

= Bleed Like Me =

Bleed Like Me is the fourth studio album by American @-@ Scottish alternative rock band Garbage . It was released on April 11 , 2005 by A & E Records and Warner Bros. Records . The group chose a straight rock sound reminiscent of Garbage 's live performances instead of the electronica that permeated the previous album , Beautiful Garbage (2001) .

The first recording sessions for Bleed Like Me took place in March 2003 , but were mostly unproductive due to passive aggression between the band members , and a general lack of direction . As Garbage struggled to create the album , the band quietly split for four months starting October 2003 . They reunited under producer John King in Los Angeles , and following a guest appearance by Dave Grohl on " Bad Boyfriend " , the band found a renewed focus on production . Garbage recruited drummer Matt Walker and bassist Justin Meldal @-@ Johnsen for new recording sessions , and completed the album by the end of 2004 .

Following critical praise and high chart positions for its lead single " Why Do You Love Me " , Bleed Like Me had a strong opening week globally , debuting in the top five in eight countries , including the United Kingdom , Australia , and the United States .

= = Background = =

Garbage 's third album , Beautiful Garbage , had been promoted by a fourteen @-@ month world tour , which culminated in a run of North American shows co @-@ headlined with No Doubt and supported by The Distillers in October and November 2002 . Before the tour started , the band spent two weeks in Smart Studios ? their recording studio in Madison , Wisconsin ? to write new material for their upcoming album . Upon completion of the tour in December 2002 , the group took some time off ; Shirley Manson returned to her native Scotland , while Butch Vig completed production work on albums by AFI and Jessy Moss . The band regrouped in February 2003 to perform " Pride (In the Name of Love) " at a MusiCares tribute to U2 frontman Bono . Immediately after the event , they returned to Madison to continue working on their follow @-@ up record .

= = Recording and production = =

= = = Initial recording and band breakdown = = =

On the first day in the studio , Garbage composed a new track , " Right Between the Eyes " , in thirty minutes . Other tracks written during the early sessions were " Hangin ' with the Bitches " and " Never Be Free " (with John 5) . Vig said that the quick start made the band feel optimistic and gave the impression that the album would be completed as rapidly as in six months , but " [the album] took a slow spiral downhill " . Recording for the album was halted during the summer when Manson underwent surgery to remove a cyst on her right vocal cord , forcing her to recuperate until August 2003 . On September 10 , a backhoe careened into the outer walls of Smart Studios , causing extensive damage . Both Garbage and the band Paris , Texas had been working on their albums . The sessions were permeated by passive @-@ aggressive tensions and an overall lack of artistic focus . According to Vig , " there were a lot of personal arguments and we couldn 't agree on songs " . Manson suffered writer 's block and had trouble writing lyrics , and Vig did not like the way the songs sounded . The drummer said that the group frequently argued during production , and that the entire band almost quit . Duke Erikson said that nobody could agree about the music 's direction , and the band was on the verge of breaking up . He said , " when you lose that common bond of the music , you 've got nothing " . Eventually , the group suffered " a complete and utter band meltdown " in October , leading the band members splitting and taking a break from the sessions .

Vig left the studio and returned to Los Angeles . Over the Christmas period , he encountered excited Garbage fans eager to hear about the album 's progress . Not wanting to disappoint them , he disclosed some song titles to them ; after this encounter he realised that the band still had a

future . During the break , Vig met Dave Grohl of Foo Fighters in a party , and casually asked if he would drum on a Garbage track , " Bad Boyfriend " , as Vig had been frustrated with the song 's existing drum track .

= = = Regrouping = = =

At the beginning of 2004 , the band decided to try to salvage the album , taking their management 's suggestion to work with an external producer for the first time . The musicians also decided that neutral territory would be beneficial , and went to Los Angeles . Dust Brother John King was hired to produce " Bad Boyfriend " , " Space Can Come Through Anyone " , and " It 's All Over But the Crying " . Drummer Matt Chamberlain and bassist Justin Meldal @-@ Johnsen were hired to perform on the songs . The recordings were completed in King 's studio The Boat and Sound City in Van Nuys . Towards the end of the recording sessions , Grohl spent a day performing on drums for " Bad Boyfriend " . The band said his performance was " raising the bar " for the record , and Vig said that Grohl " brought a different energy level to the song " , which Erikson and Steve Marker tried to follow with their guitar playing . This influenced most of the songs that followed ; the musicians wanted the songs to be " scrappy and primal sounding " .

The experience with King , despite only resulting in the completion of one track , " Bad Boyfriend " , gave the band perspective and direction . Manson said that because the band members still had problems speaking to each other , King could not get much work out of the band , so they realized that they needed to work out their differences and was the catalyst for the band getting back together and working harmoniously . Vig said that the tensions led the band members to become " burned out on each other " , and that reuniting made them feel able to play " ... fast and furious ? as if our lives depended on it " . Manson overcame her writer 's block and began to inject political slants into her lyrics , matching them with some new material the band wrote immediately after the King sessions ; both " Metal Heart " and " Boys Wanna Fight " referenced the 2003 Invasion of Iraq . Despite a plan to record some material with producer Tony Hoffer , the band decided to complete the rest of the album themselves . Erikson later said , " It was kind of seductive to think that maybe someone else [would] solve all of our problems , but in the end you gotta do it yourself " .

Feeling that previous album Beautiful Garbage seemed fractured , the band decided to use their live sound ; Vig said that he wanted " the pumping energy that all the best raw rock records have " . The band decided that their fourth album would have a straightforward rock sound , instead of a reliance upon electronica and computer interventions . The musicians composed separately at their home studios , sending each other tracks through e @-@ mail and couriers , and the band returned to Wisconsin to finish the album . Bleed Like Me emerged from a collage of samples and loops , and this time the sound was simpler . Erikson said that rather than production , they depended on the songs . Vig opted to focus on the production duties and leave the drums to guest musicians such as Grohl , whom he considered better at the instrument than him . He also played more guitars on the album , which he found liberating . As a result , drummer Matt Walker also played on several tracks on the album , while Meldal @-@ Johnsen played bass guitar . Most of Manson 's vocals were recorded at Vig 's home studio , GrungelsDead .

On October 18 , the band began mixing the album . Some songs were mixed several times ; " Sex Is Not the Enemy " was re @-@ recorded three times during the mixing process , " Right Between the Eyes " was recalled from mastering twice , and the band included live strings at the last minute on " Happy Home " . While the project 's working title was Hands on a Hard Body , after the 1997 documentary of the same name , when Manson announced the album 's release in November 2004 , she confirmed that it would be titled Bleed Like Me . By December 6 , 2004 , the album was officially completed . It was mastered in New York City ; the initial mastering was completed on December 15 , 2004 , and the final master was ready for January 6 , 2005 .

= = Composition = =

Bleed Like Me is a departure from the heavily @-@ electronic music of previous albums Version 2

@.@ 0 and Beautiful Garbage in favor of a basic alternative rock sound . Vig said that while the band tried to figure out a new sound for the record , they " went back to getting great sounds from guitars " . The band tried a more spontaneous approach ; Manson did most of her singing in the first take and the drums were recorded in a way " that everything was not perfectly balanced ? and not so electronic " . The band members tried to translate the energy of the band 's live performances onto the album ; Marker said that the album showed that above all , Garbage is " a loud rock band " . Vig still thought that some of the songs resembled the band 's earlier material , such as " Metal Heart " , with " a lot of weird electronics that Steve and Duke did , as well as some pretty gnarly guitar . "

The lyrics of Bleed Like Me talk about relationships and political themes ; Manson said , " the last few years ... have been very worrying and you 'd have to be dead to not have some kind of political view at the moment " , and that after many years being insecure about articulating her feelings writing lyrics , she found herself confident that she could express her ideas and sentiment of being " very out of kilter with a lot of the common thoughts of today " in her music . " Boys Wanna Fight " criticizes world affairs and " Sex Is Not the Enemy " is about moral guardians , inspired by the outcry caused by Janet Jackson 's wardrobe malfunction at the 2004 Super Bowl . The songs about relationships follow Manson 's tendency to discuss dark topics and emotions ; " Bleed Like Me " discusses problems with empathy and " Bad Boyfriend " is about " a predatory female meeting a predatory man " . The album closer " Happy Home " is about conflict within the band and in the wider world during production , the search of forgiveness , peace and coming to terms with one 's place in a chaotic world .

= = Promotional tour = =

Garbage launched the Bleed Like Me World Tour promoting the record on March 29 , 2005 , with a concert in Paris . The tour visited North America , Europe and Australia , and encompassed headline performances , rock festivals , and television and radio shows . Former Jane 's Addiction bassist Eric Avery left Alanis Morissette 's backing band to perform with Garbage for the tour . Matt Walker played drums in the August 22 concert in Chicago because Vig had to depart for his mother 's funeral . After being initially organized low @-@ key , the tour was moved into large venues when Bleed Like Me and its lead single " Why Do You Love Me " became surprise hits outside the U.S. In September , the band canceled concerts planned for the following month in Europe , and released a press statement saying that the band members had overextended themselves . The tour concluded with a concert in Perth , Australia on October 1 , after six months of concerts .

In 2012 , Manson recalled , " The making of this record was very sad for me . Being the only girl in a gang of four can get pretty lonely . We were all struggling to find our chemistry together , and as a result , the experience of making and promoting this was tense and unenjoyable . Ironically , our shows were selling out every night . But after a while , we decided that we needed to go home to lick our wounds . "

= = Critical reception = =

Bleed Like Me received mixed to positive reviews from music critics . Review aggregator Metacritic , which assigns a weighted mean rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , reported an average score of 56 based on 18 reviews . Entertainment Weekly 's Tom Sinclair rated the album a B + , complimenting the " humongous hooks " , and Kerrang ! gave Bleed Like Me 4 out of 5 , describing it as the " most exciting , touching , and most painfully human material they 've put out in years " . Rolling Stone reviewer David Fricke awarded the album three and a half stars out of five , writing that " the first two @-@ thirds of Bleed Like Me is easily the best sustained run of studio Garbage since the opening half of their 1995 debut " , but that the final tracks had " a sameness ? a feeling of roaring in circles " . Sal Cinquemani of Slant also awarded it three and a half stars out of five ; he praised the new sound and wrote that " a few of the songs (" Run Baby Run " and " Right Between the Eyes " in particular) have all the right ingredients but lack the venom present on the

group 's first two releases " . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic gave Bleed Like Me three stars out of five , writing that the album was enjoyable if outdated in its musical approach " as if the band doesn 't quite know how to do anything else but sound like it 's the heyday of post @-@ grunge alt @-@ rock . " This opinion was shared by Yahoo ! Music 's Sharon O ? Connell , who wrote that despite the intelligent songs with expertise in " muscly , alt. rock lick or the bubblegum pop hook " , Bleed Like Me " strikes a depressingly dated note " .

Writing for The A.V. Club , Nathan Rabin said the album 's lyrics lacked an emotional punch . He wrote stating that it " approaches a kind of shimmering technical perfection , but remains strangely , stubbornly uninvolved " . Betty Clarke of The Guardian wrote , " while Manson 's changeling vocals are always worth listening to , Garbage 's songs often aren 't . " Philip Robertson of PopMatters awarded the album four out of ten , and said the music sounds manufactured in its too @-@ polished manner , and that " much of what is brought to the fore on this latest musical foray is an earnest attempt at building on the marginal success of their previous power @-@ pop / rock submissions . "

= = Commercial performance = =

Bleed Like Me debuted at number four on the Billboard 200 with 73 @,@ 000 copies sold in its first week , becoming the band 's first top @-@ 10 album on the chart . It fell to number 24 the following week , selling 32 @,@ 000 copies . By 2011 , the album had sold 284 @,@ 000 copies in the United States . Bleed Like Me debuted at number four on the UK Albums Chart , selling 27 @,@ 375 copies in its first week . The album had sold 84 @,@ 339 copies in the United Kingdom as of July 2007 , and on July 22 , 2013 , it was certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) . Bleed Like Me also charted within the top 10 in Australia , Belgium , Canada , Finland , France , Mexico , and Sweden .

The album was preceded by the lead single " Why Do You Love Me " , which peaked at number seven on the UK Singles Chart ? Garbage 's highest @-@ charting single since 1996 's " Stupid Girl " ? while also making the top 10 of the Modern Rock Tracks in the United States , and becoming their first single since 1999 's " Special " to enter the Billboard Hot 100 , at number 97 .

= = Track listing = =

All songs written and composed by Garbage , except where noted .

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =