

= Thank Me Later =

Thank Me Later is the debut studio album by Canadian recording artist Drake , released on June 15 , 2010 , by Aspire Music Group , Young Money Entertainment , Cash Money Records , and Universal Motown Records . Production for the album took place at various recording studios during 2009 to 2010 and was mostly produced by longtime collaborators Noah " 40 " Shebib and Boi @-@ 1da . It also featured contributions from Timbaland , Swizz Beatz , Nicki Minaj , Lil Wayne , The @-@ Dream , and Kanye West , among others .

Thank Me Later has a languorous , ambient production that incorporates moody synthesizers , sparse beats , obscured keyboards , minor keys , and subtle arrangements . Thematically , the album focuses on Drake 's introduction to fame and his romances over the course of confessional , club @-@ oriented , and sexual songs . Drake 's emotionally transparent , self @-@ deprecating lyrics are delivered in both rapped and subtly sung verses , and explore feelings of doubt , insecurity , and heartbreak .

Upon its release , the album received generally positive reviews from music critics , who complimented Drake 's personal themes and drew musical comparisons to the works of hip hop artists Kanye West and Kid Cudi . Following an anticipated release , it debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 on first @-@ week sales of 447 @,@ 000 copies , and attained platinum certification in Canada within its debut week . All four of the album 's singles became hits on the Billboard Hot 100 , including the top @-@ 10 hit " Find Your Love " . Thank Me Later was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America and , as of August 2015 , has sold 1 @,@ 800 @,@ 000 copies in the US .

= = Background = =

Released in February 2009 , Drake 's mixtape So Far Gone proceeded his series of early mixtapes and achieved unexpected critical and commercial success , earning him two Grammy Award @-@ nominations and producing the hit single " Best I Ever Had " . The single reappeared on his debut EP , which was released after a bidding competition among labels and his signing with Universal Motown Records amid support from high @-@ profile hip hop artists such as Kanye West , Jay @-@ Z , and Lil Wayne . Drake followed @-@ up on So Far Gone 's success with several guest appearances on other rappers ' works , adding to the hype surrounding him at the time .

In an interview for Complex , Drake stated that his debut album will be " a solid hip hop album " and musically distinct from his So Far Gone mixtape , which received negative comparisons to Kanye West 's 808s & Heartbreak ( 2008 ) . He expressed a desire to work with André 3000 , Kid Cudi , and Sade for the album . In an interview for MTV , Drake cited Nas and André 3000 as influences for parts of Thank Me Later , stating " Nas was somebody that I used to listen to his raps and never understood how he did it . I always wanted to understand how he painted those pictures and his bar structure . I went back and really studied Nas and André 3000 and then came back with this album " . In comparing the album to his previous work , he stated " It 's gonna be bigger , it 's gonna sound happier . More victorious , ' cause that 's where I 'm at in my life " . He told Entertainment Weekly that , " I didn 't make this album for commercial purposes . A lot of the verses are extremely long . I just made it to share with people . I hope they can enjoy " .

= = Recording and production = =

Drake resumed work on the album in October 2009 , following an onstage injury from a July 2009 concert . Recording sessions for the album took place at several recording studios , including Metalworks Studios , BLD & DSTY , and Cherry Beach Studios in Toronto , Nightbird Studios in West Hollywood , Gee Jam Studios in Portland , Jamaica , The Setai Hotel Recording Studio and The Hit Factory in Miami , Blast Off Studios and Rock the Mic in New York , Glenwood Studios in Los Angeles , Triangle Sounds Studios in Atlanta , Takeover Studios in Houston , and Avex Recording Studio in Honolulu . The track " Up All Night " was recorded on a bus " somewhere in

Lexington ", and " Unforgettable " was recorded on a bus " somewhere in New Orleans ". The album was mixed at Tree Sound Studios , Blast Off Studios , Gee Jam Studios , Cherry Beach Studios , The Setai Hotel Recording Studio , Metalworks Studios , Stadium Red in New York , and Studio 306 in Toronto . Lil Wayne , Cortez Bryant , Gee Robinson , Ronald " Slim " Williams , and Bryan " Birdman " Williams served as executive producers for the album .

Producers Noah " 40 " Shebib and Boi @-@ 1da handled most of the tracks ' programming and instrumentation . Besides his Toronto @-@ based producer team , Drake also collaborated with European producer Crada , who previously worked on Kid Cudi 's 2009 debut album *Man on the Moon : The End of Day* . Drake told *Entertainment Weekly* that he collaborated with an Indie pop band named Francis and the Lights . Kevin Rudolf also participated in the album 's recording , contributing with keyboards on " Show Me a Good Time " and " Find Your Love " . R & B singer Mary J. Blige contributed additional vocals to the track " Fancy " . In March 2010 , Drake confirmed that he had recorded a track with Eminem and Dr. Dre . In early November 2009 , Lil Wayne released an official statement explaining that *Thank Me Later* had been completed , though Drake later commented that he was still working on the album . On April 26 , 2010 , Drake announced to a crowd during a show that he had finished recording and had turned in a final copy of the album .

= = Music and lyrics = =

*Thank Me Later* has a languorous , ambient production and is characterized by subtle arrangements , obscured keyboards , skittering snare drums , reverbed percussion , sparse beats , moody synthesizers , and minor keys . Lyrically , *Thank Me Later* has moody , introspective subject matter , and mainly centers around Drake 's introduction to fame and his romances . The *Toronto Star* describes the content as " about the sorts of doubts , excesses , betrayals and creeping paranoid suspicions that arrive hand @-@ in @-@ hand with celebrity . " Music journalist Greg Kot describes the album as " personal and eccentric , the journal of a flawed , self @-@ doubting regular guy rather than a strutting icon @-@ in @-@ waiting . "

The album 's first @-@ half generally discusses fame directly with confessional songs about unrequited love , money , and women , followed by club @-@ oriented and sexual songs . Drake 's lyrics explore feelings of doubt , insecurity , and heartbreak , while exhibiting both emotional and grammatical malapropisms . Araba Appiagyei @-@ Dankah of *The Harvard Crimson* characterizes Drake as " self @-@ deprecating , privileged , [ and ] lovesick " . He raps in a nasal voice and sings subtly , with a flow generally in A @-@ B @-@ AB form . Music journalist Jody Rosen observes " emotionally transparent " rapping that eschews the " thuggy " style previously popular in hip hop , finding Drake 's style to be " subtle and rueful rather than loud and lively " .

Music writers liken *Thank Me Later* to Kanye West 's *808s & Heartbreak* . Nathan Rabin of *The A.V. Club* writes that , " musically , Drake favors warm washes of synthesizers that create a melancholy , fragile mood redolent of *808s & Heartbreak* . " Comparisons are also drawn to *Man on the Moon : The End of Day* by Kid Cudi , a protégé of West . By contrast , Joshua Ostroff of *The Globe and Mail* feels that *Thank Me Later* 's " emotional navel @-@ gazing lacks West 's often @-@ suffocating self @-@ pity and offers a proper synthesis of rap and R & B . " Jeff Weiss of the *Los Angeles Times* views that the album ignores West 's celebratory side " in search of anthems for the easily alienated . "

" Fireworks " references the divorce of Drake 's parents and alludes to his brief fling with Rihanna . " Karaoke " features background keyboards that add to the song 's 1980s musical influence , with lyrics about the difficulty of relationships . In " The Resistance " , Drake worries about fame changing him , with lyrics veering from his ailing grandmother to a one @-@ night stand that resulted in an abortion . " Over " incorporates an orchestral backdrop , and according to Michael Cragg of *musicOMH* , contains three hooks . The artful song is about the elation and confusion that accompanies fame . " Show Me a Good Time " opens and closes with a squeaky yelling sound . On the song , Drake talks addresses hip hop listeners who find him inauthentic . " Up All Night " has menacing strings , and Drake boastfully rapping about his nightlife , while trading lines with Nicki Minaj . The club song " Fancy " has a predominant hook , looped samples , and backwards strings .

It is an ode to women who spend hours primping in preparation for the nightlife . The song features vocals by producer Swizz Beatz and T.I. , with additional harmonies by Mary J. Blige at the song 's conclusion . " Shut It Down " is a piano ballad and slow jam .

" Light Up " features loud synth drums and plaintive piano strings . The Jay @-@ Z @-@ collaboration is a critique on the hip hop industry , its detrimental effects , and the trappings of being an artist : " While all my closest friends out partyin ' / I 'm just here makin ' the music that they party to , " while Jay @-@ Z gives advice : " Drake , here ? s how they gonna come at you / with silly rap feuds , trying to distract you . " Jay @-@ Z expands on the album 's overarching theme of self @-@ doubt : " And since no good deed go unpunished / I 'm not as cool with niggaz as I once was / I once was cool as the Fonz was / But these bright lights turned me to a monster . " " Miss Me " has Lil Wayne rapping jokes , including a crude punch line about sucking " the brown " off his penis and subsequently groaning , " Ewww , that 's nasty . " " Cece 's Interlude " has a Prince @-@ like LinnDrum and transparent lyrics addressing a girl : " I wish I / Wasn 't famous / I wish I / Was still in school / So that I could have you in my dorm room / I would put it on you crazy . " The pop song " Find Your Love " was produced by Kanye West and bears similarity to his 2008 song " Heartless " .

= = Release and promotion = =

Thank Me Later was one of the most anticipated hip hop releases of 2010 . Universal Motown Records announced its release date as June 15 , 2010 , before it leaked on June 1 in its entirety . Drake responded on Twitter : " I gave away free music for years so we 're good over here ... just allow it to be the soundtrack to your summer and Enjoy ! June 15th ! " The album was released June 15 , 2010 by Aspire Music Group , with Young Money Entertainment under a joint venture with Cash Money Records and distribution by Universal Motown . When Thank Me Later was released , it debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 in the United States and sold 447 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . It also debuted at number one in Canada with first @-@ week sales of 31 @,@ 000 copies . By August 2015 , the album has sold 1 @,@ 800 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

In promotion of Thank Me Later , Drake performed at the 9 : 30 Club in Washington , D.C. on June 13 , 2010 . On June 15 , Drake made an in @-@ store appearance at a Best Buy @-@ outlet in New York City 's Union Square in promotion of the album 's release , interacting with fans and signing copies of the album . On the day of its release , Drake also made interviews for several radio stations through the phone . A planned free concert by Drake at South Street Seaport 's Pier 17 that day was cancelled by concert organizers and authorities after unruly behavior within crowds and unsafe overcrowding . Following the cancellation , Drake appeared at Manhattan nightclub Amnesia for an album @-@ release party sponsored by radio station Hot 97 .

Four singles were released from the album ? " Over " on March 8 , 2010 , " Find Your Love " on May 5 , " Miss Me " on June 1 , and " Fancy " on August 3 . All four singles reached the top 40 of the Billboard Hot 100 , including " Miss Me " at number 15 and " Over " at number 14 . " Find Your Love " charted at number five on the Hot 100 and also reached number 10 in Canada .

= = Critical reception = =

Thank Me Later received generally positive reviews from critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 75 , based on 26 reviews . Tim Sendra of AllMusic complimented its " rich and nuanced production and Drake 's thoughtful , playful , and intense lyrics " , and felt that his " willingness to be introspective and honest ... makes [ him ] unique and helps make Thank Me Later special . " Ryan Dombal of Pitchfork Media commented that " Drake vies for superstardom while embracing his non @-@ drug @-@ dealing , non @-@ violent , non @-@ dire history-- one that connects with most rap fans in a completely reasonable way . " Nathan Rabin of The A.V. Club commented that " on his cohesive , bittersweet , assured debut , he proves himself worthy of the sometimes @-@ blinding spotlight . " Rolling Stone 's Jody Rosen found Drake to be " in total command of a style that would have been hard to imagine dominating hip @-@ hop a few years ago " . Ben Detrick of Spin

observed " dynamics like few other hip @-@ hop albums before it " and commented that " Drake 's personal anecdotes lack the bravado of bullet @-@ wound boasts , but they 're intimate and lyrically detailed enough to draw blood . "

Daniel Roberts of PopMatters said that no track on the album was better than " Best I Ever Had " and felt that Drake has an " identity crisis " on the album , finding it " good at parts , but never great " . Josuha Errett of Now found most of the album " just thankless " , commenting that Drake " complains about fame way too much " , and called him " humorless " . In his consumer guide for MSN Music , Robert Christgau called Drake " neither thug nor thug wannabe ... plenty talented , but pretty shallow and without much focus as a mack " , and wrote of the record : " Pleasing and hookful though it be , [ it ] consistently bemoans the confusing emoluments and accoutrements of fame " . Pete Cashmore from NME believed " it 's those constant and predictable superstar interjections that prevent the album from standing out as much as it had potential to do . " Slant Magazine 's Jesse Cataldo viewed Drake 's " insistent navel @-@ gazing " as a flimsy " concept " , but commended the album for " nail [ ing ] confused introspection in a genre famous for willful misrepresentation of self . "

At the end of 2010 , Thank Me Later appeared on several critics ' top @-@ ten lists of the year 's best albums , including Time , who ranked it fifth best , and Rolling Stone , who named it the seventh best album of the year .

= = Track listing = =

? ( co . ) Co @-@ producer

Sample credits

" Fancy " contains elements and samples of " I Don 't Want to Play Around " , written by Aubrey Johnson and Henry Zant , and published by Ace Spec Music ( BMI )

" Unforgettable " contains elements and excerpts from " At Your Best " , performed by Aaliyah , written by Ronald Isley , Ernie Isley , Marvin Isley , O 'Kelly Isley , and Chris Jasper , and published by EMI April Music Inc ( ASCAP )

" Miss Me " contains elements and excerpts from " Wild Flower " , performed by Hank Crawford , written by Doug Edwards and Dave Richardson , and published by Nettwerk Tunes ( BMI )

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the album 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = = Chart succession = = =

= = Certifications = =