

= Korn (album) =

Korn (printed as Ko?n) is the eponymous debut studio album by the American nu metal band Korn . It was released on October 11 , 1994 , through Immortal / Epic Records . Before recording the album , the band was approached by Immortal / Epic Records after a performance at Huntington Beach , California . The band signed to their label because they didn 't want to " sign away all of their creative freedom . " The band would record at Indigo Ranch Studios in Malibu , California with producer Ross Robinson , who also produced their 1993 demo Neidermayer 's Mind . The recording took place from May to June 1994 . After the recordings , Korn toured with Biohazard and House of Pain .

The album 's themes include child abuse , drug abuse and bullying . The album cover depicts a young girl being approached by a large man who is holding what appears to be a horseshoe or , more presumably , blades ; furthermore , the girl 's shadow gives the appearance that her body is being hanged due to the position of the band 's logo . Photography was done by Stephen Stickler , and the design was directed by Jay Papke and Dante Ariola . The first single " Blind " charted at number 15 on the Canadian Alternative 30 , the album peaked at number ten in New Zealand as well as number seventy @-@ two on the Billboard 200 . The debut album has sold over 4 million copies in the US according to Nielsen SoundScan as of January 4 , 2013 . The album has now sold over 10 million copies worldwide , and is considered to have started the nu metal genre .

= = Background = =

Before Korn developed a name , they had moved into a small house together in Huntington Beach , California , south of Los Angeles , where they began working on songs . Soon after moving , they rented Underground Chicken Sounds , a recording studio , from Jeff Creath , who had previously allowed lead singer Jonathan Davis to live in his garage . While they were recording at the studio , they attracted a crowd of people when performing the prelude to " Clown " . The band 's bass guitarist , Reginald " Fieldy " Arvizu , said that the crowd gathered because the band 's style sounded so " different " .

Korn began playing gigs in the summer of 1993 . While performing at Huntington Beach , the band was spotted by Immortal / Epic A & R Paul Pontius . He approached the band offering to record an album through their company . Although the group had offers from several other labels , Korn went with Immortal / Epic because they did not want to " sign away all of their creative freedom . "

= = Recording and production = =

While Korn was looking for a place to record their debut album , they asked producer Ross Robinson to produce their album . After accepting the offer , Robinson suggested they record at Indigo Ranch , Malibu , California . The band would record the majority of the album there , while additional recording took place at Bakersfield 's Fat Tracks . Korn recorded most of the album with all members playing simultaneously , as opposed to recording instruments separately . The " distinctive " sound and quality of music was given off by their instruments , rather than the production . The bagpipes on " Shoots and Ladders " are often thought to have been recorded on a mountain @-@ top . However , they were actually recorded with a microphone set up at the back door of the studio while Jonathan Davis walked past outside playing . As he walked further from the microphone , this led to the sound naturally fading quieter . Korn finished recording their self @-@ titled album by the end of June 1994 .

Since Robinson produced the album , his career was launched by its success , as it " taught Robinson how to produce . " In an interview with the heavy metal magazine Metal Hammer , Davis touted Robinson 's behavior , saying : " Ross is a very pure and clean @-@ spirited person , and you feel it when you 're with him . He 's the kind of person that can draw that out of you . I felt very safe with Ross . " The album was released on October 11 , 1994 through Immortal and Epic Records . During the recording of Korn , there were four outtakes : " Christmas Song " , " Sean

Olson " , " Layla " , and " This Broken Soul " . " Sean Olson " was put in the single " Shoots and Ladders " .

= = Marketing and promotion = =

Stephen Stickler acted as the band 's photographer , and Jay Papke and Dante Ariola directed the album 's cover art and booklet . The cover depicts a little girl in a purple dress with a matching bow in her blonde hair , bringing her swing to a stop to squint in the sun at the man standing before her . The man is only seen as a dark shadow on the ground , and is holding what appears to be a horse shoe or , more presumably , blades . The band 's logo , a childlike drawing of the band 's name created by lead singer Jonathan Davis , is seen on the sandy ground by Dark Shadow ; the way it 's positioned next to the girls ' shadow makes it appear the latter is being hanged .

After Korn finished recording the album , they began touring with Biohazard and House of Pain at free gigs . Korn personally passed out flyers at their performances . Their record company gave them enough money for their own tour bus . Korn 's first gig was in Atlanta , Georgia . About half way through the tour , the tour bus that their record company gave them stopped working , forcing the band to find a new one . This first tour proved very unsuccessful in promoting the album . Aside from them touring , Korn released four singles . " Blind " was the lead single , released in 1994 , followed by " Need To " , " Shoots and Ladders " , and " Clown " .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

Korn begins with " Blind " , starting with the dueling riffs of James Shaffer and Brian Welch . Lead vocalist Jonathan Davis ' first line is " Are you ready ? ! " , which is now one of the band 's trademarks . Davis told Metal Hammer that on the album 's second track , " Ball Tongue " , he " didn 't sing a goddamn word in that song . I couldn 't describe what I wanted to do , so that 's how it came out . It 's a really heavy sound . " " Shoots and Ladders " is about Davis ' disgust with the society . The song explores the concept of nursery rhymes . Davis relates : " ' Shoots and Ladders ' uncovers the hidden messages in nursery rhymes , the first songs many of us ever hear . ' Shoots and Ladders ' , to set the record straight , calls out nursery rhymes for what they really are . I choose each rhyme for a different reason ? ' Baa Baa Black Sheep ' has racist overtones . ' London Bridge ' talks of all the people of London dying (from the Black Plague , as does ' Ring Around the Roses ') . Then there 's ' Little Red Riding Hood ' ? one story tells of the wolf raping Red Riding Hood and killing her . "

" Clown " ' s concept deals with an incident that happened in San Diego , California . A skinhead that told Davis to " go back to Bakersfield " attempted to hit Davis but he dodged and the band 's road manager , Jeff , knocked the skinhead out . " Helmet in the Bush " was about Davis ' drug abuse , and the fear that gripped him at the height of his drug problem . He pleaded for a divine intervention to deliver him from his nightmare , as if he cannot help himself . Davis explained : " I 'd wake up in the morning and do a line to get out of bed . Speed in the morning , I 'd have it all lined up for breakfast so when I 'd lay down and go to sleep , I 'd wake up and just snort and it 's like ' Yeah , okay , I 'm up . ' It was bad . It 's like , you do one line and stay up all night , but then you have shit to do the next day so you have to do another line to be able keep staying up to get that shit done . Eventually you start spinning @-@ out from sleep deprivation . You get hallucinations and shit like that . "

" Faget " ' s lyrical themes are about lead vocalist Jonathan Davis ' time in high school where he was relentlessly bullied primarily by jocks for wearing eyeliner , listening to new wave and enjoying arts . He constantly was called names like " fag " or " faggot " . Jonathan Davis talked about the song in an interview saying ,

" There 's a big rumor about me being a homosexual . Does it really matter ? I have lots of gay friends . It shouldn 't matter . I was in the New Romantic scene [in high school] with Duran Duran [as his favorite band] , wearing makeup . I got called a fag by the jocks . Couldn 't walk through the halls without hearing that or being picked on . "

" Daddy " , the album 's longest track saw , Jonathan Davis " descending very real tears . " Davis said that the song 's concept deals with his childhood , saying " People think ' Daddy ' was written because my father abused me , but that 's not what the song 's about . When I was a kid , I was being abused by someone else . I don 't really like to talk about that song . " Some 14 minutes into " Daddy " ? well after the song has ended ? a tape that Ross Robinson found in an abandoned house begins to play . The tape depicts an argument between a man and his wife over a Dodge Dart carburettor .

= = Reception and success = =

On January 29 , 1996 , Korn went Gold in the United States (US) , and on February 10 , 1996 , the album charted at number seventy @-@ two . The album spent 30 weeks on the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand charts , entering on June 23 , 1996 and peaking at number ten . The album left the chart on May 18 , 1997 . It went Platinum in the US on January 8 , 1997 , and entered the ARIA Charts on March 28 , 1999 at number forty @-@ nine . It maintained a position on the chart for five weeks , and peaked at number forty @-@ six . It peaked at number five on the Top Pop Catalog Albums chart on April 24 , 1999 . On July 17 , 1999 , it entered the MegaCharts at its peak position of fifty @-@ six . After three weeks , Korn left the chart . On November 10 , 1999 , it was certified double @-@ platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America . The album peaked at number one @-@ hundred @-@ eighty @-@ one on the UK Albums Chart on February 10 , 2001 . It has been certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association .

Korn was well received by music critics . Arnopp stated that the group " positively encouraged America 's formerly introverted , apathetic misfits to thrust a livid middle finger in the face of high ? school jocks who would traditionally bundle them into a locker and brand them ' faggots ' for sporting hair longer than any Army buzz @-@ cut . " The Calgary Herald gave the album a negative review , noting that Davis ' vocals derivative of Pantera 's Philip Anselmo and Pearl Jam 's Eddie Vedder . Musically , the review concluded that the Korn borrowed too much from Sonic Youth and Soundgarden .

In their original 1994 review , the Los Angeles Times wrote " Kindred to such bands as Tool , Rollins Band and Rage Against the Machine , Korn and its singer @-@ lyricist , Jonathan Davis , make their core ethic fairly explicit in songs like " Predictable , " " Lies " and " Fake " : the world is a torment @-@ filled morass that leaves us seething with deep , internalized fears ; virtue lies in confronting those painful truths unflinchingly and screaming them to the world . "

In July 2014 , Guitar World ranked Korn at number 27 in their " Superunknown : 50 Iconic Albums That Defined 1994 " list .

= = Legacy = =

Korn 's debut album is said to have established nu metal . As said by Joel McIver , Korn " was almost solely responsible for the tidal wave of change that subsequently swept the metal scene . " Bands like Coal Chamber and Limp Bizkit were inspired by the album 's " churning rage , emphasising similar grooves and song structures , " and " the sound 's hip @-@ hop elements . " Slipknot , Machine Head , and Sepultura were also inspired by the album . The album launched the career of record producer Ross Robinson , who later produced albums such as Roots by Sepultura , Three Dollar Bill , Yall by Limp Bizkit , and the Slipknot albums Slipknot and Iowa . In 2014 , Rolling Stone described the album as " the most important metal record of the last 20 years " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Chart positions = =

= = Credits = =

Jonathan Davis ? vocals , bagpipes ,

James " Munky " Shaffer ? guitar

Fieldy ? bass

Brian " Head " Welch ? guitar , vocals , backing vocals on Ball Tongue

David Silveria ? drums

Judith Kiener ? vocals on the lullaby at the end of " Daddy "

Richard Kaplan ? engineer

Chuck Johnson ? engineer , mixing

Ross Robinson ? producer , engineer , mixing

Eddy Schreyer ? mastering

Stephen Stickler ? photography

Jay Papke / Dante Ariola ? art direction and design