



The Pretty Reckless

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The Pretty Reckless is an American [rock](#) band from [New York City](#), formed in 2009. The band consists of [Taylor Momsen](#) (lead vocals, rhythm guitar), Ben Phillips (lead guitar, backing vocals), Mark Damon (bass), and Jamie Perkins (drums). In August 2010, the band released their debut studio album, *[Light Me Up](#)*. The album spawned three moderately successful singles, most notably "[Make Me Wanna Die](#)". The band released the *[Hit Me Like a Man EP](#)* in early 2012.^[1] In March 2014, the band released their second studio album, *[Going to Hell](#)*, which included the singles "[Heaven Knows](#)" and "[Messed Up World](#)", both of which topped the US and UK rock charts.^[1]

On October 21, 2016, [Razor & Tie](#) released the band's third studio album, *[Who You Selling For](#)*. This album spawned the single "[Take Me Down](#)", which earned the band their fourth number one on the US rock chart.^[2] On February 12, 2021, the band's fourth studio album, *[Death by Rock and Roll](#)*, was released. The Pretty Reckless became the first female-fronted band to have seven number-one singles when "[Death by Rock and Roll](#)" hit number one on the Mainstream Rock chart.^[2]

History [\[edit \]](#)

2009–2012: Formation, *The Pretty Reckless EP* and *Light Me Up* [\[edit \]](#)

Main articles: [The Pretty Reckless EP](#) and [Light Me Up](#)

Before forming the band, [Taylor Momsen](#) was an actress, most known for *[How the Grinch Stole Christmas](#)* and *[Gossip Girl](#)*.^{[3][4]} The band were originally called The Reckless, but had to change the name due to trademark problems.^{[5][6]} The band played its first concert on May 5, 2009, at The Annex in New York.^{[7][8]} The original lineup of the band consisted of Momsen with John Secolo (guitar), Matt Chiarelli (bass), and Nick Carbone

The Pretty Reckless



The Pretty Reckless performing at [Rock Fest](#) in 2017

Background information

Origin	New York City , U.S.
Genres	Hard rock · alternative rock · post-grunge · blues rock
Discography	The Pretty Reckless discography
Years active	2009–present
Labels	Interscope · Razor & Tie · Cooking Vinyl · Fearless · Century Media
Members	Taylor Momsen Ben Phillips Mark Damon Jamie Perkins
Past members	Nick Carbone Matt Chiarelli John Secolo
Website	theprettyreckless.com



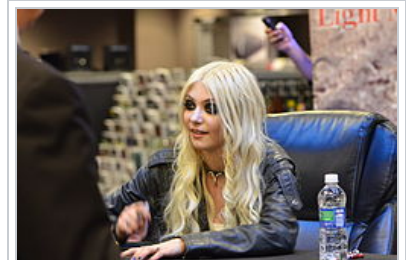
Momsen at the Warped Tour Kickoff (April 2010).

(drums).^[5] They recorded some demos in early 2009 and they opened for [The Veronicas](#) on their North American tour.^[5] For two years Momsen worked with several producers before meeting [Kato Khandwala](#).^[9] Momsen has said that she liked Khandwala because he was a rock producer as opposed to a pop producer.^[9] Khandwala introduced Momsen to Ben Phillips and the three began to write songs together.^[10] At present, Momsen is the lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist, with Ben Phillips on lead guitar, Jamie Perkins on drums, and Mark Damon on bass.^{[5][11]}

Momsen stated in an interview with [OK!](#) magazine that the band signed with [Interscope Records](#) and would be releasing their debut album in 2010.^[12] After the band announced they had signed to Interscope Records, two new recordings of demo songs ("He Loves You" and "Zombie") were posted on their Myspace account.^[13]

On December 30, 2009, the band released a new promo song entitled "Make Me Wanna Die". The song was offered as a limited-time free download for fans on their Interscope Records website.^[14] The band launched "Make Me Wanna Die" on the [soundtrack](#) and it appeared in the end credits of the 2010 film [Kick-Ass](#).^[5] The song was the band's first single, and was released on May 17, 2010, with the debut album set to be released in August.^[11] They performed at [The Bamboozle](#) music festival on May 1, 2010.^[15] The band played [Warped Tour 2010](#).^[16]

Their first EP was released on June 22, 2010,^[17] to mixed reactions. [Rolling Stone](#) magazine classified the sound as "generic".^[18] It contained four songs, three of which can be found on their debut album: "Make Me Wanna Die", "My Medicine", and "Goin' Down".^[19] "Make Me Wanna Die" was released on April 14, 2010 as the lead single from [Light Me Up](#).^[20] A viral video was released to promote the single.^[21] The full record was released on August 31, 2010.^[22] "Miss Nothing" was released on the second single on August 18, 2010.^[23] A video for "Miss Nothing" was released on July 20, 2010.^[24]



Momsen on the [Light Me Up Tour](#) (April 2011).

The band supported [Evanescence](#) on their worldwide [Evanescence Tour](#). [Taylor Momsen](#) stated she was a "big fan of [Evanescence](#), so it's really exciting to be opening for them".^{[25][26]} The band opened for Evanescence at the historic [Hollywood Palladium](#) in [Los Angeles](#). Evanescence singer [Amy Lee](#) told [MTV News](#) about Momsen: "She's got a great voice; she's real sweet", and laughingly said that being one of Momsen's first concerts makes her feel "old, but very, very flattered."^[27] [Guns N' Roses'](#) [Chinese Democracy Tour](#) confirmed The Pretty Reckless as an opening act for three tour dates in November 2011.^[28]

In 2012, two singles were released from the album: "You"; and "My Medicine". Videos for both singles were also released: "You" featuring Momsen in a small empty apartment playing the guitar; and "My Medicine" featuring Momsen at an out-of-control party as she sings about being under the influence of alcohol and

drugs. Later in 2012, she appeared in a video completely naked. In the video entitled "The Words - Under The Water", Momsen appeared in a black-and-white film while saying the lyrics like reciting a poem. By the time the video ends, Momsen appears without her clothes on, although her private parts are blurred.^[29]

2012–2014: *Hit Me Like a Man EP*, commercial success with *Going to Hell* [[edit](#)]

Main article: [Going to Hell](#)

The [Medicine Tour](#) was the second headlining concert tour by The Pretty Reckless in support of their 2010 debut album [Light Me Up](#) and their 2012 extended play [Hit Me Like a Man EP](#).^[30] The tour dates were announced on January 23, 2012, via the band's official website. The band performed at several of the same venues they had visited the previous year, with 52 shows in North America, 5 shows in South America and 2 shows in Asia. Their second [extended play](#) [Hit Me Like a Man EP](#) was released on March 6, 2012.^[31] It featured three new songs, as well as live performances of two songs from [Light Me Up](#).^[32] A new song by the band titled "Only You" was included as a bonus track of [Frankenweenie Unleashed!](#), the soundtrack album of [Frankenweenie](#) (2012).^[33] On December 11, 2012, The Pretty Reckless' released the single, "[Kill Me](#)".^[34] The song was featured at the end of the [final episode](#) of the series [Gossip Girl](#).^[35]

On May 30, 2013, The Pretty Reckless released a teaser trailer for their second studio album [Going to Hell](#), set for release later that year.^[36] On June 17, 2013, The Pretty Reckless released a new track titled "Follow Me Down".^[37] On July 1, 2013, Momsen released the song "Burn", which will also be on [Going to Hell](#).^[38]

The song "Going to Hell" premiered on September 19, 2013.^{[39][40]} On the same day as the premier of the new track "Going to Hell", The Pretty Reckless also announced their signing to the label [Razor & Tie](#).^{[41][42]} On September 20, 2013, The Pretty Reckless began the [Going to Hell Tour](#) to support the album,^[39] together with [Heaven's Basement](#).^[43] The "Going to Hell" official music video was released on October 16, 2013.^{[44][45]} ON November 19, 2013, the second single "Heaven Knows" was released.^[46] The music video appeared on February 13, 2014.^[47]

[Going to Hell](#) was released on March 18, 2014.^{[48][49]} The release marked the band's largest sales week to date and landed at number five on the *Billboard* 200 with over 35,000 copies sold in its first week.^[50] Much of the inspiration for the album came from Momsen's Catholic background, noting that "heaven and hell is a metaphor that's been used in music since the beginning of time".^[51]

When the singles "[Heaven Knows](#)" and "[Messed Up World \(F'd Up World\)](#)" topped the US [Mainstream Rock](#) chart, The Pretty Reckless became the second female-fronted band to achieve two number ones in a row on the chart, following [The Pretenders](#).^[52] 2014 also saw Momsen performing at the Revolver Magazine Golden Gods awards alongside Joan Jett and ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons.^[53] The band also performed "Heaven Knows", "Fucked Up World", and "Going to Hell" at the awards show.^[54]

2015–2017: *Who You Selling For* [[edit](#)]

Main article: [Who You Selling For](#)

In the beginning of September 2015, Momsen confirmed that the band was working on new material in the studio.^[55] Writing for the album began shortly after the completion of two years of touring in support of the band's second studio album, *Going to Hell* (2014).

"We had so much we wanted to say, it was like shaking a can of soda on tour, and then when we started writing we cracked the seal", Momsen said. "The touring life is very isolating. You look at the world through a bus or airplane window. But music is the healing factor. It's the one thing that is grounding and a true companion through the forest. It saved us—again."^[56]

The band released "*Take Me Down*" as the lead single for their third studio album on July 15, 2016.^[57] It became the band's fourth single to top the Mainstream Rock chart^[58] and was serviced to US *active rock* radio on July 19.^[59] The music video for "Take Me Down" was released on September 29, 2016.^[60] The band's third studio album, *Who You Selling For*, was released on October 21, 2016, by *Razor & Tie*.^{[61][62]}

In support of the album, the band embarked on the *Who You Selling For Tour*, which kicked off on October 20, 2016, in *Tulsa, Oklahoma*.^[56] The official music video for the album's second single "Oh My God" was released on February 8, 2017.^[63] During the tour, on May 17, 2017, the band was the opening act for *Soundgarden* during lead vocalist *Chris Cornell*'s last performance, at the *Fox Theater* in *Detroit, Michigan*, before his suicide. The Pretty Reckless paid tribute to Cornell by performing a cover version of *Audioslave*'s "*Like a Stone*" on May 20 at the Philadelphia radio station *WMMR*'s annual MMR-B-Q at *BB&T Pavilion* in *Camden, New Jersey*.^[64] A third single, "*Back to the River*", featuring *Warren Haynes* of the *Allman Brothers Band* was released on June 13, 2017.^[65]

2018–present: *Death by Rock and Roll* and *Other Worlds* [edit]

*Main article: *Death by Rock and Roll**

The band's longtime-producer, *Kato Khandwala*, was involved in a *motorcycle accident* in April 2018 and died later due to injuries from the crash.^{[66][67][68]} Speaking about Khandwala's death, Taylor Momsen stated:

"That was the nail in the coffin for me. I threw my hands up in the air and kind of went 'Yeah, I give up.' I went down a very dark rabbit hole of depression and substance abuse and everything that comes with that."^[69]

In November 2019, Momsen revealed on *Instagram* that the band was working on their fourth studio album with *Matt Cameron* of *Pearl Jam* and *Soundgarden*.^[70] In February 2020, Momsen confirmed the album's completion and revealed its title, *Death by Rock and Roll*.^[71] The lead single, which is the *title track* of the album, was released on May 15, 2020.^{[72][73]} The band's tour was set to begin in September 2020, having been delayed from May 2020 due to the *COVID-19 pandemic*.^[74] In May 2020, the band signed with *Fearless Records*.^[75]

The Pretty Reckless became the first female-fronted band to have five number one singles when "*Death by Rock and Roll*" rose to the top of the Mainstream Rock Chart.^[2] The Halloween-themed "Broomsticks" was

released in late October,^[76] and "25" was released on November 13.^[77] On January 8, 2021, the band released "And So It Went" featuring [Tom Morello](#) as the next single for *Death by Rock and Roll*.^{[78][79]} Momsen stated that the song comments on the world's current "civil unrest": "The world has been in such a state of civil unrest. 'And So It Went' basically comes from that vision. As a songwriter, I feel like I'm not here to preach. I use music to observe and communicate what I see around me."^[80] The album was released on February 12, 2021.^{[81][82]}

The band embarked on the Death by Rock and Roll Tour in support of the album in March and April 2022 touring with [Shinedown](#),^[83] and then with [Halestorm](#) beginning in June 2022.^[84] The tour visited the UK and Ireland in October and November 2022.^[85] In August 2022, the band announced the release of *Other Worlds*, a compilation album containing alternate versions of previously released songs and new covers, for November 4 that year. A remix of "Got So High" from *Death by Rock and Roll* was released as a single ahead of the compilation's release.^{[86][87]} In May 2023, the band announced that they entered the studio to work on their fifth studio album.^[87] The group toured as the opening act of [AC/DC](#)'s [Power Up Tour](#) from May 2024 to August 2025.^{[88][89]}

Musical style and influences [\[edit \]](#)

The Pretty Reckless has been described as [hard rock](#),^{[5][90][91][92][93]} [alternative rock](#),^{[94][95][96]} [post-grunge](#),^{[5][97]} [grunge](#),^[11] and [blues rock](#).^[93] According to *Louder Sound*, "[the band mixes] the finer elements of [heavy metal](#) with [grunge](#) and [blues](#). Ben Phillips' gritty riffs gave Momsen a platform to make singles Miss Nothing and Make Me Wanna Die teem with attitude, while the softer moments, such as Just Tonight, set up the singer...as a vocal force to be reckoned with."^[91] The band's fourth album, *Death by Rock and Roll*, had touches of [country rock](#), [folk rock](#), and [Americana](#), on the tracks, "Rock and Roll Heaven" and "Harley Darling",^{[98][99]} along with their typical hard rock sound.^[100]

In interviews, Momsen reported the influences on the band to include [Chris Cornell](#),^{[101][102]} [Soundgarden](#),^[103] [Audioslave](#),^[103] [Hole](#),^[103] [the Beatles](#),^{[90][102]} [the Doors](#),^[90] [Led Zeppelin](#),^[102] [Bob Dylan](#),^[102] [David Bowie](#),^[102] [Kurt Cobain](#),^[102] [Alanis Morissette](#),^[102] [Pink Floyd](#),^{[90][102]} [the White Stripes](#),^{[90][102]} [the Who](#),^[102] [Oasis](#),^[102] [Robert Plant](#),^[102] [Joan Jett](#),^{[102][103]} [Nirvana](#),^{[102][103]} and [Neil Young](#).^[102]

Live performances [\[edit \]](#)

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- This section **needs additional citations for [verification](#)**.*(December 2023)*
- This section needs to be **updated**. The reason given is: update beyond 2013. *(March 2024)*

The band opened the [V Festival](#) in the UK in 2010. The band embarked on a four-date UK tour starting in [Glasgow](#), Scotland at the [Barrowland Ballroom](#) on December 13, 2010, supported by [Francesca](#).

In 2011, the band announced a tour running from early February to late March. The band appeared at the [Download Festival](#) in June.^[104] A planned performance at the [Soundwave Revolution](#), an Australian music festival, was cancelled. During the summer, the band performed in several European festivals such as [Rock Am Ring](#) in June, [Optimus Alive!](#) on July 8 in Portugal, [Rock Werchter](#) on July 2 in Belgium, [Wireless Festival](#) on July 3, [Montreux Jazz Festival](#) in Montreux, Switzerland on July 4 and [T in the Park](#) on July 10 in Scotland. On August 6, 2011, the band performed at the 2011 [Lollapalooza](#) festival in [Chicago, Illinois](#).^[105] The Pretty Reckless opened several [Evanescence](#) shows in October and November with two gigs at the [HMV Hammersmith Apollo](#) in London among others.^[106] On October 8, 2011, the band performed at the 2011 [Tulsa State Fair](#) in [Tulsa, Oklahoma](#). On October 26, 2011, the band performed at [Ritual nightclub](#) in [Ottawa, Ontario](#), with guests [Static Revolt](#) and [The Escape Mode](#).^[107]



Momsen (July 2011).

In January 2012, the band released tour dates for its second headlining tour, [The Medicine Tour](#).^[108] Directly following those tour dates, the Pretty Reckless supported [Marilyn Manson](#) on their tour, [Hey Cruel World... Tour](#). In July 2012, The Pretty Reckless arrived in Argentina for the first time. The band's show was on July 29 in [Buenos Aires](#). In September 2012, The Pretty Reckless headlined the [Bazooka Rocks Festival](#) in [Manila](#), Philippines, ending their [The Medicine Tour](#).^[109] On September 20, 2013, the band kicked off the first leg of their third tour, the [Going to Hell Tour](#), in North America.

Band members [\[edit \]](#)

The Pretty Reckless live at [Rock im Park](#) 2014



Taylor Momsen



Ben Phillips



Mark Damon



Jamie Perkins

Current members

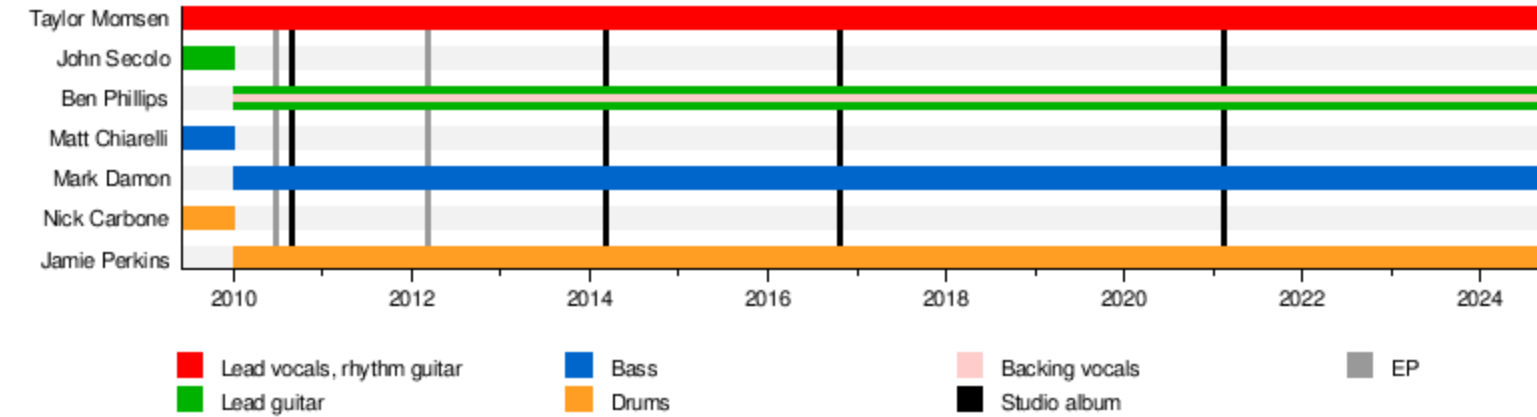
- [Taylor Momsen](#) – lead vocals, rhythm guitar (2009–present)
- Ben Phillips – lead guitar, backing vocals (2010–present)
- Mark Damon – bass (2010–present)
- Jamie Perkins – drums (2010–present)

Former members

- Nick Carbone – drums (2009–2010)
- Matt Chiarelli – bass (2009–2010)
- John Secolo – lead guitar (2009–2010)

Timeline

[[edit](#)]



Discography [[edit](#)]

Main article: [The Pretty Reckless discography](#)

Studio albums

- [Light Me Up](#) (2010)
- [Going to Hell](#) (2014)
- [Who You Selling For](#) (2016)
- [Death by Rock and Roll](#) (2021)

Tours [[edit](#)]

Headlining [[edit](#)]

- [Light Me Up Tour](#) (2010–2012)
- [The Medicine Tour](#) (2012)
- [Going to Hell Tour](#) (2013–2015)
- [Who You Selling For Tour](#) (2016–2017)
- [Death by Rock and Roll Tour](#) (2022–2023)

Festivals [[edit](#)]

- Part of [Warped Tour](#) (2010)
- Rock Fest (2022)
- Part of [Rock The Rock Fest](#) (2023)

Awards and nominations [[edit](#)]

Year	Ceremony	Category	Work	Result	Reference
2010	Virgin Media Music Award	Best Group	—	Nominated	[110]
		Best Newcomer		Nominated	

2014	Independent Music Awards	Best 'Difficult' Second Album	<i>Going to Hell</i>	Nominated	[111]
	<i>Kerrang</i> Awards	Hottest Female	Taylor Momsen	Won	[112][113]
	RadioContraband Awards	New Artist of the Year	—	Won	[114]
2017	<i>Alternative Press</i> Music Awards	Best Hard Rock Band		Won	[115]
		Artist of the Year		Nominated	
	Loudwire Music Awards	Hard Rock Artist of the Year		Nominated	[116]
	iHeartRadio Music Awards	Rock Song of the Year	"Take Me Down"	Nominated	[117]
2021	iHeartRadio Music Awards	Rock Artist of the Year	—	Won	[118][119]
		Rock Song of the Year	"Death by Rock And Roll"	Nominated	
	<i>Teraz Rock</i> Awards	Best Foreign Album of the Year	<i>Death by Rock and Roll</i>	Nominated	[120]
2022	iHeartRadio Music Awards	Rock Artist of the Year	—	Nominated	[121]
		Rock Song of the Year	"And So It Went"	Nominated	

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