

= Good Kid , M.A.A.D City =

Good Kid , M.A.A.D City ( stylized as good kid , m.A.A.d city ) is the second studio album by American rapper Kendrick Lamar . The album was released on October 22 , 2012 , by Top Dawg Entertainment , Aftermath Entertainment , and was distributed by Interscope Records . The album serves as Lamar 's major label debut , after his signing to Aftermath and Interscope in early 2012 . It was preceded by the release of Kendrick 's debut studio album Section.80 ( 2011 ) , released exclusively through the iTunes Store independently .

The album was recorded mostly at several studios in California with producers such as Dr. Dre , Just Blaze , Pharrell Williams , Hit @-@ Boy , Scoop DeVille , Jack Splash and T @-@ Minus , among others . Billed as a " short film by Kendrick Lamar " on the album cover , the concept album follows the story of Lamar 's teenage experiences in the drug @-@ infested streets and gang lifestyle of his native Compton , California . Good Kid , M.A.A.D City received widespread acclaim from critics , who praised its thematic scope and Lamar 's lyrics . Good Kid M.A.A.D City earned Lamar four Grammy Award nominations at the 56th Grammy Awards including Album of the Year .

The album debuted at number two on the Billboard 200 chart , selling 242 @,@ 000 copies in its first week ? earning the highest first @-@ week hip hop album sales of 2012 from a male artist , along with the best @-@ selling debut from a male artist of the year . It became Lamar 's first album to enter the UK Albums Chart , peaking at number 16 , and entering the UK R & B Albums Chart at number two . The album was also named to many end @-@ of @-@ the @-@ year lists , often topping them . It was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) in August 2013 . By March 2015 , the album had sold 1 @,@ 400 @,@ 000 copies domestically , according to Nielsen SoundScan .

The album 's release was supported by five singles ? " The Recipe " featuring Dr. Dre , " Swimming Pools ( Drank ) " , " Backseat Freestyle " , " Poetic Justice " featuring Drake and " Bitch , Don 't Kill My Vibe " . All five singles received varied chart success . Lamar also went on a world tour between May and August 2013 , featuring the other members of the hip hop collective Black Hippy .

= = Background = =

After the release and success of his debut studio album Section.80 ( 2011 ) , Lamar signed a major label record deal with Interscope and Dr. Dre 's Aftermath . He told HipHopDX that he did not want to work with high @-@ profile producers , but with those he had established himself with , mainly producers from Top Dawg 's in @-@ house production team Digi + Phonics .

In an interview for XXL , Lamar said that the album would not sound like Section.80 , but will return to his Compton , California roots : " I couldn 't tell you what type of sound or where I 'ma be in the next five years as far as music ... Going back to the neighbourhood and going to different spots , chilling with my homeboys , put me back in that same space where we used to be , bringing back them thoughts , reminiscing how I was feeling . I got myself right back in that mode and I got inspired by that . So this album won 't sound like Section.80. Completely nothing like it . "

Lamar also said that the album will showcase the influence of his hometown : " The kid that 's trying to escape that influence , trying his best to escape that influence , has always been pulled back in because of circumstances that be " . Before the album 's title was officially revealed , fans had already been calling Lamar 's major label debut Good Kid , Mad City or Good Kid in a Mad City , as it was a nickname of some sort that Lamar had given himself . The album 's title mainly refers to Lamar 's childhood innocence and how the notorious city of Compton , California affected that and his life . After keeping the album title 's acronym concealed , Lamar later revealed M.A.A.D is an acronym with two meanings : " My Angry Adolescence Divided " and more importantly " My Angels on Angel Dust " , with Lamar stating : " That was me . I got laced . The reason why I don 't smoke , and it 's in the album . It 's in the story . It was just me getting my hands on the wrong thing at the wrong time , being oblivious to it . "

The cover artwork for Good Kid , M.A.A.D City fits to the concept of the album . The album cover features Kendrick Lamar , two of his uncles , and his grandfather , with the elders ' eyes censored .

Though there is no confirmed explanation for why Kendrick chose to do this , he explained that the reason why he had not censored his own eyes was that the story was told through his eyes , and the story is based around his experiences . The uncle who is holding Lamar also is displaying the Crips gang sign with his hand , which also fits the story of the album , and how Kendrick was stuck in a lifestyle of gangs and drugs . The poster above the head of Kendrick features him and his father .

= = Recording and production = =

Recording sessions for the album took place at PatchWerk Recording Studios in Atlanta , Encore Studios in Burbank , TDE Red Room in Carson , and " At [ Kendrick Lamar 's ] Mama 's Studio " in Los Angeles . Lamar stated Good Kid , M.A.A.D City would sound " nothing " like his previous album , Section.80 : " I couldn 't tell you what type of sound or where I 'ma be in the next five years as far as music , " he said . " It 's a big difference from the next project compared to the last . And that 's what happened with this album . Going back to the neighborhood and going to different spots , chilling with my homeboys , put me back in that same space where we used to be , bringing back them thoughts , reminiscing how I was feeling . I got myself right back in that mode and I got inspired by that . So this album won 't sound like Section.80. Completely nothing like it , " he told XXL . The first song Lamar and Dr. Dre ever worked on together was " Compton " , the twelfth track on the album , which serves as the standard edition 's closing track .

On August 15 , 2012 , Lady Gaga announced via Twitter , that she had collaborated with Lamar on a song called " Partynauseous " , for Good Kid , M.A.A.D City , and that it would be released on September 6 , 2012 . However , on August 23 , 2012 , Gaga announced that the song was no longer being released on that date and apologized to fans for the delay . Eventually , it was confirmed that Lady Gaga would not be featured on the album due to timing issues and creative differences . The song was later revealed to be re @-@ titled " Bitch , Don 't Kill My Vibe " . On November 8 , 2012 Gaga released the version she was featured on , which had her singing the chorus and a verse . Lamar expressed he was surprised and happy that Gaga released her version of the song , as it showed confidence in their work together .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Good Kid , M.A.A.D City has a low @-@ key , downbeat production , with atmospheric beats and subtle , indistinct hooks . It eschews contemporary hip hop tastes and generally features tight bass measures , subtle background vocals , and light piano . Writers draw comparisons of the music to Outkast 's 1998 album Aquemini . Andrew Nosnitsky of Spin cites the music 's " closest point of reference " as " the cold spaciousness of ATLiens @-@ era Outkast , but as the record progresses , that sound sinks slowly into the fusionist mud of those sprawling and solemn mid @-@ 2000s Roots albums . " Sasha Frere @-@ Jones of The New Yorker finds its use of " smooth " music as a backdrop for " rough " scenarios to be analogous to Dr. Dre 's G @-@ funk during the early 1990s , but adds that " Lamar often sounds like Drake ... whose various dreamy styles have very little to do with the legacy of the West . " Okayplayer 's Marcus Moore writes that its " expansive and brooding " instrumentals eschew " California 's glossy West Coast funk " for a " Dungeon Family aesthetic . "

Lyrically , the album chronicles Lamar 's experiences in his native Compton , California and its harsh realities , in a nonlinear narrative . The songs address issues such as economic disenfranchisement , retributive gang violence and downtrodden women , while analyzing their residual effects on individuals and families . Lamar introduces various characters and internal conflicts , including the contrast of his homesickness and love for Compton with the city 's plagued condition . Del F. Cowie of Exclaim ! observes a " transformation " by Lamar 's character " from a boisterous , impressionable , girl @-@ craving teenager to more spiritual , hard @-@ fought adulthood , irrevocably shaped by the neighbourhood and familial bonds of his precarious environment . " Slant Magazine 's Mark Collett writes that Lamar executes the character 's transition by " tempering the hedonistic urges of West Coast hip hop with the self @-@ reflective impulses of

the East Coast . " David Amidon of PopMatters views that the album provides a " sort of semi @-@ autobiographical character arc " , while MSN Music 's Robert Christgau writes that Lamar " softspokenly " enacts a " rap @-@ versus @-@ real dichotomy " .

The album features naturalistic , vérité @-@ like skits that dramatize the characters ' limitations . Jon Caramanica of The New York Times finds them to be a part of the album 's " narrative strategy " , with " prayers and conversations and different voices and recollections and interludes , all in service of one overarching story : Mr. Lamar 's tale of ducking Compton 's rougher corners to find himself artistically . " Pitchfork Media 's Jayson Greene feels that they reinforce the album 's theme of " the grounding power of family " , interpreting " family and faith " to be " the fraying tethers holding Lamar back from the chasm of gang violence that threatens to consume him . "

Lamar exhibits a tempered delivery on the album and raps with dense narratives , internal rhyme , double and triple time flow and multiple voices for different characters . Music journalist Jody Rosen characterizes him as " a storyteller , not a braggart or punch @-@ line rapper , setting spiritual yearnings and moral dilemmas against a backdrop of gang violence and police brutality . "

= = Singles = =

The album 's first single , " The Recipe " , was released on April 3 , 2012 . The song features his mentor , record producer and fellow rapper Dr. Dre and was produced by Scoop DeVille . It peaked at number 38 on Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs and at number 3 on Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles . Kendrick shot a video for it featuring Dr. Dre at a mansion in Los Angeles in May 2012 although it was never released . The album 's second single " Swimming Pools ( Drank ) " was released on July 31 , 2012 , as a digital download , while the music video premiered on August 3 , 2012 . The song became a hit , peaking at number 17 on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Swimming Pools ( Drank ) " was also certified gold in the United States by the RIAA .

The week of the album 's release , " Backseat Freestyle " debuted on the Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart at number 106 . It was later revealed to be released as the third single in the United Kingdom on January 7 , 2013 . The music video was released on January 2 , 2013 . Lamar 's father appears in the video . The song peaked at number 29 on the US Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs .

" Poetic Justice " was released third single in North America , featuring Drake and production from Scoop DeVille . The song began to impact American rhythmic contemporary radio on January 15 , 2013 . The song has since peaked at number 26 on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Poetic Justice " was also certified gold in the United States by the RIAA .

On March 9 , 2013 , Kendrick told Rap @-@ Up that his next single off the album would probably be " Bitch , Don 't Kill My Vibe " . On March 13 , 2013 , Jay Z 's engineer Young Guru premiered a snippet of the song 's official remix , featuring rapper Jay Z. Lamar called it an accomplishment to have a song with Jay Z featured on it . Shortly after the remix premiered he would confirm that , " Bitch , Don 't Kill My Vibe " would be the next single . The full version of the remix was premiered by Funkmaster Flex on March 17 , 2013 . The remix was released as the album 's fourth single to rhythmic contemporary radio on April 9 , 2013 . The song has since peaked at number 32 on the Billboard Hot 100 . The music video for the original version of the single was released on May 13 , 2013 . Comedian Mike Epps makes a cameo appearance in the video . The same day an extended version of the music video was released featuring a cameo from Juicy J , and a bonus clip of a new song by Schoolboy Q from his own respective major label debut album , Oxymoron ( 2014 ) .

On March 10 , 2015 , Lamar unexpectedly released the Target exclusive edition bonus track , " County Building Blues " , to iTunes as a promotional single .

= = Promotion = =

Before and after the album 's release , Kendrick toured as a supporting act with other various artists such as Drake and Steve Aoki . On May 5 , 2013 , he begun his first headlining tour with the Good Kid , M.A.A.D City World Tour , in West Palm Beach , Florida . The tour consisted of 23 headlining

shows , 22 international music festivals , and 15 United States music festivals . The tour ran through August 24 and also featured the other members of Black Hippy on all the US dates .

After titling the album " a short film " by Kendrick Lamar , in an interview with GQ he said " he plans on doing a short film to bring his story to life . " He also expressed interest in directing this short film too . Lamar also threw out names like Tristan Wilds to portray him , Taraji P. Henson ( as his mother ) and Rihanna ( as Sherane ) as potential names he 'd want to have if he could choose anybody to work with . On December 23 , 2013 , the music video for the song " Sing About Me " , was released . The video was directed by Darren Romanelli .

= = Critical reception = =

Good Kid , M.A.A.D City received widespread acclaim from critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream publications , the album received an average score of 91 , based on 36 reviews . Pitchfork 's Jayson Greene felt that " the miracle of this album is how it ties straightforward rap thrills " to its " weighty material " and narrative . David Amidon of PopMatters felt that the album is simultaneously accessible and substantial , as it can appeal to both underground and mainstream hip hop listeners . Fact magazine 's Joseph Morpurgo called it an autobiographical " triumph of breadth " and a " wide @-@ ranging , far @-@ reaching success " . Sputnikmusic found its reach comparable to Kanye West 's 2010 album My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy , " but with much subtler shades " . Jaeki Cho of XXL called it " one of the most cohesive bodies of work in recent rap memory " and wrote that each song is " both complexly arranged and sonically fitting , foregrounding Kendrick 's vivid lyricism and amazing control of cadence , and awarded it a " perfect XXL " rating . " Jim Carroll of The Irish Times viewed it as an important and entertaining album that is forward thinking , even though it echoes the past era of West Coast hip hop . AllMusic editor David Jeffries characterized the album as " some kind of elevated gangsta rap " and wrote of its subject matter :

Besides all the great ideas and life , this journey through the concrete jungle of Compton is worth taking because of the artistic richness , plus the attraction of a whip @-@ smart rapper flying high during his rookie season . Any hesitation about the horror of it all is quickly wiped away by Kendrick 's mix of true talk , open heart , open mind , and extended hand . Add it all up and subtract the hype , and this one is still potent enough to rise to the top of the pile .

In a mixed review , Hazel Sheffield of NME asserted that the album " might lack the raw appeal of " Section.80 , " but it 's a big @-@ budget reminder that [ Lamar ] hasn 't forgotten his roots . " Alex Macpherson of The Guardian criticized " Lamar 's depiction of downtrodden women " as " unnecessarily prurient and unconvincing " , but praised his " ability to pull the listener inside the action while retaining an alienated detachment " . Although he observed " some degree of self @-@ indulgence " , Andrew Nosnitsky of Spin found the album 's production " surprisingly cohesive " and commented that Lamar " manages to hold everything together in the midst of such chaos through sheer craftsmanship . " Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone felt that the album " warrants a place in that storied lineage " of " Seventies blaxploitation soundtracks and Nineties gangsta rap blaxploitation revivals " . Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune commended Lamar for giving " gangsta tropes ... a twist , or sometimes upend [ ing ] them completely " , and wrote that the album " brims with comedy , complexity and the many voices in Kendrick Lamar 's head . " Robert Christgau from MSN Music felt that its " commitment to drama has musical drawbacks " , but stated , " the atmospheric beats Dr. Dre and his hirelings lay under the raps and choruses establish a musical continuity that shores up a nervous flow that 's just what Lamar 's rhymes need . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Good Kid , M.A.A.D City appeared on several year @-@ end top albums lists by music critics . It was named the best album of 2012 by BBC , Complex , Fact , New York and Pitchfork . The album was also ranked number two by Billboard , the Chicago Tribune , MTV , Spin and Time , number four by Filter , Jon Pareles of The New York Times and Ann Powers of NPR , number five by The

Guardian , number six by Rolling Stone and number eight by Entertainment Weekly . In December 2012 , Complex also named Good Kid , M.A.A.D City one of the 25 classic hip hop albums of the previous 10 years . Complex also ranked its album cover as the best of 2012 , while Pitchfork included it on its list of the 20 best album covers of the year . In April 2013 , Vibe placed the album at number 19 on its " The Greatest 50 Albums Since ' 93 " list .

In October 2013 , Complex named it the second best hip hop album of the last five years . Also in 2013 , Rolling Stone placed the album at 86 on its " The 100 Best Debut Albums of All Time " list . The album was ranked number two of " The 100 Best Albums of the Decade So Far ( 2010 @-@ 2014 ) " , a list published by Pitchfork in August 2014 and number five of " The 20 Best Albums of the 2010s ( so far ) " , a list published by Billboard in January 2015 .

The album was nominated for Top Rap Album at the 2013 Billboard Music Awards and the 2013 American Music Awards . It won the award for Album of the Year at the 2013 BET Hip Hop Awards . Good Kid M.A.A.D City earned Lamar five Grammy Award nominations at the 56th Grammy Awards , for Album of The Year , Best Rap Album , Best New Artist , Best Rap / Sung Collaboration for Now Or Never with Mary J. Blige and Best Rap Performance for " Swimming Pools ( Drank ) " .

According to Acclaimed Music , a site which aggregates hundreds of critics ' lists from around the world into all @-@ time rankings , the album is the second @-@ most acclaimed of 2012 , and the third @-@ most acclaimed of the 2010s .

= = Commercial performance = =

The album debuted at number two on the US Billboard 200 chart , with first @-@ week sales of 242 @,@ 000 copies . The album also entered the UK Albums Chart at number 16 on October 28 , 2012 , as well as entering at number two on the UK R & B Albums Chart . The album also peaked in the top ten of the album sales charts in Canada , New Zealand and the Netherlands . In its second week it sold 63 @,@ 000 more copies in the United States . Then over the following four weeks it sold 176 @,@ 000 more copies bringing its total sales to 481 @,@ 000 in the United States . On the chart dated November 24 , 2012 , the album peaked on the US Vinyl Albums chart at number three .

On August 21 , 2013 , the album was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , having shipped and sold one million copies in the United States . As of March 2015 , the album had sold 1 @,@ 400 @,@ 000 copies , according to Nielsen SoundScan .

= = Controversy = =

On October 23 , 2012 , after receiving much critical acclaim from the hip hop community , outspoken rapper Shyne took to Twitter to run down on the album , calling it " trash " and the production horrible . West Coast rappers Nipsey Huddle , Schoolboy Q and Game quickly took offense to this , with Game calling Kendrick non @-@ confrontational in that he wouldn 't respond to Shyne . Kendrick responded to Shyne 's comments on October 26 , saying that he is not a sensitive person and was unfazed by his comments . In addition he said Good Kid , M.A.A.D City was not necessarily a " classic " as some have called it , but " classic worthy " if enough time passed . Kendrick also referred to Shyne in his song " The Jig Is Up " saying , " I pray to God this beat good enough for Shyne " . After this Shyne stood by his comments and called Game his " little son " . Game responded with a freestyle calling out Shyne , titled " Cough Up a Lung " . Shyne then responded with his own diss track , towards Game named " Psalms 68 ( Guns & Moses ) " .

= = Track listing = =

Notes

^ [ a ] signifies a co @-@ producer .

^ [ b ] signifies an additional producer .

" Bitch , Don 't Kill My Vibe " features background vocals by Anna Wise and additional vocals by JMSN .

" Money Trees " features background vocals by Anna Wise .

" good kid " features additional vocals by Chad Hugo .

" m.A.A.d city " features uncredited vocals from Schoolboy Q.

" Sing About Me , I 'm Dying of Thirst " features additional vocals by JMSN , Anna Wise and Camille  
" ill Camille " Davis .

" Real " features background vocals by JMSN .

Sample credits

" Bitch , Don 't Kill My Vibe " contains a sample of " Tiden Flyver " as performed by Boom Clap  
Bachelors .

" Backseat Freestyle " contains a sample of " Yo Soy Cubano " by The Chakachas .

" The Art of Peer Pressure " contains a sample of " Helt Alene " as performed by Suspekt .

" Money Trees " contains a sample of " Silver Soul " as performed by Beach House .

" Poetic Justice " contains a sample of " Any Time , Any Place " as performed by Janet Jackson .

" m.A.A.d city " contains a sample of " Don 't Change Your Love " as performed by The Five  
Stairsteps , " Funky Worm " by Ohio Players and " A Bird In The Hand " by Ice Cube .

" Sing About Me , I 'm Dying of Thirst " contains a sample of " Maybe Tomorrow " as performed by  
Grant Green , " I 'm Glad You 're Mine " by Al Green and " Use Me " by Bill Withers .

" Compton " contains a sample of " What 's This World Coming To " as performed by Formula IV .

" The Recipe " contains a sample of " Meet the Frownies " as performed by Twin Sister .

= = Personnel = =

Credits for Good Kid , M.A.A.D City adapted from AllMusic .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =