

Album Review by: Roenz Tejada



SUNBURN

BY: DOMINIC FIKE

Dominic Fike (born December 30, 1995) is an American singer, rapper, and songwriter from Naples, Florida. His sound blends alternative, hip-hop, and pop, shaped by a turbulent upbringing involving family instability, legal trouble, and substance abuse.

He first gained major attention in 2018 after releasing *Don't Forget About Me, Demos*, much of which was recorded while he was under house arrest. The project went viral and led to a high-profile deal with Columbia Records, rapidly pushing him into the mainstream.

Fike's career has been marked by periods of withdrawal due to addiction and rehab, themes he openly addresses in his music. He released *What Could Possibly Go Wrong* (2020) and *Sunburn* (2023), both exploring fame, guilt, and personal consequences. Beyond music, he expanded into acting, playing Elliot on HBO's *Euphoria*.



**“My music is crazy
— it blends, it’s weird
and it’s all different
types of sh*t.”
-Dominic Fike**

HOW MUCH IS WEED?



**SONG
RATING:
9/10**

TRACK NO.1

Dominic kicks the album off with How Much Is Weed? In this song he responds to incorrect perceptions of him, taking one line from the lyrics as an example, he says, “I did my best, I needed rest, I got arrested/ Everybody lookin’ at me like I’m not invested,” and then he asks, “you know how hard I was stressing?” This shows how those around him feel as though Dominic has no interest in whatever was happening to anything happens to himself and others.

Musically, the minimalist production reinforces the song’s confessional quality. The beat is repetitive, allowing Fike’s voice to feel close and unfiltered. There is little sense of resolution by the end of the track, which mirrors the lack of clarity in the lyrics themselves.

SONG RATING:

10/10

ANT PILE

“Ant Pile” feels like Dominic Fike letting his thoughts spill out faster than he can organize them. Coming right after the loose, wandering opener, the track immediately sounds more tense, like the anxiety has kicked in.



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What makes “Ant Pile” work is that it doesn’t try to clean itself up or offer resolution. It sounds like a snapshot of a moment where everything feels like too much. As part of *Sunburn*, the track deepens the album’s emotional honesty, showing how quickly introspection can turn into overwhelm.

I love how “Ant Pile” embraces chaos instead of trying to sound polished. The restless production mirrors the anxiety in Fike’s thoughts, and the constant shift between confidence and insecurity feels honest. It captures a moment of mental overload without forcing resolution, which makes the song feel raw and real.

MONA LISA

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“Mona Lisa,” which is the seventh song on the album, centers on love, admiration, and fixation, framing romance through the lens of art. Dominic Fike compares the person he’s singing about to a masterpiece, suggesting a kind of love that’s rooted in awe and idealization. By referencing the Mona Lisa and Parisian art imagery, he elevates the subject of the song, presenting her face as something timeless, studied, and endlessly fascinating. What stands out to me is how effortlessly the song carries its confidence. Even with all the artistic references, it never feels forced or pretentious. The smooth delivery and relaxed production make the track feel natural and replayable, like something that fits just as easily in a movie soundtrack as it does on a personal playlist.

SONG RATING:
10/10

MAMA'S BOY



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SONG
RATING
: 9/10

The meaning of “Mama’s Boy” is largely left open to interpretation, which is part of what makes the song feel so personal.

To me, “Mama’s Boy” plays like a coming-of-age tribute rooted in his childhood trauma. Fike touches on feelings of abandonment and confusion, especially in the line, “*I wish I was a toy*,” where he references feeling envious a lifeless doll, wanting to feel nothing instead of carrying so much emotional weight at such a young age. That line hints at early emotional numbness that later connects to addiction and escapism.

The song also touches on past relationships and patterns that keep popping up as he gets older. Even if he doesn’t say it outright, you can hear how childhood stuff sticks with him and affects how he connects with people. Being called a “mama’s boy,” especially with his mom in and out of jail, is ironic, it was all he really knew, but it still made him an easy target for teasing.

CONCLUSION

Dominic Fike's *Sunburn* is just one of those albums that sticks with you. He talks openly about past relationships, childhood struggles, and the stuff that keeps coming back no matter how much you try to move on, and it all feels really real. The mix of fun, catchy songs and quieter, reflective moments makes it easy to get lost in, and it ended up being one of the highlights of Summer 2023.



Sunburn means a lot to me in my heart because of how honest and personal it feels, capturing Dominic Fike at his most vulnerable and creative. Arguably, it's one of his best albums, blending catchy, sun-soaked vibes with deep reflections on his past and struggles.

