

= Lana Del Rey ( EP ) =

Lana Del Rey is the second EP by American singer and songwriter Lana Del Rey . It was released on January 10 , 2012 in the United States and Canada through Interscope Records . After publishing two unsuccessful works , her first EP , Kill Kill ; and her first studio album , Lana Del Ray , the four @-@ track EP was released in anticipation of Del Rey 's major label debut Born to Die ( 2012 ) . The tracks are influenced by several genres , including indie pop , hip hop , and alternative music . The lyrics and melody were written primarily by Del Rey , Patrik Berger , and Justin Parker . Production of the album was led by Emile Haynie , who also co @-@ wrote " Blue Jeans " .

Contemporary critics gave mixed reviews of the EP . Music videos accompanied each single , which were produced by Del Rey herself and uploaded to YouTube . Although the video for " Video Games " that Del Rey filmed with her webcam was not intended as a single at the time , it garnered enough online buzz to be noticed by Stranger Records , opening the opportunity for Del Rey to sign a joint record deal with Interscope and Polydor , leading to the eventual publication of the EP and additional videos for " Blue Jeans " and " Born to Die " .

Selling over 24 @,@ 000 copies in the United States , the EP peaked at number twenty on the Billboard 200 , peaking at six on the Rock Albums chart and six on the Alternative Albums chart . All four songs were released as singles on Born to Die , with three charting internationally .

= = Background = =

Del Rey was born in New York City , New York in 1985 and was raised in Lake Placid , a quiet village outside of New York . At age fifteen , she was sent to boarding school in Connecticut , before moving to New York City at eighteen to study metaphysics at Fordham University . While attending the university , according to Del Rey , her musical experience began here , discovering the right acquaintances on her own . After her uncle taught her how to play guitar , she realized that she could probably write " a million " songs with only those six chords . She then began performing in clubs in New York City , using various stage names such as Sparkle Rope Jump Queen and Lizzy Grant and the Phenomena . Recalling the experience , Del Rey said , " I was always singing , but didn 't plan on pursuing it seriously . When I got to New York City when I was 18 , I started playing in clubs in Brooklyn ? I have good friends and devoted fans on the underground scene , but we were playing for each other at that point ? and that was it " .

At age twenty , Del Rey signed a USD \$ 10 @,@ 000 recording contract and moved to a trailer park in New Jersey . The album that she recorded was later shelved , catalyzing her to pivot her focus . Instead , she began work in community service , and for the next five years , worked at homeless outreach , drug , and alcohol rehabilitation centers . She was quoted in an interview as saying , " The only passionate people I met in New York , were social workers . " A few years later , Del Rey signed to 5 Point Records , an independent record label owned by David Kahne . With the label , she released the three @-@ track EP , Kill Kill , in October 2008 and a full @-@ length studio album Lana Del Ray in 2010 . After hearing Del Rey 's demo , Kahne contacted her ; she obliged , knowing his reputation as a producer and his wish to produce music other than pop . Del Rey also explained why she then changed her stage name from Lizzy Grant to Lana Del Rey : " I wanted a name I could shape the music towards . I was going to Miami quite a lot at the time , speaking a lot of Spanish with my friends from Cuba ? Lana Del Rey reminded us of the glamour of the seaside . It sounded gorgeous coming off the tip of the tongue " .

After uploading a few of her tracks to her YouTube channel , Del Rey was discovered and got signed by Stranger Records to release her debut single " Video Games " . She told The Observer that " Video Games " was never intended to be a single , but she enjoyed the video and uploaded on the internet . The song earned her a Q Award for " Next Big Thing " in October 2011 . Later that month , she signed a joint record deal with Interscope Records and Polydor to release her second studio album , Born to Die . Del Rey built anticipation to the album by doing a number of live appearances , such as promotional concerts at the Bowery Ballroom and at the Chateau Marmont , and with performances at television shows such as De Wereld Draait Door , and Later ... with Jools

Holland . To further promote the upcoming release of *Born to Die* , Interscope Records released the EP in the United States and Canada on January 10 , 2012 . The four tracks that appear on the EP ( " Video Games " , " Born to Die " , " Blue Jeans " , and " Off to the Races " ) were previously available for purchase as singles in international markets .

= = Composition = =

Del Rey stated the use of her lower vocals on the tracks claiming that " people weren 't taking me very seriously , so I lowered my voice , believing that it would help me stand out . Now I sing quite low ... well , for a female anyway . " The singer 's first singles , " Video Games " and " Born to Die " were described variously as " quasi @-@ cabaret balladry " , " woozy and sometimes soporific soundtrack soul " , " pop " , and " indie pop " .

Her own description of her music is " Hollywood sadcore " . In her own words , Del Rey described most of her songs being like " a dark love story seen through hopeful eyes . " Tim Lee of musicOMH noted the songs are extremely similar , commenting that " her ( alleged ) agents clearly having stumbled upon a formula with which they can ( allegedly ) print money and ( allegedly ) further consign Lana 's secretive , ( allegedly ) real debut LP to the annals of history . You didn 't hear it from us , right ? " Del Rey has once described herself as a " gangsta Nancy Sinatra " , though she cites Britney Spears , Elvis Presley , and Kurt Cobain as her musical influences .

The third track , " Blue Jeans " , was influenced by hip hop and has a minimalist beat that recalls songs by Timbaland . Del Rey also raps in a few verses of the song such as " You ? re so fresh to death and sick as cancer [ ... ] Love you more than those bitches before " . " Off to the Races " has been lyrically described as " a freak show of inappropriate co @-@ dependency " , with a chorus that recalls Sheryl Crow 's " down and out drunken loner persona " in her 1994 single " Leaving Las Vegas " . Pryia Elan of NME noted the track " almost falls under the weight of this persona . There 's none of ' Video Games ' ' measured , piano @-@ led reflection . Instead the psychosexual rumblings of the lyrics and the dual voices she uses off set the comparatively simple musical shades on display . "

= = Response = =

John Bush of Allmusic considered the singer a femme fatale " with a smoky voice , a languorous image , and a modeling contract " . However , Bush rated the EP 2 @.@ 5 stars out of five , considering it only " as a teaser from the album " . The EP entered the Billboard 200 on the chart issue of January 21 , 2012 at number 20 , after selling 14 @,@ 000 digital copies . As of February 1 , 2012 , it has sold 24 @,@ 000 digital copies in the United States .

= = Track listing = =

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =