

= The Light of the Sun =

The Light of the Sun is the fourth studio album by American R & B singer Jill Scott . It was recorded after Scott 's four @-@ year break from her music career and departure from her former label , Hidden Beach Recordings . The Light of the Sun was recorded at several studios and produced primarily by Scott and JR Hutson , a songwriter and producer who had previously worked on her 2007 record The Real Thing : Words and Sounds Vol . 3 . Music journalists noted The Light of the Sun for its neo soul sound , element of improvisation , and Scott 's feminine themes .

The Light of the Sun was released on June 21 , 2011 , by Scott 's imprint label , Blue Babe Records . It received positive reviews from most critics and debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 in the United States , where it sold 135 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . The album became Scott 's first American number @-@ one record , and as of March 2015 , it had sold 478 @,@ 000 copies in the US . It was promoted with three singles , including the Billboard R & B hits " So in Love " and " Blessed " . Scott also promoted the album with her Summer Block Party concert tour .

= = Background = =

Following her 2007 album , The Real Thing : Words and Sounds Vol . 3 , Scott took a break from recording music . She undertook acting roles in the movies Tyler Perry 's Why Did I Get Married ? and Hounddog , and she had a starring role in the television series The No. 1 Ladies ' Detective Agency . During her break , she divorced her husband of six years Lyzel Williams in 2007 , became engaged to the former drummer Lil ' John Roberts in 2008 , gave birth to their son Jett Hamilton in 2009 , and broke up with Roberts . Scott subsequently began sessions for The Light of the Sun .

In 2009 , Scott left her former record label Hidden Beach Recordings . During the album 's recording , she was sued by Hidden Beach , which claimed she had left without fulfilling a six @-@ album contract . The lawsuit was settled in 2011 , with Hidden Beach planning to release in August a compilation album The Original Jill Scott from the Vault , Vol . 1 , the first in a planned album series of Scott 's previously unreleased recordings . In 2010 , Warner Bros. Records signed Scott to a deal that gave her direct control over her marketing and promotion . In a strategy to re @-@ establish Scott 's presence with fans , she signed a multi @-@ tour deal with Live Nation / Haymon Ventures to expand her concert touring . Scott co @-@ headlined a national , 20 @-@ date arena tour with the recording artist Maxwell , called Maxwell & Jill Scott : The Tour , in 2010 .

= = Recording = =

The album was recorded at several recording studios , including Fever Recording Studios in North Hollywood , 9th Street Studios and Threshold Sound & Vision in Santa Monica , Studio 609 and The Studio in Philadelphia , The Boom Boom Room in Burbank and The Village Studios in West Los Angeles . Scott worked with the producers Terry Lewis , JR Hutson and Justice League for the album . Scott had first worked with Hutson on her previous album The Real Thing .

In an interview for HitQuarters , Hutson said of Scott 's approach to The Light of the Sun , " She ? s now in charge of a lot of different things and with it comes a lot of trials and tribulations , and I think her goal is to just give people a very realistic glimpse of where she is in her life right now . " Scott has noted songs such as " Hear My Call " and " Quick " as reflective of the " darkest moments " in her life and has said that much of the album 's music developed from studio jams and freestyle sessions . In an interview for Metro , she said of the " largely improvised " recording process :

I went into a studio with no lyrics , nothing written out . I got together a great group ? featuring Adam Blackstone on bass and Randy Bowland on guitar ? and just put them in a studio and got them to play while I improvised lyrics . From the first note , you could hear little tunes emerging , and that would inspire me to freestyle lyrics . We call it ' going in ' . You go inside yourself , inside your spirit , and you explore . It ? s exhausting . When we were done , there was a lot of whooping and hugging and high @-@ fiving . It ? s that kind of record .

= = Release and promotion = =

The album was released in the United States on June 21 , 2011 , on Scott 's own imprint label , Blues Babe Records , distributed by Warner Bros. Records , her first release by the label . It is the first release under the distribution deal between Blues Babe and Warner Bros. It was released on June 27 in the United Kingdom . On July 28 , Scott embarked on her Summer Block Party concert tour , which concluded on August 28 . The tour had Anthony Hamilton and Mint Condition as opening acts , Doug E. Fresh as host , and DJ Jazzy Jeff on turntables . Scott also promoted the album with performances on the television shows The Tonight Show with Jay Leno , Jimmy Kimmel Live ! and Live with Regis and Kelly . She headlined the Essence Music Festival on July 1 .

On April 11 , Scott released the promotional single " Shame " on her Soundcloud account . It features the rapper Eve and the vocal group The A Group . Its music video was filmed at the Cecil B. Moore Recreational Center in Philadelphia , Pennsylvania , where Eve and the rapper Black Thought were in attendance . Scott said in an interview for CNN that she spent several summers at the recreation center and that it was at risk of being demolished . The video was premiered on April 13 on Essence.com. It was later released as the album 's second single in the United Kingdom . The album 's first single , " So in Love " featuring Anthony Hamilton , was released on June 26 . It spent nine weeks on the US Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , peaking at number 10 on the chart , one week on the Billboard Hot 100 , peaking at number 97 , and three weeks on Billboard 's Radio Songs , peaking at number 71 on the chart .

= = Commercial performance = =

The album debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 chart , with first @-@ week sales of 135 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . It was her first number @-@ one album in the US . It sold 55 @,@ 000 copies in its second week on the Billboard 200 . As of May 2015 , The Light of the Sun had sold 479 @,@ 000 copies in the US .

The album debuted at number 83 on the Canadian Albums Chart . In the Netherlands , the album peaked at number 51 and spent two weeks on the Mega Album Top 100 chart . In France , it reached number 103 and spent one week on the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique 's albums chart . In Belgian Wallonia , the album reached number 99 and spent one week on the Ultratop 50 Albums chart . In the United Kingdom , it debuted at number 69 on the UK Albums Chart and at number 14 on the R & B Albums Chart .

= = Critical reception = =

The Light of the Sun received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 73 , based on 15 reviews . Mikael Wood from Entertainment Weekly complimented its " earnest introspection and earthy textures " , and observed " a distinctly early @-@ aughties vibe " . In The New York Times , Jon Pareles praised Scott 's " proudly and forthrightly feminine " themes and said the songs are " springy with a sense of improvisation , both in the rhythms and in their elaborate vocal overlays " . The Washington Post 's Bill Friskics @-@ Warren noted its " sumptuous orchestration , jazzy flourishes and neo @-@ soul beats " , and wrote , " The full range of human emotion , from defiance to hurt and hope , is expressed over the course of the album . " AllMusic 's Thom Jurek said that " Scott sounds more in control than ever ; her spoken and sung phrasing (now a trademark) , songwriting , and production instincts are all solid " . In the Chicago Tribune , Greg Kot wrote , " She ? s perfected a style that toggles between singing and conversing , and balances more conventional pop structure with spontaneity . " Caroline Sullivan in The Guardian noted its " uplifting sung @-@ spoken pieces " and wrote , " It 's Scott 's warm womanliness over the whole album that makes it a must @-@ hear . "

In a mixed review , Andy Gill from The Independent criticized Scott 's lyrics as " a sticky puddle of self @-@ regard " and found its songs " [un] developed much beyond a languid soul @-@ jazz

vamp " . Rolling Stone writer Jon Dolan gave the album three out of five stars and called her " trademark " musical style " warm and inviting , if rarely thrilling , neo @-@ soul " . Daryl Easlea of BBC Online wrote that it " at times [...] veers towards self @-@ indulgence , and some of its ideas are not fully followed through " , but complimented its " freewheeling vibe " and called it " a lovely , bittersweet album that celebrates the joy of life " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =