawa ? winning four including Best Album and Best New Artist .

= = = Commercial performance = = =

Let Go was commercially successful in the United States , gaining praise from Entertainment Weekly magazine as one of the biggest pop debut albums of 2002 . The album debuted on the Billboard 200 at number 8 on the strength of 62 @,@ 000 unit sales . Its high debut was fueled by the success of " Complicated " , which was in heavy rotation on MTV . Increasing weekly sales allowed the album to stay inside the chart 's top 10 for 37 weeks . The album sold at least 100 @,@ 000 copies every week straight until late 2002 , easily accumulating over two million unit sales . In a December 2002 report by Entertainment Weekly magazine , it was stated that the album had sold 3 @.@ 9 million copies , becoming the third top @-@ selling album of 2002 in the United States . Year @-@ end figures released by Nielsen SoundScan revealed that Let Go had sold over 4 @.@ 1 million copies in the United States , accumulated in 30 weeks of the album 's release . Let Go was certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America . This earned Let Go the distinction of being the highest @-@ shipped debut of 2002 and best @-@ selling album by a female artist . On 30 April 2003 , the RIAA certified the album six @-@ times platinum , denoting shipments of over six million units . It remains Lavigne 's best @-@ selling album to date , with 6 @.@ 9 million copies sold in the United States as of September 2015 .

Chartwise , the album reached higher peak positions notably during and after the holidays . Following her show @-@ opening performance at the 2002 Billboard Music Awards , Let Go continued to be one of the holiday 's top sellers with sales that week of 272 @,@ 000 . It reached its highest sales week on the issue dated 4 January 2003 with 363 @,@ 000 copies sold . Although it had peaked at number two in September 2002 , Let Go rose from 3 to 2 on the Billboard 200 on the issue dated 1 February 2003 . The increase of sales was the offshoot to Lavigne 's appearance on 11 January in Saturday Night Live as the show 's musical guest . There were accusations of lip @-@ synching but in an interview at the time she tells she has never lip @-@ sung or ever plans to . During this time also , Lavigne received much media coverage due to her nominations at the 2003 Grammy Awards and for embarking on her first North American tour . In the United Kingdom , the album took longer to reach the summit of the UK Albums Chart . In its 18th week of release , reached on the chart year 2003 , the album hit number one , rising to the top spot over the holiday . The album 's international sales upsurge was attributed to the continuing success of " Sk8er Boi " .

Let Go is the 12th best @-@ selling album of 2003 in the United Kingdom . The album has been certified five @-@ times platinum by the British Phonographic Industry .

Let Go was also selling well in Canada , surpassing sales of over one million unit sales in less than a year . The Canadian Recording Industry Association certified the album diamond in May 2003 . In Australia , Let Go had been certified seven @-@ times platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association in 2003 , based on the sales of over 490 @,@ 000 units from wholesalers to retailers . The album is the tenth best @-@ selling album of 2002 there , and the third in the following year .. ' Let Go ' reached its peak worldwide during Christmas holiday with almost 860 @,@ 000 copies sold worldwide during Christmas week and then another 600 @,@ 000 copies worldwide in the first week of 2003 .

= = Track listing = =

( \* ) Additional production

= = Personnel = =

This list of credits is based on [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com).

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Awards = =

At the 2003 Grammy Awards , Lavigne received five nominations , including Best Pop Vocal Album for Let Go , Song of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for " Complicated " , Best Female Rock Vocal Performance for " Sk8er Boi " and the coveted Best New Artist . At the 2004 Grammy Awards Lavigne received the nominations Song of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for " I 'm with You " and Best Female Rock Vocal Performance for " Losing Grip " .