

= Iowa ( album ) =

Iowa is the second studio album by American heavy metal band , Slipknot . Released by Roadrunner Records on August 28 , 2001 , it was produced by Ross Robinson and Slipknot . The title derives from the band 's home state , Iowa , which members have stated is one of their greatest sources of inspiration . With much anticipation for the band 's second album following on the success of their 1999 self @-@ titled debut , pressures on the band were high . Their relationships with each other suffered and was later described as the darkest time of their career . It was also the first time that guitarist Jim Root had been significantly involved in a Slipknot album due to his joining very late in recording of their debut album , as Root was only featured on two songs from that release . Despite troubles within the band and with Iowa 's development , Slipknot promoted it for almost a year .

Iowa was a major success , premiering in the top ten album sales charts in nine countries . Generally positively received , it includes some of their notable songs , such as " Disasterpiece " , " The Heretic Anthem " , " People = Shit " and the two Grammy @-@ nominated songs " Left Behind " and the remix of " My Plague " . While more technical than their debut album , Iowa is considered to be the band 's heaviest and darkest . It has been certified platinum in the United States and Canada . A special edition of Iowa was reissued on November 1 , 2011 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the record . It was accompanied by a full live audio of the hit DVD Disasterpieces and a film entitled Goat directed by Shawn Crahan with the four music videos , never @-@ seen @-@ before interviews and footage from the Iowa period .

= = Recording and production = =

Iowa was recorded and produced at Sound City and Sound Image studios in Los Angeles , California with producer Ross Robinson , who had produced their debut album . Drummer Joey Jordison and bassist Paul Gray began working on new music together in October 2000 and together they wrote material for most of the tracks on the album . During this time other band members wanted a break following the extensive touring which followed their self @-@ titled debut album . However , on January 17 , 2001 , Slipknot entered the studio to begin recording Iowa . This period in the band 's career has become known as one of their worst for several reasons . Jordison stated retrospectively , " that 's where we got into a war " citing the lack of a break for himself and Gray . While other factors , including : vocalist Corey Taylor 's alcohol addiction , several other members ' drug addictions , management issues and more , affected relations in the band .

Despite being a member of Slipknot since 1999 , it was the first album where guitarist Jim Root had been significantly involved . He had joined them during the later recording stages of Slipknot and subsequently became more involved with this album . During an interview with Guitar magazine in November 2001 he explained , " it was so exciting as well as scary to be part of this whole huge process " , adding that there was a lot of pressure from fellow guitarist Mick Thomson to perform well on the record . In an interview with FHM in December 2001 , vocalist Corey Taylor revealed that he put himself in specific situations to achieve his performance on the album . While recording vocals for the final song " Iowa " he was completely naked , vomiting all over himself and cutting himself with broken glass . Explaining this , he said , " that 's where the best stuff comes from . You 've got to break yourself down before you can build something great . " While producing the album , Ross Robinson was injured from a dirt bike accident , fracturing his back . He returned to the studio after a day of hospital treatment , reportedly " putting all of his pain into the album " , much to the admiration of the band .

= = Promotion = =

There was speculation over the title before its announcement with Nine Men , One Mission as the expected title in some sources . Iowa was later announced as its title and was named after the band 's home state of Iowa . Band members have claimed that Iowa is the source of their energy and they

consciously made the decision to stay in the area , partly due to the fear of losing their creative direction . The opening track " ( 515 ) " is also a reference to their home state , named after the telephone area code for central Iowa . Initially the album was scheduled for release on June 19 , 2001 , and was to be preceded by a five @-@ date warm @-@ up tour . However , the mixing of the album took longer than anticipated , causing the album 's release to be delayed and the cancellation of the tour . The album was officially released on August 28 , 2001 . In support of the album , Slipknot began touring on their Iowa World Tour . This included : a spot on Ozzfest in 2001 , an American co @-@ headlining tour with System of a Down , as well as tours in Japan , Europe and elsewhere .

Prior to the album 's release , Slipknot gave away copies of " Heretic Song " , titled " The Heretic Anthem " on the album , free on their website and was limited to a quantity of 666 copies to coincide with the song 's chorus ; " If you 're 555 , then I 'm 666 . " The giveaway began May 15 , 2001 , and lasted until copies sold out . The first official single released from the album was " Left Behind " . In 2002 , the band made a special appearance in the film Rollerball in which they performed " I Am Hated " . Following this , a second single from the album was released , " My Plague " , which appeared on the soundtrack for the film Resident Evil .

= = Music and lyrical themes = =

Prior to its release , band members promised a much darker and heavier album than Slipknot , and many sources praised the band for achieving this ? effectively fulfilling their promises . During an interview in 2008 , percussionist Shawn Crahan retrospectively evaluated their time creating the album , proclaiming that they owe their overtly darker sound to their state of mind during that period : " When we did Iowa , we hated each other . We hated the world ; the world hated us . " Iowa , unlike its predecessor , saw Robinson capturing the band 's technicality as opposed to the raw energy for which Slipknot is known . The band was also praised for its use of an extended line @-@ up consisting of additional percussionists and electronics . NME stated that " every possible space is covered in scrawl and cymbals : guitars , percussion , electronic squall , subhuman screaming . " Although Iowa is widely regarded as the band 's heaviest album to date , some tracks do include melody , most apparent in " Everything Ends " and " Left Behind " . On the album 's thirteenth anniversary , Revolver looked back on the album as " their most extreme album yet " . They compared several songs , namely " Disasterpiece , " " People = Shit " and " The Heretic Anthem " as more death metal @-@ influenced than most of the nu metal that the album contained . While the album does have elements of hip hop music , Iowa has less hip hop elements than Slipknot 's self @-@ titled album , focusing more on elements of genres such as death metal and hardcore punk .

Iowa follows the lyrical style that vocalist Corey Taylor established on Slipknot 's debut album ; it includes strong use of metaphors to describe overtly dark themes including misanthropy , solipsism , disgust , anger , disaffection , psychosis and rejection . The album also includes many expletives ; David Fricke of the Rolling Stone magazine said " there isn 't much shock value left in the words fuck and shit , which Taylor uses in some variation more than forty times in Iowa 's sixty @-@ six minutes . " Fricke went on to praise Taylor 's performance on the track " Iowa " , comparing it to a " vivid evocation of a makeshift @-@ cornfield grave at midnight . "

= = Critical reception = =

Following the mass success of the band 's self @-@ titled album , author Dick Porter wrote that the anticipation for a follow up was intense . Prior to its release , drummer Jordison proclaimed : " Wait till you hear our fuckin ' next record . It smokes our first album . The shit 's twice as technical , three times as heavy . " The College Music Journal reviewed it as " brutal , unrelenting , scorching ... " Many reviews noted its heavy themes , the Alternative Press stated , " [ it is ] like having a plastic bag taped over your head for an hour while Satan uses your scrotum as a speedbag .... [ It ] is over the top ... you 're going to be left in stitches . " NME said that it is " Exhilarating , brutal and good . " Rolling Stone credited the album for its originality , stating that " nearly everything else in modern

doom rock sounds banal . " Producer Robinson was also praised for his work on the album ; Uncut noted , " The barely relenting , tumbling noise attack marshalled by nu metal uber @-@ producer Ross Robinson is expert . " Reviewing for Yahoo , John Mulvey said , " They 're an evolutionary dead end , the final , absolute triumph of nu metal . "

The album 's first single , " Left Behind " , was nominated for the 2002 Grammy Award for Best Metal Performance at the 44th Grammy Awards . The second single , " My Plague " , was nominated in 2003 for the same award at the 45th Grammy Awards . The single " Left Behind " peaked in the top thirty for single sales the United States and the UK . In addition , " My Plague " reached the 43rd position on the UK charts . Iowa was ranked sixth in the " 50 Albums of the year " by NME in 2001 . The album reached the top position on the UK Albums Chart , and the second spot on the ARIA Charts in Australia . The album reached the third spot on the Billboard 200 and Finnish Charts . On October 10 , 2001 , the album was certified platinum in the United States . In Canada , the Canadian Recording Industry Association certified the album as Platinum , on September 5 , 2001 . The British Phonographic Industry has certified the album as gold in the UK . In 2009 , Iowa was rated 3rd in UK magazine Kerrang ! ' s " The 50 Best Albums of the 21st century " reader poll .

= = Track listing = =

All music written by Shawn Crahan , Paul Gray , Joey Jordison , Chris Fehn , Mick Thomson , Sid Wilson , Craig Jones and James Root . All lyrics by Corey Taylor

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Chart procession and succession = = =

= = Personnel = =

Aside from their real names , members of the band are referred to by numbers zero through eight .