

= What Separates Me from You =

What Separates Me from You is the fourth studio album by American rock band A Day to Remember, and their third for Victory. Originally planned for release in late @-@ October 2010, the album was delayed by a few weeks until mid @-@ November. The album, which was recorded mainly at The Wade Studios in Ocala, Florida, from May to July 2010, was the first to feature guitarist Kevin Skaff. The album was produced mostly by Chad Gilbert, with help from Andrew Wade and the band's vocalist, Jeremy McKinnon. "All I Want" was released as the first single. It reached number 12 on the U.S. Alternative Songs chart and number 25 on the Rock Songs chart.

The album debuted on the U.S. Billboard 200 at number 11, and number 1 on several charts: Top Hard Rock Albums, Top Independent Albums, Top Modern Rock / Alternative Albums in the U.S. and the Rock Album Chart in the UK. The band played two songs from the album on their national TV debut in January 2011, and then went on The Game Changers Tour to help promote the album; shortly afterwards touring worldwide in support of the release. Two later singles off the album charted: "All Signs Point to Lauderdale", released in May, reached number 32 on the Hot Modern Rock Tracks chart, and radio single "It's Complicated", released in October, peaked at number 34 on the same chart. What Separates Me from You was met with generally favorable reviews, with critics praising the album's sound. The album was certified gold by the RIAA in March 2016.

= = Background = =

While the band was touring Homesick (2009), a line @-@ up change occurred when guitarist Tom Denney wanted to settle down. Four Letter Lie guitarist Kevin Skaff was added in his place; Denney, however, was retained to work with the band behind the scenes. All of the songs for What Separates Me from You were written while the band were touring in 2009 and 2010, and as early as March 2010, vocalist Jeremy McKinnon stated that A Day to Remember already had "all of the pop / punk song ideas written [...]" And we're then going to write five heavier songs".

= = Music and lyrics = =

= = = Styles and amount of material = = =

Guitarist Neil Westfall said in a 2010 interview with Alter the Press!: "We've written a few jams, we're always constantly writing, like I think we wrote some parts the other day." Westfall also said once the band return home from touring, they were "going to drop everything and start writing and doing pre @-@ production full time." At this point, the band had ten songs and were trying to condense them into five, then planning to write five more. Westfall said the band completed the final "few songs when we were back home with Tom (Denney) and Chad (Gilbert)." On the pace of writing, McKinnon said: "It seems like a really fast thing that has happened but we've been constantly working on it the entire time." On the songs themselves, he said: "the pop @-@ punk stuff has a darker edge to it. I wrote it like that, it's still pop @-@ punk but with a darker edge". The album was influenced by Finch's What It Is to Burn (2002). The album "came together song by song" as McKinnon mentioned, with the band coming up with 15 ? 16 song ideas. McKinnon stated in an interview with Rocksound that there 's songs "that didn't make this record that we're saving." There is a track on the album that was previously written for Homesick.

When asked about how he comes up with song titles, McKinnon said: "I've got my iPhone, and I go on my notes and every time I see something I like I write it down, so a lot of the time titles are something that mean something to us only, or to someone I know only." He called What Separates Me from You "the slowest for stuff like that", when referring to song titles. Westfall said that the album's title and the songs' subjects were about "Separating your self from your peers and really coming into your own." McKinnon said What Separates Me from You was "a lot more personal and darker" than Homesick, and that it was "a natural progression of what we were doing" with "the

same core " as the band 's preceding albums . Asked whether the album reached new heights , he said it " was definitely the next step " for the band . However , the band originally had no idea on how the album would turn out : " It was a little bit all over the place , because of me coming in , Tom [Denney] leaving and all this new stuff that was going on " , as stated by guitarist Kevin Skaff . Skaff said that McKinnon originally had a different name for the album that " he really wanted , but found it was actually the name of a Terror (hardcore band) album . "

= = = Tracks 1 ? 5 = = =

It was important to the band that " Sticks & Bricks " opened the album , as it was an " in @-@ your @-@ face " song . McKinnon said in an interview with USAToday that the opening lyric (" I am fueled by all forms of failure ") was " 100 % directed at everyone who ever doubted our band " . He stated that it " is one of the meaner , heavier songs that we 've ever done as a band . " " All I Want " is " about being in a band " , according to McKinnon , and was one of the final songs written for the album . The song came about from an idea by McKinnon that he expanded on guitar in the middle of recording for the album , and wrote most of it in one night . A rough version was recorded between McKinnon and producer Chad Gilbert before the band had arrived at the studio . McKinnon said the song was more of a " singing version " of the band 's song " I 'm Made of Wax , Larry , What Are You Made Of ? " .

" It 's Complicated " was written while the band were abroad in Amsterdam ; the original version differed significantly from the final version . Andrew Wade flew out to the band in an attempt to work on the song immediately . " This Is the House That Doubt Built " was among one of the first to be written for the album , written almost in one sitting while McKinnon had his acoustic guitar with him , while the band was abroad . " 2nd Sucks " was about people who viewed being in a band as being a sort of competition .

= = = Tracks 6 ? 10 = = =

" Better Off This Way " was one of the first written for the album , and re @-@ written " at least 3 different times " . The song was the final one finished for the album . The title for " All Signs Point to Lauderdale " came from an occasion when McKinnon and bassist Joshua Woodard were in a rough neighborhood in West Palm Beach , Florida . A piece of the song came from a recording session for Homesick when Gilbert said he had an idea for the melody , which McKinnon took a while to write over : " Chad had a cool idea , vocally , for something " . In an interview with PopCrush in 2011 , McKinnon said the song was when you get the " feeling like you 're stuck in a place that 's leading you nowhere " and " standing up for yourself and taking charge of your life . " " You Be Tails , I 'll Be Sonic " was written with the band 's former guitarist , Tom Denney ; the song was made up of several separate pieces from different song ideas , with a chorus McKinnon had re @-@ written 4 times .

Referring to " You Be Tails , I 'll Be Sonic " , Skaff said that the song 's title ? a reference to Tails and Sonic from the video game series ? had " really came out of nowhere . " McKinnon said the song is a " more personal song [...] It discusses how the choices I 've made to put my best foot forward in my career , in a sense , have really done damage to my personal life . " Both " You Be Tails , I 'll Be Sonic " and " Out of Time " talk about " how I feel like I 'm doing what I want with my life , but I think , " Wow , I just did something that really affected me . " " " Out of Time " was also one of the first songs written for the album , and was written while the band was in Australia . McKinnon said the song was the most personal on the record . Skaff had a major hand in writing " If I Leave " . The song describes " different things you got through being on the road " and " a relationship ending when you 're not really around enough to actually take care of it in person . " On being asked whether he knew it would be the final song on the album , McKinnon said " It just felt right [...] seemed like a good ending " .

= = Recording = =

Before showing the songs to the band , McKinnon and Skaff worked on them alone . When the pair had all of the song ideas , they worked on them as a full @-@ band , with pre @-@ production being undertaken in , as Skaff commented , " a makeshift studio " by Andrew Wade . Woodard commented that the band had " been going in from 11am until 9pm and all we do is sit around and play . " Between demoing the songs , and their final forms on the album , Woodard said " crazy things were happening ? verses became choruses " , with Chad Gilbert assisting the band with arrangements and writing . As the band thought they were getting better as songwriters , Woodard stated , " it 's getting more heavy and more pop . " One song that the band recorded was " screwed up really bad and it didn 't make the record " , as Skaff comments , as the group recorded it at a fast pace and when McKinnon tried to " sing it was like rap music . [imitates rap singing] And we were like ' that 's not good ' . " Asked if the band would use it as a possible B @-@ side , Skaff said " its possible [...] might use it for the next record or something like that . "

What Separates Me from You was recorded from May to July 23 , 2010 , in three locations , per the album booklet : The Wade Studios in Ocala , Florida , The Back of a Bus with No AC in Germany and A Closet in New Jersey , the latter of which being where the backing vocals for " All Signs Point to Lauderdale " were recorded . The album was mixed by David Bendeth and Dan Korneff , and produced by Gilbert with assistance by Wade and McKinnon . Wade also produced the band 's previous album , Homesick . It was the first album featuring Skaff on guitar , following Tom Denney 's departue after Homesick . " All I Want " , " It 's Complicated " , " This Is the House That Doubt Built " and " If I Leave " were mixed by Bendeth , while the rest of the album tracks were mixed by Korneff . Mastering for the album had taken place at Sterling Sound by Ted Jensen .

= = Release = =

In July 2010 , it was announced that the band would bring out the album in October . The album 's title and cover art were revealed by the band in a live video via Victory Record 's official website on September 21 . On the same day , the album was available for pre @-@ order . McKinnon later said in an interview that the album 's cover was meant " to be a little more serious . It has the vibe of a painting . " Featured on the album cover is the band 's ex @-@ guitarist Denney , video director Drew Russ , and producer Gilbert . A supposed track listing for the album was posted on the internet with mentions of guest appearances by Ed McRae and Florence Welch , from Your Demise and Florence and the Machine respectively . McKinnon said it wasn 't the true track list , then proceeded to post the actual track list on October 13 . On October 1 , the band held a contest , to tie in with the release of the album , where fans could win their catalog on vinyl and a signed copy of the album . The group released a short preview of new song " 2nd Sucks " on October 6 . On October 7 , the album 's first single , " All I Want " , was debuted on KROQ Radio . The single was officially released on October 12 . As the choice of a single , Westfall said " All I Want " " was a great transition song from Homesick " . On October 21 , a full version of " 2nd Sucks " was posted for streaming on Victory 's Facebook page .

Originally set for release on October 26 , 2010 , the album was delayed until November 15 in the UK and the proceeding day in the U.S. The album was leaked a few days prior to release . A listening party for the album was held at The Hard Rock Hotel in Chicago on November 15 for a small number of fans , which was followed by a Q & A session with the band . On January 6 , 2011 , the band released the music video for the single " All I Want " . The video , which was filmed back in October 2010 , features members from numerous musical groups . On January 11 , 2011 , the band made their national television debut while performing the songs " All I Want " and " Better Off This Way " on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! . Skaff recalled the TV performance as " fun " , calling Jimmy Kimmel " a good guy " , and " a great experience " to be on Kimmel 's show . Beginning in March , to help promote What Separates Me from You , the band went on The Game Changers Tour . The band performed over half of the new album while on The Game Changers tour . McKinnon commented : " The new songs live have worked great . "

On April 16 , 2011 , A Day to Remember released a special for Record Store Day , which was an

exclusive limited edition 7 " vinyl of " All I Want " . " All Signs Point to Lauderdale " impacted radio on May 24 . The band filmed the music video for " All Signs Point to Lauderdale " in one day in Los Angeles when the group had a day @-@ off from touring ; it was released through MTV2 on June 7 . It was revealed in September that " It 's Complicated " would be released as the third single from the album on October 25 , though it was only released as a radio single . " 2nd Sucks " would become the band 's third music video off the album . A promotional CD of " This Is the House That Doubt Built " was released on December 19 . The band played an acoustic version of " It 's Complicated " for MTV on February 14 , 2012 . The music video for " 2nd Sucks " was released on February 27 , 2012 .

= = Further releases and song appearances = =

Vinyl editions were released on December 6 , 2010 . Several tracks from the album have appeared in MTV 's show Jersey Shore . Another vinyl pressing , this time on white vinyl , was released on December 27 . Two tracks were featured on various artist compilations : " All Signs Point to Lauderdale " on SideOneDummy 's Warped Tour 2011 Tour Compilation and " If I Leave " on the Victory compilation Victory Records 2012 New Music Sampler . Six of the album 's ten tracks are currently available on the Rock Band games : " 2nd Sucks " , " All I Want " , " All Signs Point to Lauderdale " , " Better Off This Way " , " Sticks & Bricks " , and " It 's Complicated " .

= = Reception = =

What Separates Me from You received generally favorable reviews . James Christopher Monger of Allmusic said , " [It] is whiney , petulant , immature , hopeless , and thoroughly addicting , as the ten songs contained within the gatefold packaging [...] are as immaculately crafted and engaging as they are blindingly self @-@ absorbed . " Brendan Manley from Alternative Press wrote , " The vitriolic delivery seems sincere , but even if you don 't buy into all of the personal / emotional factors underpinning Separates (smack @-@ talking the smack @-@ talkers / a recent , devastating breakup / assorted perils of touring) , the album simply kills . " However , Christine Caruana of Loud Online said , " [It] is very much typical of its genre . Lyrics filled with standard teenage angst , fast , distorted guitars and heavy , yet boring , drum fills to imitate a metal sound . " While Dan Rankin of Blare Magazine said the album was " essentially just another fat kid on the already rusty trampoline that is this genre . " Brooke Daly of Tastemakers said that the album was one of the band 's " more solid releases " with less repetition than on Homesick . Despite " taking on a poppier sound " being risky in his opinion , the band managed to " pull it off " . Jacob Testa , for Mind Equals Blown , noted that he found himself " wanting to listen to it again and again " , saying that the album featured " a lot of creativity and maturation " .

The album peaked at number 11 on the U.S. Billboard 200 , becoming A Day to Remember 's personal best , as Homesick peaked at number 21 . The album also charted at number 1 on the UK Rock Album Chart , number 66 on the UK Albums Chart , number 24 on the ARIA Chart in Australia , and number 4 on the German Newcomer Chart . The album had sold 80 @,@ 000 copies as of December 2010 , with 152 @,@ 000 copies in the U.S. as of April 2011 , and 300 @,@ 000 copies by January 2013 . In March 2016 , What Separates Me from You was certified gold in the U.S. " All I Want " charted on both Billboard 's Hot Modern Rock Tracks and Rock Songs charts , at number 12 and number 25 , respectively .

The album was voted by fans as number 3 of Kill Your Stereo 's Album of the Year 2010 . Matt Heafy , frontman and guitarist of the metal band Trivium , listed the album as the 6th best album of 2010 . Trey Treman of Shadows Chasing Ghosts ranked the album one of his top 15 albums of 2010 . " All Signs Point to Lauderdale " charted on both of these charts , but at number 32 and number 48 , respectively . " All Signs Point to Lauderdale " was voted as number 10 in the " 10 Best Rock Songs of 2011 " by AOL Radio . " It 's Complicated " charted on the Hot Modern Rock Tracks chart , at number 34 .

= = Track listing = =

All lyrics written by Jeremy McKinnon , except " 2nd Sucks " .

= = Personnel = =

Personnel per booklet .

= = Chart positions and certifications = =