

## = Nothing Was the Same =

Nothing Was the Same is the third studio album by Canadian recording artist Drake . It was released on September 24 , 2013 , by OVO Sound , Young Money Entertainment , Cash Money Records and Republic Records . Work on the record began in 2012 and continued through 2013 . As its executive producer , Drake enlisted collaborators including 2 Chainz , Big Sean , Jay Z , Jhené Aiko and Sampha to appear as guest appearances on the album . The album 's production was primarily handled by Noah " 40 " Shebib and other OVO Sound producers ; Boi @-@ 1da , Mike Zombie , Majid Jordan and Nineteen85 , among others such as , Detail , Key Wane , Hudson Mohawke and Jake One .

Nothing Was the Same was supported by the seven successful singles ; " Started from the Bottom " , " Hold On , We 're Going Home " featuring Majid Jordan , " All Me " featuring 2 Chainz and Big Sean , " Pound Cake " featuring Jay Z , " The Language " , " Too Much " featuring Sampha and " Worst Behavior " . " Wu @-@ Tang Forever " was released , prior to the album as a promotional single . Drake also toured with Future , Miguel and PartyNextDoor from October through December 2013 , on the Would You Like a Tour ? concert tour .

Nothing Was the Same received generally positive reviews from critics , including a score of 79 at Metacritic based on 33 reviews . The album was also a commercial success , debuting at number one on the US Billboard 200 , selling 658 @,@ 000 copies in its first week of release . It became the seventh best @-@ selling album of 2013 in the United States . It also debuted within the top two positions in Canada , Denmark , Australia and the United Kingdom . As of August 2015 , the album has sold 1 @,@ 720 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

## = = Background = =

While touring the United Kingdom in support of Take Care during March 2012 , Drake announced in an interview that he had begun work on his third studio album . In April 2012 Drake had stated that the album will have a different style and tempo than that of Take Care . This is due to his different mindset and his recent move to the Hidden Hills @-@ Calabasas area , where he is Kanye West 's neighbor . He told GQ , " This is my fucking moment to say if I wanted to rap all the time , really rap , I would , but I also love to make music . I 'll do this for you right now . But it 's for me , too . It 's my story ? I 'm trying to get back to that kid in the basement . To say what he has to say . And I 'm trying to make it last . "

On February 10 , 2013 , the same night Drake won a Grammy for Best Rap Album at the 55th Grammy Awards , he announced the title of his third album would be Nothing Was the Same . During an interview with Ryan Seacrest on the red carpet , Drake told E ! , " I think music , it 's a process we all go through , " he said . " It 's an evolution . You 're constantly figuring out what works for you . " He explained the difference between Nothing Was the Same and Take Care to XXL saying ,

" Take Care was about connecting with my city and connecting with my past and sort of still feeling guilty that I 'm not in love with one of these girls that cared about me from back in the day . Now , I 'm 26 , I 'm with my friends , I 'm making jobs for people , I 'm making memories for people that will last a lifetime . I don 't need to be in love right now . I don 't need these things that I maybe once thought that I needed to feel normal and feel righteous about myself . I think for the first time in an album I 'm content ? not satisfied ? but proud of where I 'm at as a person . "

Drake also stated that Marvin Gaye 's 1978 double album Here , My Dear had been a big influence on his current musical direction and he had been doing recording in Gaye 's old studio " Marvin 's Room " . He later told MTV , " This album is not some straight rap album , I 'll never do a straight rap album . That 's not how I came into this and that ? s never what I 'll do . I make songs for the people . " He also spoke of Marvin Gaye again saying , " I have aspirations to be Marvin Gaye in the back of my head . So I just want to sing the world 's triumphs and problems on one record . " In the same interview he explained more about the differences between Nothing Was the Same and Take Care saying ; " The music I 'm making is more concise , more clear , I 've been able to get my thoughts

across a lot better on this album . Take Care is a great album but I listened to it and realized where I could do better and I think I 've done better on this album . "

= = Recording and production = =

In March 2012 , Drake was reportedly in the studio with American rapper 2 Chainz and record producer Noah " 40 " Shebib . He has been stating that he was hoping that he could work with Jamie xx , while in the United Kingdom , saying that he wants him to " have a bigger presence on my third record " . Jake One produced a song for Drake , originally expected to be released ahead of the third annual OVO Fest . The video , which features Drake previewing the untitled song , while smoking a hookah , was released on June 26 , 2012 through Vimeo . In December 2012 , Young Chop confirmed that he was working on a song with Drake . He also then released two free songs , which is a collaboration with a singer @-@ songwriter James Fauntleroy .

In 2013 , Drake was also seen in the studio with a fellow rapper Jay Z , working on what has yet to be a song , titled " Pound Cake " . On June 3 , 2013 , Drake revealed the first guest appearance on the album , which is American singer Jhené Aiko and then he also said that he had recently been in the studio with fellow rapper Anthony Hamilton . On June 15 , 2013 , Drake confirmed with Hot 107 @. @ 9 , that he had made the final recording process for the album . On September 3 , 2013 , Drake confirmed on Twitter , that the album has been mixed and mastered .

In July 2013 , Complex reported that he was in the studio with artists , such as Future , Rick Ross , Justin Timberlake , Sade , Migos , Saukrates , TLC and Miguel , while working on the album . Complex also reported that he had worked with producers , during the recording process , including Hit @-@ Boy , Just Blaze , Chilly Gonzales , Mike Will Made It , Zaytoven , Bink , Detail , James Blake , Swizz Beatz and Timbaland . On July 27 , 2013 , Drake posted a picture of him and frequent collaborator The Weeknd in the studio .

In August 2013 , Drake told Rolling Stone during the interview , he has spoke that the album would contain features by Jay Z and Lil Wayne , with production from Hudson Mohawke . In a story in the September issue of Rolling Stone , he confirmed that the album was primarily produced by Noah " 40 " Shebib , with production also coming from Hit @-@ Boy , Boi @-@ 1da , Detail and Hudson Mohawke . He also confirmed working with OVO Fest performer , singer and post @-@ dubstep producer James Blake . The final track listing contained guest appearances by Jhené Aiko , Majid Jordan , Detail , Sampha , Jay Z , Big Sean and 2 Chainz .

= = Album artwork = =

On August 21 , 2013 , Drake revealed the album 's cover artwork was an oil painting by Southern California 's Kadir Nelson , the designer behind Michael Jackson 's posthumous album , Michael . The two versions of the cover feature illustrations of profiles of Drake as a child , while the other shows the rapper as an adult . His younger self is adorned only with an afro comb in his hair , and his older self has a gold chain . Both covers are set against a blissful blue sky . The cover artwork was compared to iconic hip hop albums Nas ' Illmatic , The Notorious B.I.G. ' s Ready to Die and Lil Wayne 's Tha Carter III . " What that album art is to me , is the fact that this is my most clear , concise thoughts from now , and my best recollection of then " , Drake explained . Both covers will be available side by side in stores , so consumers may choose which one they want .

The artist , Kadir Nelson told MTV , " Drake wanted a signature painting , he didn 't want something that looked like a hip @-@ hop album cover . He wanted something that was a little bit more artsy and had more weight to it , so I did a number of sketches , and when we picked out what he liked , I sculpted it together . " He said he listened to Drake 's music in the studio to gain inspiration and he also gave Drake a full sized painting of the album cover . The album artwork would end up being named the fourth @-@ best album cover of 2013 by Complex . XXL also listed it among the best album covers of 2013 .

= = Release = =

On June 22 , 2013 , Drake announced a release date of September 17 , 2013 via Twitter . On the following day , he has released the first trailer for the album , featuring him and his friends drinking alcohol out of his 2012 's Grammy Award for Best Rap Album for his previous album Take Care . On August 21 , 2013 , the album was pushed back one week from its initial release date for September 17 , 2013 , until September 24 , 2013 . On September 10 , 2013 , Drake released the second trailer for the album , featuring " Trophies " , which was produced by Hit @-@ Boy . In the video Drake and his entourage drive various luxury cars such as Bentley , Lamborghini and Bugatti 's , all sporting small Canadian flags while driving down an empty street .

= = Promotion = =

In March 2013 , Drake premiered a song , titled " 5AM in Toronto " , which is a sequel to the Thank Me Later track " 9AM in Dallas " . In the same month , he filmed a music video for the song and it was released on April 1 , 2013 . On April 15 , 2013 , Drake released two more songs , " No New Friends " ( which ended up being a track for DJ Khaled 's album Suffering from Success ) and " Girls Love Beyoncé " , which contains a samples from Destiny 's Child 's song " Say My Name " , and the song features guest vocals from James Fauntleroy . On June 17 , 2013 , an unreleased track , titled " On My Way " , which was recorded back in 2010 , that had been leaked . This song also features guest appearances from Fauntleroy . On June 22 , 2013 , Drake released four songs for streaming via his official website . This included collaborations with J. Cole , PartyNextDoor , Migos and a song titled " The Motion " . It was confirmed that these songs were only released , in promotion for the album , that did not make the album . However , " The Motion " appeared as a Best Buy bonus track on the album .

On June 18 , 2013 , Drake announced that he would be going on tour , in support of Nothing Was the Same , starting September 25 , 2013 , in Portland , Oregon . The tour , titled Would You Like a Tour ? , featured supporting acts by singers Future , Miguel and OVO Sound 's PartyNextDoor . In the months leading up to the album 's release , Drake was featured on the covers of various magazines , such as Billboard , GQ and the 150th issue special of XXL . On September 20 , 2013 , Drake revealed that he had rescheduled the " Would You Like A Tour ? " due to " an intense rehearsal schedule and technical production requirements that will be part of the show . " The tour was rescheduled to begin on October 19 , and the first leg ran until December 16 , 2013 .

= = Singles = =

In January 2013 , Drake was seen filming a music video for a new song , titled " Started from the Bottom " , which was directed by Director X. Drake later announced that he would release the song as the first single for his third album , which happened on the night of the 55th Annual Grammy Awards . The single premiered instead on February 1 , 2013 , and was released on iTunes , five days later . On February 10 , 2013 , the music video for " Started from the Bottom " was released . The song charted in many countries , reaching a peak of number 6 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and has been certified double platinum in the United States by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) .

On August 4 , 2013 , it was revealed that Drake would soon be releasing the second single , titled " Hold On , We 're Going Home " . The song featuring Majid Jordan , with production by Noah " 40 " Shebib and Nineteen85 , and was released via iTunes on August 7 , 2013 . On August 12 , 2013 , the song was serviced to rhythmic contemporary and contemporary hit radio . On September 24 , 2013 , the music video was released for " Hold On , We 're Going Home " . The song peaked at number 4 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and number 8 on the Canadian Hot 100 , respectively .

Drake premiered a song from Nothing Was the Same , titled " All Me " , via SoundCloud on August 1 , 2013 . The song features guest vocals from fellow rappers 2 Chainz and Big Sean , and was produced by Key Wane . On the album 's US release date of September 24 , 2013 , Drake sent " All Me " to urban contemporary radio , as the album 's third single . The song peaked at number 20 on

the US Billboard Hot 100 , on the week of the album 's release .

On September 12 , 2013 , Drake released the previously announced track , titled " Wu @-@ Tang Forever " , as the album 's second promotional single , along with the pre @-@ order of Nothing Was the Same on iTunes . The song is a reference to the Wu @-@ Tang Clan and their critically acclaimed double album Wu @-@ Tang Forever ( 1997 ) . The track also samples their song " It 's Yourz " . After the song 's release , Wu @-@ Tang Clan member U @-@ God told Vibe , that Wu @-@ Tang Clan members , including himself and Method Man among others , has recorded a remix to the track .

" Pound Cake / Paris Morton Music 2 " serves as the album 's outro and consists of two songs , " Pound Cake " featuring a guest appearance from Jay Z , and " Paris Morton Music 2 " is a sequel to " Paris Morton Music " . " Pound Cake " features a significant sample of " C.R.E.A.M. " performed by Wu @-@ Tang Clan , and was produced by frequent collaborator Boi @-@ 1da . " Pound Cake " was serviced to radio in the United Kingdom on September 26 , 2013 , as the album 's fourth single , and was subsequently added to the BBC Radio 1Xtra playlist . The track peaked at number 65 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and at number 111 on the UK Singles Chart .

" The Language " was serviced to mainstream urban radio , as the album 's fifth single on October 29 , 2013 . It received many positive reviews , one coming from Nick Cutucci of Entertainment Weekly , which named the song , along with " Hold On , We 're Going Home " as one of the album 's best songs . Erika Ramirez of Billboard also credited Drake with " arrogantly " reinstating his spot in the rap game with the song . Upon its release , the song was said to be " addressed " and " acting passively " towards American rapper Kendrick Lamar 's recent diss record , but it was later denied by Birdman , whom appeared to be seen on MTV , prior to the album 's release and said that it was not directed towards Lamar . The song peaked at number 51 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , and number 13 on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart .

In the United Kingdom , " Too Much " impacted urban contemporary radio as the album 's sixth overall single on October 31 , 2013 . On November 11 , 2013 , the music video was released for " Worst Behavior " . " Worst Behavior " was then serviced to urban contemporary radio in the United Kingdom as the album 's seventh single on June 9 , 2014 .

= = Commercial performance = =

Nothing Was the Same debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 , with first @-@ week sales of 658 @,@ 000 . The album has the second highest first week sales of any album in 2013 , at the time of its release . It would also be the highest first week sales for a hip hop album since Lil Wayne 's Tha Carter IV ( 2011 ) . In its second week , the album sold 148 @,@ 000 more copies . In its third week , the album sold 83 @,@ 000 more copies . In its fourth week , the album continued to remain in the top five on the Billboard 200 , selling 58 @,@ 000 more copies . The album sold 1 @,@ 344 @,@ 000 copies in 2013 in the United States , making it the seventh best @-@ selling album of the year . As of August 2015 , the album has sold 1 @,@ 720 @,@ 000 copies in the United States .

The album debuted at number 2 on the UK Albums Chart , selling 61 @,@ 000 copies in its first week . It would be Drake 's highest debut on the chart and was the fastest selling hip hop album of 2013 in the United Kingdom , at the time of its release . The album also debuted at number one on the main album charts in Canada and Denmark , along with peaking in the top five of the main album charts in Australia , New Zealand and Ireland . The album has sold 108 @,@ 000 copies in Canada in 2013 .

= = Critical reception = =

Nothing Was the Same 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 79 , based on 33 reviews , indicating " generally favorable reviews " . Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune said , " Drake 's increasing mastery of not just rhyme , but tone and inflection is

readily apparent . " Nick Catucci of Entertainment Weekly gave the album an A , saying " Nothing Was the Same bristles with epiphanies , absurdities , and plenty of bluster , but it 's all fodder for a hyperrealistic portrait of Aubrey Drake Graham , not some coronation ceremony . " Jayson Greene of Pitchfork said , " Nothing Was the Same is Drake and 40 's most audacious experiment yet in how far inward they can push their sound ; a lot of the album sounds like a black hole of all 40 's previous productions being sucked into the center . Song @-@ to @-@ song transitions , which have always been melty and blurry , are more notional than ever . " Eric Diep of XXL gave the album an XL rating , saying " It 's apparent throughout the record that Drake thinks Nothing Was The Same is so good that none of his contemporaries can best him . Drake wants to hold the spot as an innovator , and his signature style is grasping onto newer territories every day , influencing artists in the rap world and beyond . " Bryant Kitching of Consequence of Sound gave the album a A ? , saying " Nothing Was the Same wrestles Drake 's successes with his ever @-@ lingering insecurities , and like some of the best music , we can see ourselves in these songs . It 's an exhilarating change of pace for the genre . "

Simon Vozick @-@ Levinson of Rolling Stone said , " After a while , his confessions start to sound like sneaky boasts about all the beautiful hearts he 's broken . And maybe he wants you to see that contradiction . After all , hiding his flaws has never been Drake 's style ? they 're the whole point . " Bonsu Thompson of Vibe gave the album a positive review , saying " As a major label artist , Drake has yet to conceive a classic album . While Nothing Was The Same doesn 't end that drought , its accomplishments may end up more pivotal . Hip @-@ hop music hasn 't been blurred and stretched this wide since Kanye ? s 808s & Heartbreak . " David Amidon of PopMatters , gave the album a seven out of ten , saying " Nothing Was the Same could very easily grow up to be one of those albums deemed ? pretty good ? at the time only to be recognized as Drake 's most likable album years from now . " Elysa Gardner of USA Today stated , " On his latest album Canada 's leading hip @-@ hop export continues to juggle bravado with brooding , though he sounds more empowered in the latter . " Tim Sendra of AllMusic said , " Nothing Was the Same doesn 't show large amounts of growth , but the small changes to the sound and the slightly wider net his lyrics cast make it worthwhile . " Aaron Matthews of Exclaim ! stated , " Nothing Was The Same is a challenging , uncompromised major label rap album with a handful of impeccable songs , weighed down slightly by the rapper 's increasingly solipsistic viewpoint . "

Julia LeConte of Now stated , " To say ? nothing was the same ? might be a stretch , but certainly the record mines enough new sonic territory to make it Kanye @-@ like in its evolution . " Randall Roberts of the Los Angeles Times said , " By the end , " Nothing Was the Same " overwhelms even by Drake 's selfie standards , and confirms that just because they 're well @-@ marketed and Midwest @-@ palatable doesn 't make internal diaries wholly compelling . " Jesse Cataldo of Slant Magazine gave the album four out of five stars , saying " The album isn 't perfect , but it draws energy from that imperfection , further establishing a persona driven by Drake 's still @-@ developing conflict between assurance and hesitation . " Evan Rytlewski of The A.V. Club gave the album a B + , saying " If Nothing Was The Same doesn 't resonate quite as consistently as Take Care , it 's because Drake and his in @-@ house collaborator Noah " 40 " Shebib sometimes seem content to revisit that album 's sonic landscapes instead of carving out new ones . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Closing out the year , Nothing Was the Same was named to multiple " Best Albums of the Year " lists . XXL named it the best album of 2013 . They commented saying , " The OVO general is at his highest point of his career , perfecting his formula of singing and rapping that truly carries the album from start to finish . With 40 in his corner , the pair executed tighter levels of their dark , lush sound that became easily identifiable . The compelling cuts ? " From Time " , " Too Much " , " Hold On , We 're Going Home " ? as well as obvious anthems like " Started From The Bottom " and " Worst Behaviour " display leaps of growth . " Complex named it the second best album of 2013 stating , " it was one of the most anticipated albums of the year , and one that actually lived up to the hype . Nothing Was The Same might not have had a legendary producer on hand to " minimize " its

sound , but it has minimized the discussion of who is the most popular rap star in the world right now . " Nick Catucci of Entertainment Weekly also named it the second best album of 2013 saying , " When he gets to flexin ' ? as on " Worst Behavior , " with its Rube Goldberg underpinnings ; the MC smackdown " The Language " ; and the hypnotic " Started From the Bottom " ? he 's flawlessly confident . But his restless thoughts keep the elegant music here taut . " It was ranked at number 14 on Rolling Stone 's list of the 50 best albums of 2013 . They commented saying , " Drake is the people 's rapper , a smart kid conflicted about his fame , heart , family , everything except his mic potency . But what makes his lonely fantastic voyage matter is its emotional weight , which gets crucial amplification from Noah " 40 " Shebib 's whirlpool beats . "

The Guardian placed it at number 31 on their list of the forty best albums of 2013 . Exclaim ! named it the third best hip hop album of 2013 . It was named the ninth best album of 2013 by Slant Magazine . They commented saying , " Drake , the Canadian master of confession @-@ rap , cuts the usual sharp lines , and his lamentations have never felt so knowing , nor more tuneful . He doesn 't need a handful of guest MCs , and he doesn 't want our sympathy either ? just the chance to give us mellow ear @-@ gasms , which he does on nearly every track . " It was ranked at number 19 on Consequence of Sound 's list of the top 50 albums of 2013 . Stereogum ranked it at number 28 on their list of the 50 best albums of the year . " Spin positioned it at number 50 on their list . The album is a shortlisted nominee for the 2014 Polaris Music Prize .

= = Track listing = =

#### Notes

^ [ a ] signifies a co @-@ producer

^ [ b ] signifies an additional producer

" Tuscan Leather " features background vocals by Cappadonna .

" Furthest Thing " features background vocals by Brian Hamilton , Omar Richards , Owen Lee , Deborah Vernal , Jennifer Tulloch , Patricia Shirley and Rachel Craig .

" Own It " features background vocals by PartyNextDoor .

" From Time " features background vocals by Travis Savoury Baka AKA ? Not Nice "

" Hold On , We 're Going Home " features background vocals by Brian Hamilton , Omar Richards , Deborah Vernal , Grace Gayle , Dionne Wilson , Patricia Shirley and Rachel Craig .

" Connect " features background vocals by Shawn Lawrence and Trae tha Truth .

" Come Thru " features background vocals from PartyNextDoor .

#### Sample credits

" Tuscan Leather " contains interpolations of " Serious " , written by Warren McGlone and Lawrence Parker ; samples of " I Have Nothing " , written by David Foster and Linda Thompson , as performed by Whitney Houston ; and samples from " When Seasons Change " ( live ) by Curtis Mayfield .

" Started from the Bottom " contains samples from the composition Ambessence Piano & Drones , written and performed by Bruno Sanfilippo .

" Wu @-@ Tang Forever " contains samples of " It 's Yourz " , written by Dennis Coles , Robert Diggs , Lamont Hawkins , Jason Hunter , Corey Woods , Thor Baldursson , Mats Bjoerklyn and Juergen Koduletsch , as performed by Wu @-@ Tang Clan ; and samples of " Loss Config " , as performed by Zodiac Beats .

" Too Much " contains samples of " Too Much " , written by Sampha and Emile Haynie , as performed by Sampha .

" Pound Cake / Paris Morton Music 2 " contains interpolations of " C.R.E.A.M. " , written by Dennis Coles , Robert Diggs , Gary Grice , Lamont Hawkins , Isaac Hayes , Jason Hunter , Russell Jones , David Porter , Clifford Smith and Corey Woods , as performed by Wu @-@ Tang Clan ; samples of " Don 't Say a Word " , written by Jim Eliot and Ellie Goulding , as performed by Ellie Goulding ; and samples of " Jimmy Smith Rap " , as performed by Jimmy Smith .

" All Me " contains samples of " My Man " , written by Albert Lucien Willemetz , Jacques Charles and Maurice Yvain , as performed by Abbey Lincoln .

= = Personnel = =

Credits for Nothing Was the Same adapted from AllMusic .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =