

Take Care

By: Drake

Take Care is not just an album, it's the sound that help shape the R&B and rap of today.

In this album Drake gives his view on love and relationships which was not common until Kanye's 2008 album 808's and Heartbreak.

3 years later in 2011 Drake made Take Care where he puts a whole new perspective on the genre, often singing his rap lyrics, giving it a melody, or making the occasional pop and R&B song.

Doing so he creates an atmosphere which will show you his highs and lows, his struggle with loneliness and becoming an adult throughout this 20 song album.

To this day it is considered one of and if not, his best album, and being on multiple top 100 albums of all time lists, ranking 11th on Rolling Stone's top 200 and 47th on apple musics top 100.

WHY WAS THIS ALBUM MADE



In 2009 Drake was signed by Lil Wayne, and made a mixtape called So Far Gone that nominated him for a grammy.



The next year Drake released his first album, Thank Me Later, he got nominated for more grammys, but there was one problem...



He wasn't happy with his first album, he felt it was rushed. So he started making the album with his producer, Noah "40" Shebib.



Take Care was the album Drake would've made as his first if he could do it again, but it also makes a great second album.



With this album Drake did what he wanted to and got his first grammy win while doing it.

Meaningful Songs

Track 1: Over My Dead Body

Considered the best song off the album and also considered to be Drakes best song this is an R&B and Rap fused song with an almost haunting, yet soothing instrumental and accompanied chorus sung by Chantal Kreviazuk, who met Drake at a hotel and mentioned they should collab leading to them creating the song that very night with Drake's producer "40".

This song paints a picture of a young lonely man adjusting to adulthood, backed up by the chorus with the lyrics "how im feeling it doesnt matter" stating further into this notion.

Just from this song you can get welcomed and almost served an appetizer of what's to come on this action filled album. You also get to see some of the motivation behind making this album.

I give the song a 9.5 / 10



Track 2: Shot For Me

This song is mostly focused on Drakes R&B sound with all but one verse dedicated to singing. The song features a more prominent drum beat accompanied by a smoother R&B synth, as well as featuring some bassy 808's in the background.

After the final chorus there's a sample from the artist SWV that's plays the song out along with some compressed brass instruments.

The theme of the song is the feeling of accomplishment and how Drake has "made it" therefore he says in the chorus "take a shot for me". But the issue he faces throughout the song is that he got everything he wanted but the girl saying "you and the music was the only thing I commit to" but she thinks he has changed, and as the song goes throughout its run these themes are reflected and repeated.

I give the song an 9 / 10



Track 3: Headlines

This song is one of the 2 singles that was released on January 1st 2011 along with the song “Make Me Proud” featuring Nicki Minaj.

Headlines is known for its catchiness giving a pop like feel but lyrics being performed as a melodic rap, with the instrumental featuring the same compressed brass instruments from “Shot For Me”, as well as the same drums, yet the song as a whole is different and conveys a more energetic message and feeling from the first 2 songs.

In this song he changes his attitude about love saying “money over everything, money on my mind”.

This song went quadruple platinum when it released making it a huge hit for the time and even still quite prominent today.

I give this song an 8.5 / 10



Track 4: Crew Love (feat. The Weeknd)

This song came from The Weeknd being another Toronto artist trying to make his way up by sending demo tracks for Drake's first album. Drake then took "Crew Love" as a song for his second album, and adding the Weeknd as the feature where he would be singing the chorus.

Whilst making Take Care, The Weeknd ended up taking a big writing role, but as time went on tensions grew between Drake and The Weeknd as The Weeknd decided to sign to a different label as opposed to OVO (Drake's personal Label).

This song samples a Japanese song titled "Midnight Rain" and throughout the song has an intense 808 drum pattern that comes and changes the feel throughout the song.

The Weeknd provides soft vocals despite some of the high energy moments. His voice is also used as a background voice and looped and used as a secondary sample.

This song is about showing love to your friends and the people who support you on your path to success.

I give this song a 9 / 10



Track 5: Take Care (feat. Rihanna)

Throughout the last few years of the 2000's and the first half of the 2010's Drake and Rihanna dated on and off, creating music and giving each other features with the last few dating back to 2016 being the song "Too Good" by Drake with Rihanna as the feature.

They also have such notable colabs as "Work", "Fireworks" where Rihanna is a hidden feature, this song (Take Care), and "What's My Name".

"What's My Name" on Rihanna's 2010 album Loud acts as the start of the story in that leads into this song meaning that "Take Care" acts as a sequel, and while it's a sequel it stays true to the instrumentation and overall theme and vibe of the album, but also giving a pop feel.

"Take Care" uses a sample of the song "I'll Take Care of You" and even uses some of the lyrics playing off into this theme, the sample is complimented by smooth vocals from Drake and Rihanna. The song also incorporates smooth instrumentation and a strong percussive beat.

The overall theme is love and loss yet through it all the speaker will take care of the person they love.

I Give This Song A 9 / 10



Track 6: Marvin's Room

During the process of making this album, Drake was working in a studio formerly owned by legendary R&B singer Marvin Gaye. During the time he was in the studio he received an emotional phone call from an ex girlfriend inspiring him to make this song.

As far as the phone call in the song it was done by Drake's then girlfriend Erika Lee who later sued Drake to get a huge commission off the song.

The sample of the phone call plus a very Lofi Synth and Pad creates an atmosphere like no other giving you a relaxed yet sorrow feeling, also accompanied by a piano at the end of the song and 808's sprinkled throughout.

This song is one you can rly turn your brain off to, or a song where you can listen and get a full story out of it.

I give this song a 10 / 10



Track 13: Doing it Wrong

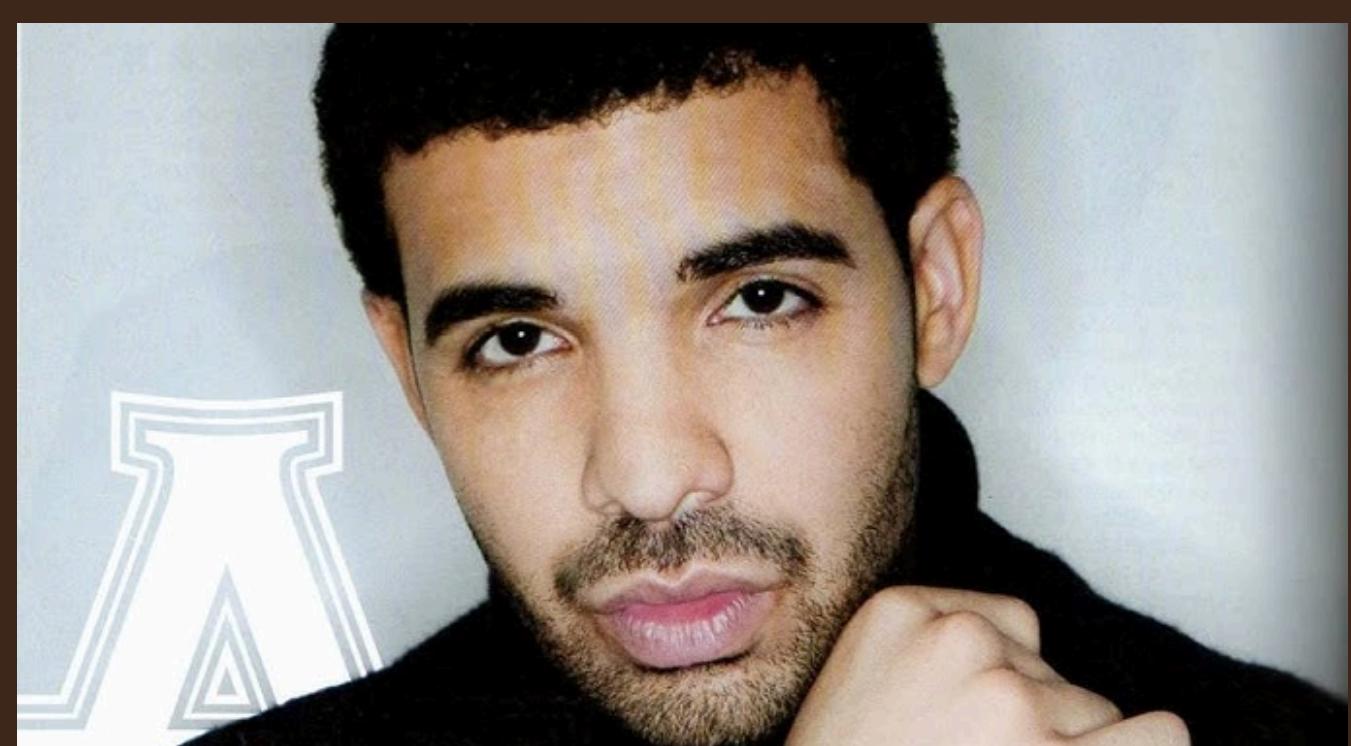
From sampling the melody of Don McLeans “The Wrong Thing To Do”, to getting Stevie Wonder to play the Harmonica, this song feels like the definition of moody R&B.

While Marvins Room has complexity, this song has a simple yet powerful tone to it, entrancing you into this deep souful yet modern sound.

While Stevie Wonder only contributed to Harmonica on the recording side, he was big behind the scenes on the writing for this song.

The story of the song is from the perspective of someone who is in a relationship, yet feels something is wrong and is worried they will continue to lie about loving this person and sticking themselves further down a rabbit hole.

I give this song a 10 / 10



Track 7: Buried Alive Interlude (feat. Kendrick Lamar)

- I give this song a 8 / 10

Track 8: Under Ground Kings

- I give this song a 8 / 10

Track 9: We'll Be Fine (feat. Birdman)

- I give this song a 7.5 / 10

Track 10: Make Me Proud (feat. Nicki Minaj)

- I give this song a 7.5 / 10

Track 11: Lord Knows (feat. Rick Ross)

- I give this song a 9 / 10

Track 12: Cameras / Good Ones Go Interlude

- I give this song a 9.5 / 10

Track 14: The Real Her (featuring Lil Wayne and Andre 3000)

- I give this song a 9 / 10

Track 15: Look What You've Done

- I give this song a 10 / 10

Track 16: HYFR (feat. Lil Wayne)

- I give this song a 8 / 10

Track 17: Practice

- I give this song a 9.5 / 10

Track 18: The Ride

- I give this song a 7 / 10

Track 19: The Motto (feat. Lil Wayne)

- I give this song a 7.5 / 10

Track 20: Hate Sleeping Alone (bonus track)

- I give this song a 8.5 / 10



Final Thoughts

While the last bit of the album feels slow, every song sticks to the album's overall theme and plays into the different stories.

I think this album is one of Drake's best and could be considered in the top 100 of all time. I believe the messages are important enough to make it a classic

Overall I think this album is a 9.5 / 10 and if you like R&B and or melodic Rap you should definitely listen to this album