

= Trouble (Natalia Kills album) =

Trouble is the second studio album by English recording artist Natalia Kills . It was released on 3 September 2013 by Cherrytree Records through will.i.am Music Group and Interscope . Recording for the album started in early 2012 and took place in Los Angeles and New York . During that time , Kills was accompanied by some producers , including Jeff Bhasker , who served as Trouble 's executive producer . Bhasker handled a multitude of production tasks , including production , instrumentation and songwriting .

Kills eschewed the sound and lyrical content of her debut album Perfectionist (2011) in favour of a heavier atmosphere , driven by strong percussion and electric guitars . The lyrics , largely co-written by Kills and Bhasker , explore the former 's problematic childhood and adolescence . Accompanying the album , its cover art was designed by Kills and symbolizes the album 's main themes . Upon release , music critics commended the album 's cohesion , and perceived an evolution in Kills ' songwriting .

The album was announced with the release of a music video for " Controversy " in September 2012 . Three singles were commissioned from Trouble , accompanied by respective music videos ? " Problem " and " Saturday Night " preceded the album 's release ; later , a remix of the album 's title track served as its third single . The record failed to chart internationally with the exception of the US Billboard 200 , where it peaked at number 70 .

= = Background and recording = =

Kills started recording new material approximately a year after the release of her debut studio album Perfectionist . Primarily produced by Martin " Cherry Cherry Boom Boom " Kierszenbaum and Jeff Bhasker , the set was released in March 2011 to mixed critical reception . It yielded three singles which , similarly to its parent album , performed moderately on European charts . During that year and the following , Kills participated in other musical endeavors , most notably collaborating with groups . She provided guest vocals for Far East Movement 's song " 2 Is Better " and guested on " 1974 " by The Knux . Kills featured on the duo LMFAO 's single " Champagne Showers " , which became a mild success internationally , and collaborated with DJ Tatana on his single " You Can 't Get In My Head (If You Don 't Get In My Bed) " .

Trouble was primarily recorded in the Enormous Studios , located in Los Angeles . Other songs were finished in the city 's Record Plant and the New York City @-@ based Jungle City Studios . Emile 's Studio served as a secondary recording location for " Watching You " , which was produced and instrumented by its owner , Emile Haynie . Unlike Perfectionist , a limited number of producers was enlisted for Trouble ; Kills worked with the musicians Guillaume Dobet , Glass John , and Haynie for the first time . Bhasker was assigned for executive production and several tasks , including production , instrumentation and programming , as well as post @-@ production processes . He characterised his production on Trouble as " some of his best work " and stated that it possesses " dark angles " . Bhasker recorded background vocals for some tracks , such as " Devils Don 't Fly " and " Problem " . The electric guitar was recorded by Danielle Haim and Jimmy Messer , whereas Haynie played the keyboards . The programming was handled by Dobet , Haynie , and the American producer Mike Will Made It . Messer , Pawel Sek Tyler Sam Johnson and Rob Suhecki served as engineers for select songs of the album . Bhasker and Tony Maserati mixed Trouble and its mastering was controlled by Chris Athens at his eponymous studio .

= = Composition = =

According to Kills , Trouble represents an integral departure from her debut studio album . Kills described this sound as mixing hip @-@ hop @-@ resembling strong percussion with electric guitar @-@ led instrumentals . Writing for The New Zealand Herald , Paula Yeoman deemed the album 's music as " darker pop " , while finding it resemblant of Lana Del Rey , Lady Gaga and Gwen Stefani 's works . AllMusic 's Matt Collar opined that the overall sound of the record was influenced by the

latter , Grimes and Courtney Love .

Similarly , the lyricism of *Trouble* deviates from that of *Perfectionist* . While the latter explored Kills ' ambitions and perfectionism , the former narrates her upbringing and adolescence , when she left her home and pursued dangerous behavior . Kills stated that she conceptualized the album in order to depict her experiences as a teenager and feelings of " having no control " , as she did not identify with recent , " happy " popular music . She regarded this attempt as difficult , since it involved the confrontation of her past problems ; nonetheless , Kills desired to reflect them in the songs ' lyrics as she felt they had defined her personality . She also stated that " once [she] started writing , [she] couldn 't stop " and compared the process to a " confession " .

" *Television* " and " *Rabbit Hole* " contrast their dark , " sinister " lyricism with their uptempo production . The former , described by Romy Olutski from *Harper 's Bazaar* as a " more alternative " song , opens with the sound of police sirens and its instrumentation progressively introduces electric guitars and percussion with a vocoder effect . The latter contains explicit references to recreational drugs and sexual intercourse while utilizing the metaphor of " falling down a rabbit hole " to falling in love . The pop @-@ styled " *Problem* " is influenced by rock styles such as garage and pop rock ; the last genre is also incorporated in *Trouble* 's title track , which finds Kills singing in a raw and " exhausted " voice backed by " arena rock choirs " .

" *Daddy 's Girl* " , which was denoted by Kills as her favorite from the album , places a sample of American music duo Hall & Oates ' single " *Rich Girl* " over a " thumping beat " . Described as a " love song " , it discusses her mother 's support and " devotion " towards Kills ' father when he was incarcerated . Second single " *Saturday Night* " employs synthesizers on a new wave @-@ based instrumental . The track was described as autobiographical and discusses growing up in a house where domestic abuse occurs ; Kills also deemed it a song about " feeling OK when everything is not " . The sole ballads found on the album are " *Devils Don 't Fly* " and " *Marlboro Lights* " . The main instrument utilized in the latter is piano , while the former displays more instrumentation , including the organ and keyboards . Writing on behalf of *MuchMusic* , journalist Allison observed Motown influences on " *Outta Time* " , a melancholic love song .

= = Release and promotion = =

The announcement of Kills ' second studio album was made with the release of a music video for its first promotional single " *Controversy* " in mid @-@ September 2012 . During an interview with *Glamour* , Kills explained that it served as an introductory track to the album " because it 's a verbal collage of things we see on a daily basis that we turn a blind eye to , especially in the Internet age , where you can literally see anything and everything instantly . (...) We all laugh and joke when it 's someone else 's suffering . " The album 's first single , " *Problem* " , was digitally released by Interscope in mid @-@ March 2013 , followed in June by its music video . In the same month , " *Saturday Night* " was chosen as *Trouble* 's second single . It received mostly positive reviews from music critics .

Kills attended an after @-@ party for the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards , held on 25 August 2013 in Brooklyn , New York City , where she performed various songs from *Trouble* . She previously stated she wished her performance to be " remotely accurate " to the sound and packaging of the album . *Trouble* was officially released on 3 September 2013 as a digital download in the United States and Canada . A CD release proceeded in the US and Canada on 10 and 17 September 2013 . " *Outta Time* " was released as the album 's second promotional single , free of charge , coinciding with the US release of *Trouble* . On the same day , a lyric video for the song was released on YouTube .

For the US release of *Trouble* , " *Boys Don 't Cry* " was premiered on the website of the magazine *Glamour* . On 18 October 2013 , a remix of the song was available on *Cosmopolitan* . To promote the album and its singles , Kills was interviewed by a number of magazines and websites , including *Billboard* , *Teen Vogue* , *Refinery29* , and *Playboy* . On 9 October 2013 , Kills performed at a Chicago nightclub , and on 31 December 2013 she performed at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel . She also performed an acoustic set for Yahoo ! Music . During a promotional trip in New Zealand ,

Kills attended the Vodafone New Zealand Music Awards .

= = Reception = =

Matt Collar of AllMusic awarded it a rating of three and a half stars out of five , characterising it as a " pantomime that artists have been trying to pull off ever since Madonna sang about a sexual experience so revelatory it gave her back her virginity " . He also noted that Kills ' personality , although similar to that of Pink and Lady Gaga , was " enough [...] to keep your attention " . Writing in Idolator , Sam Lansky highlighted Bhasker 's production , which he credited with making the album cohesive . Lansky opined that Kills had evolved as a songwriter and given legitimacy and " richness " to Trouble 's songs . So So Gay Magazine praised Trouble as an evolution from her previous album Perfectionist , and stated that Kills " remains largely unknown and underrated ; astonishing considering the quality of her two albums . She ? s definitely some sort of anti @-@ princess of pop . "

On behalf of The New Zealand Herald , Paula Yeoman stated that pop listeners " should pay attention to " the album , to which she gave a rating of three and a half out of five points . Mike Wass of Idolator chose Trouble as his favourite album of 2013 , while David Byrne and Tony Peregrin for Windy City Times said the album was one of 2013 's " excellent efforts " .

= = Commercial performance = =

The record entered the US Billboard 200 at number 70 , becoming her highest @-@ peaking album on the chart . It opened with sales of 6 @,@ 000 copies , almost half of Perfectionist 's total sold copies , and left the chart the following week .

= = Track listing = =

Song credits obtained from the liner notes of Trouble .

Notes

^ a denotes a co @-@ producer

^ b denotes an additional producer

Sample Credits

" Daddy 's Girl " contains elements and excerpts from " Rich Girl " , as performed by Hall & Oates and written by Daryl Hall from the album Bigger than Both of Us .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Trouble .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =