

= Dig Me Out =

Dig Me Out is the third studio album by the American rock band Sleater @-@ Kinney , released on April 8 , 1997 by Kill Rock Stars . The album was produced by John Goodmanson and recorded from December 1996 to January 1997 at John and Stu 's Place in Seattle , Washington . Dig Me Out marked the debut of Janet Weiss , who is the band 's longest serving and current drummer . The music on the record was influenced by traditional rock and roll bands , while the lyrics deal with issues of heartbreak and survival .

Two singles were released in support of the album : " One More Hour " and " Little Babies " . The title track " Dig Me Out " peaked at number six on the KEXP Top 90 @.@ 3 Album Chart in 1997 without being released as a single . The album received substantial acclaim from music critics , who praised the album 's energy and feminist lyrics . Dig Me Out is included on several publications ' best album lists . In 2003 , Rolling Stone ranked it number 272 on its list of The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time .

= = Background and recording = =

Dig Me Out is the follow @-@ up to Sleater @-@ Kinney 's highly acclaimed second album Call the Doctor , released in 1996 by the queercore independent record label Chainsaw Records . Call the Doctor confirmed the band 's reputation as one of the major musical acts from the Pacific Northwest , rebelling against gender roles , consumerism , and indie rock 's male @-@ dominated hierarchy . After the release of Call the Doctor , drummer Janet Weiss of Quasi joined the band . Previously , the band had had a number of temporary drummers , including Misty Farrell , Lora Macfarlane , and Toni Gogin . Weiss would eventually become Sleater @-@ Kinney 's longest serving and current drummer . For its third album , Sleater @-@ Kinney worked again with producer John Goodmanson . The band left Chainsaw Records and decided to release the album through Kill Rock Stars , another independent record label which singer and guitarist Corin Tucker thought had better resources to ensure the band 's distribution . Goodmanson also remarked that Kill Rock Stars afforded the band a generous amount of studio time for an independent label , stating that Call the Doctor only took four days to record while Dig Me Out was recorded over the period of eight days .

Dig Me Out was written in nearly two months and recorded from December 1996 to January 1997 at John and Stu 's Place in Seattle , Washington . During the recording sessions , recording the vocal interplay between Tucker and co @-@ vocalist and guitarist Carrie Brownstein involved some difficulties . However , the producer took care and prevented favoring one voice over the other . As Goodmanson recalls : " We always used different mikes for the lead vocal and for the second vocal , or different kinds of processing to make those things really distinct . To make it so you can hear both things at once " . Goodmanson also noted that the fact that the band features no bass player was an advantage for the album 's production . He explained : " The awesome thing about having no bass player is you can make the guitars sound as big as you want . Usually you have to clear all that room out for the bass , so you can hear the bass line . With no bass there , you can just go for giant guitar sounds that you wouldn 't normally be able to go for " .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Musically , Dig Me Out was considered rockier than its predecessor . Weiss ' drumming style was influenced by traditional rock and roll bands such as The Rolling Stones , The Beatles , and The Kinks , as well as numerous blues rock musicians such as Lightnin ' Hopkins , Muddy Waters , Billy Boy Arnold , and Bessie Smith , among others . Both Tucker and Brownstein remarked that Weiss became an essential part of the band 's sound . According to Tucker , " Musically , she 's completed our band . She 's become the bottom end and the solidness that we 've really wanted for our songwriting " . In addition to playing drums , Weiss provides hand claps and tambourine in " Turn It On " . Dig Me Out also contains more guitar and vocal interplay by Tucker and Brownstein than Call the Doctor . As Brownstein explains , " If you were to separate our guitar parts I don 't necessarily

think they would fully stand on their own . Our songs [ ... ] aren 't really complete until the other person has put their part over it , and their vocals " .

The lyrical themes on Dig Me Out deal with issues of heartbreak and survival . The song " One More Hour " is about the breakup of Tucker and Brownstein 's romantic relationship . Before the release of the album , Spin magazine published a controversial article discussing Tucker and Brownstein 's personal relationship without their permission . Brownstein felt that " it was a complete invasion of privacy . My parents didn 't know Corin and I were going out . They didn 't know I had ever dated a woman before . It was horrible . I was pissed at Spin , really mad . Luckily my parents are great people , but God forbid I would have some family that would disown me over something like that . And I would have totally held Spin responsible for that . " The song features a lot of vocal interplay by Tucker and Brownstein . Chris Nelson of Addicted to Noise noted that " one can almost hear Tucker crying in the studio as she wails , ' I needed it ' , while behind her Brownstein offers her attempts at consolation " . In her 2015 memoir *Hunger Makes Me A Modern Girl* , Brownstein also states that almost all the songs on Dig Me Out are about either her or Tucker 's future husband , Lance Bangs .

Like its predecessor , Dig Me Out also features songs that show frustration with sexism and gender stereotypes . " Little Babies " is a protest against the traditional maternity role , while the title song " Dig Me Out " exposes a woman in a dominant role . The album 's title was inspired by the fact that the band had to literally dig out the recording studio after a heavy snowstorm that took place in Winter 1996 in Seattle . Musically , the song " Words and Guitar " was said to " [ leap ] and [ skit ] with the just @-@ released repression of early Talking Heads " , while " Dance Song ' 97 " was said to " sport Devo @-@ esque keyboards of a distinctly ' 80s vintage " . Jenn Pelly of Pitchfork Media described " Heart Factory " as a song that " roars over synthetic emotions of the Prozac Nation . "

= = Release = =

Dig Me Out was released on April 8 , 1997 by Kill Rock Stars . The album cover is an homage to The Kinks ' 1965 album *The Kink Kontroversy* . After the release , the band went on a tour to promote the album ; a performance of " Words and Guitar " at El Rey Theatre , Los Angeles is featured in the documentary film *Songs for Cassavetes* by Justin Mitchell . As of July 1999 , the album has sold 64 @,@ 000 copies in the U.S. according to Nielsen SoundScan . As of February 2015 , Dig Me Out has sold 130 @,@ 000 copies . Two songs from the album , " One More Hour " and " Little Babies " , were released as singles by Matador Records on June 1 , 1998 and September 7 , 1998 respectively . The first single features the song " I Wanna Be Your Joey Ramone " from *Call the Doctor* as the B @-@ side , while the second single features " I 'm Not Waiting " , also from their previous album . The compact disc version of " One More Hour " includes a third song , " Don 't Think You Wanna " , which was originally released on the band 's debut album *Sleater @-@ Kinney* . The song " Dig Me Out " peaked at number six on the KEXP Top 90 @.@ 3 Album Chart in 1997 without being released as a single .

= = Critical reception = =

Dig Me Out received substantial acclaim from music critics . Randall Roberts , writing for *CMJ New Music Monthly* , described the album as a " hum of life wholly transcending gender and genre , filled with the kind of excitement and singular voice that made punk rock glorious in its infancy [ ... ] Dig Me Out is a monster " . Sara Scribner of *Los Angeles Times* praised Tucker 's emotional vocal delivery , writing that " she 's obsessed with finding honest emotions within the cold machinery of the human heart . " Ann Powers stated similar pros and highlighted Brownstein 's energetic guitar playing , noting that the band " now [ delivers ] the punch their words describe . " She also gave high marks to the album 's feminist lyrics , commenting " If [ *Sleater @-@ Kinney* ] wanna be our Simone de Beauvoir , Dig Me Out proves they 're up to it . " Similarly , Matt Diehl of *Rolling Stone* said that " while the Spice Girls prattle on about ' girl power ' , *Sleater @-@ Kinney* remain the real socket for that energy " .

AllMusic reviewer Jason Ankeny credited the band for expanding their musical boundaries with a more confident and mature sound . Wook Kim of Entertainment Weekly praised Tucker and Brownstein 's " interlocking " vocals and called the record a " fine example of state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art punk " . In The Village Voice , critic Robert Christgau praised the union and teamwork of the band , stating that " they 're so confident of their ability to please that they just can 't stop . And this confidence is collective : Corin and Carrie chorus @-@ trade like the two @-@ headed girl , dashing and high @-@ stepping around on Janet Weiss 's shoulders . What a ride " . He referred to the album as one of his " favorite albums of the year , easy " . In a retrospective review , Anthony Carew of About.com remarked that Dig Me Out took Sleater @-@ Kinney " from the cult corner of the Pacific Northwest to international acclaim " .

Dig Me Out is frequently included on several publications ' best album lists . The album appeared at number four in The Village Voice 's Pazz & Jop critics ' poll for 1997 . In 1999 , Dig Me Out was ranked number 21 on Spin 's list of The 90 Greatest Albums of the ' 90s . In 2001 , Spin placed it at number 19 on its list of " 50 Most Essential Punk Records " . In 2003 , the album was ranked number 272 on Rolling Stone 's list of The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time . In 2005 , the album was ranked number 24 in Spin 's " 100 Greatest Albums , 1985 ? 2005 " . In 2012 , Spin also ranked it at number 74 on their " 125 Best Albums of the Past 25 Years " , stating that " Dig Me Out captures the noise of a soul @-@ filled body shaking itself awake , and that 's an experience that bridges any gender divide . " In 2008 , the song " Dig Me Out " was ranked number 44 in Rolling Stone 's " 100 Greatest Guitar Songs of All Time " . In 2011 , the album was placed at number 71 by Slant Magazine on its list of " The 100 Best Albums of the 1990s " . The album was also included in the book 1001 Albums You Must Hear Before You Die .

= = Track listing = =

All music composed by Sleater @-@ Kinney .

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from AllMusic .