

Tame Impala

Currents Album Review

By: Reese Hutchinson

Who is Tame Impala?

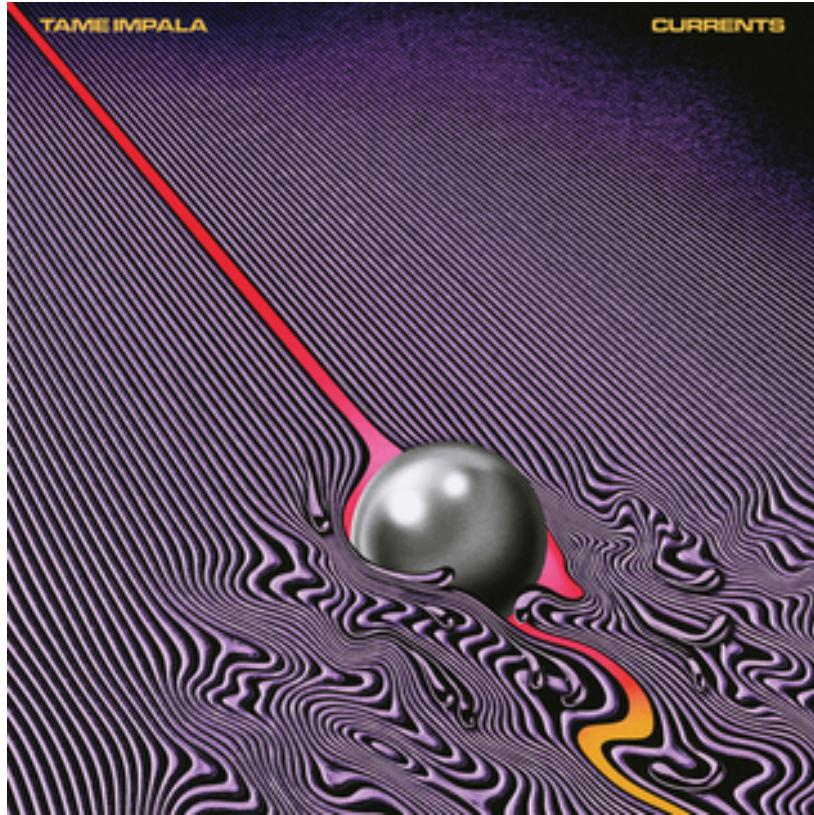
Tame Impala, real name: Kevin Parker was Born in Sydney in 1986 and raised mostly in Western Australia, Kevin grew up moving between small towns and suburbs, early years in the outback town of Kalgoorlie, then childhood and teenage years around Perth. His dad loved records and played guitar, This Rubbed off on Kevin and music quickly became his place to disappear into while family life felt messy and unstable.

He started recording as a teen, cutting demos in garden sheds and bedrooms, and by the late 2000s he was posting songs online.

Those early uploads snowballed into a record deal and two breakthrough albums: *Innerspeaker* (2010) and *Lonerism* (2012) that sounded like classic psychedelic rock filtered through modern studio technology. What's unusual is that the albums aren't a band effort. They're Kevin's solo studio work: he writes the songs, sings, plays almost every instrument, and produces the records himself. Being a true musical artist.



Waves Of Understanding: Currents Explained



(Cover Art Of Currents)

Tame Impala's third studio album, Currents, came out on July 17, 2015 (A week before my birthday, so maybe I was destined for this album), and it completely shifted how people saw Tame Impala. Before this, Tame Impala was mostly known for psychedelic rock with: fuzzy guitars and washy vocals. But Currents pushed him in a whole new direction of music. The guitars took a back seat, and suddenly it was all about synths, drum machines, bass grooves, and these smooth electronic textures.

The big theme here is transformation, not just the "I'm growing as a person" type of change, but the uncomfortable, messy, real kind. Even the album title ties into that idea. Currents like waves pushing you somewhere new, whether you want it or not. Kevin has said that at the time he was dealing with a lot of internal changes, letting go of who he used to be and stepping into something new. That's why so many songs sound like someone drifting between the past and the future.

Musically, he blended funk, R&B, and electronic pop in a way that felt completely fresh back then. Nobody expected a psychedelic rock guy to suddenly drop *Let It Happen* or *The Less I Know the Better*, but Kevin pulled it off in a way only he could. The album didn't just change his career — it changed the whole alternative scene and proved that genre doesn't matter if the vision is strong.

How Currents Was Recorded.

Kevin Parker recorded *Currents* completely on his own in a small home studio in Fremantle, Australia. The room wasn't fancy at all — more like a cramped creative cave filled with keyboards, pedals, scattered cables, and whatever gear he could find. But what made it special was how obsessively he worked. Kevin is known for being incredibly meticulous; he'll spend hours tweaking a single snare hit or re-mixing a vocal line until it feels exactly right.



(Tame Impala Beach House Studio)

Most of the album was built in Ableton Live (A computer Music Program) which let him layer many sounds together, reshape them, and experiment freely. Even though the record feels electronic, a lot of the "synth" sounds are actually Kevin's guitar running through a Roland GR-55 guitar synth.



(Picture Of A Roland GR-55 guitar Synth)

It let him play guitar while making it sound like a keyboard, a bass, or some weird alien texture. That's why the album feels electronic, it's human hands playing digital-sounding stuff.



Kevin basically worked non-stop while making this album. He'd stay awake all night replaying the same section until the groove hit perfectly, or scrapping a whole version of a song because it didn't feel emotionally honest. He didn't use a producer, engineer, or writing partner, it was all him experimenting alone, following his instincts, and pushing himself deeper into his own thoughts. That's a big reason *Currents* feels so personal: it literally came from one guy shutting out the world and building everything piece by piece.

The Sounds Of Change: Tracks From Currents

“Let It Happen”

Official Audio: [▶ Let It Happen](#)

Official Music Video: [▶ Tame Impala - Let It Happen \(Official Video\)](#)

Let It Happen is such a perfect opener for *Currents* because it immediately locks in the album's main idea: stop resisting change and just embrace it.

The whole song feels like it's pushing you forward whether you're ready or not just like life will always throw things at you and you just have to roll with it, especially with the tape-glitch effect at **3:58**, where the track keeps looping and replaying like it's stuck in your head, or like you're stuck in a moment you can't move past yet.

Then when the beat drops again around **6:15** and the bass comes back in, it feels unreal every single time, like everything finally snaps into place, almost as if a giant weight has been lifted off your shoulders even for just a brief moment.

Honestly, this song is probably going to make me go deaf by 25 just because of how loud and how often I play it, but if that's the price for one of the best openers ever, it's worth it.



(Cover Art Of “Let It Happen”)

“Nangs”

Official Audio: [➡ Tame Impala - Nangs \(Audio\)](#)

Following "Let It Happen", the track "Nangs" is super short and more like an interlude, but it's full of little details.

Right at the start, there's this breathing sound effect that's like someone inhaling, which sets the whole light headed, floating vibe of the track.

It's named after Australian slang for nitrous oxide canisters called "nangs" down there which makes sense because the song feels like a tiny sonic whippet trip.

Fans have always speculated about what the track is saying too: some hear phrases like "Is there something wrong with love?" or "Is there more than love?" even though there aren't official lyrics in the traditional sense. What the song is really saying is just "Is there something more than that?" with "that" likely referring to letting go. It's more about atmosphere and mood than words, a little pause that makes you feel slightly dizzy in a good way.



(Picture of "Nangs" or Nitrous Oxide)

“The Moment”

Official Audio: [➡ Tame Impala - The Moment \(Audio\)](#)

The Moment is this amazing mid-tempo track that perfectly captures that exact split-second feeling when you suddenly realize a decision has already been made like a super embarrassing memory that just pops back in your head. At its

core, the song's lyrics are all about tension between anticipation and acceptance, like when Kevin sings lines such as "In the end it's stronger than I know how to be" and "I only know in the moment Anticipation is growing" that pressure of something unavoidable getting closer while you're still figuring it out.

What makes this track work so well on *Currents* is the repeating guitar/synth motif that loops around like a small panic spinning in your head, perfectly mirroring that anxiety of change and living in the now.

Fans on Reddit also point out how the repeated "it's getting closer" in the chorus feels like that moment you've been dreading or waiting for, right before you have to act like seeing the dentist call your name or finally deciding to say something you've been scared to admit.

It's both uplifting and nerve wracking at the same time: a musical snapshot of those seconds after you've jumped into a void of sound, and you can't go back.



"Eventually"

Official Audio: [YouTube](#) **Tame Impala - Eventually (Audio)**

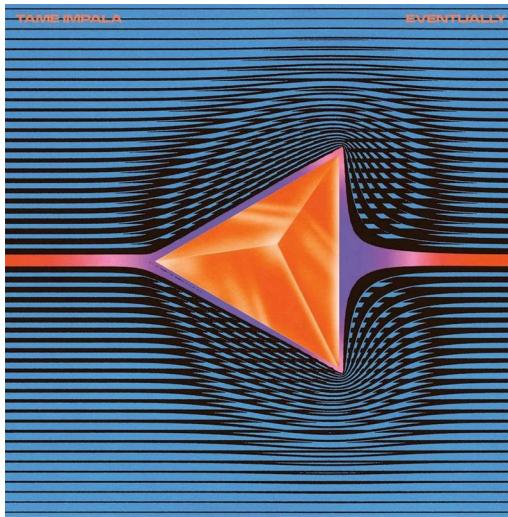
Eventually is one of the most plainly emotional tracks on *Currents*, and it nails that exact moment when you know you're about to hurt someone you care about, not out of malice, but because it's something that has to happen. Kevin Parker has said the song is about recognizing that you're about to damage someone almost irreparably and hoping time will soften the blow later.

The pleading chorus puts the lyric's remorse right in the front of your head, making the theme of inevitability and hurting others feel *real* as you listen.

Musically, the song's emotional weight really hits around 3:30–3:40, where the chorus swells and the repeated "Eventually... eventually..." lands in a way that feels like both a call for help and hope. That repeating *eventuallyyyy* hook tries to convince both the narrator and the listener that even though it hurts now,

healing is always coming, grief can't last forever you really only need one word to summarize this, and that is... *eventually*.

For many listeners, this track becomes post breakup fuel, the song you put on when you've chosen something painful but necessary, and you need someone to tell you that *eventually* it'll feel less sharp.



(Cover Art Of Eventually)

"The Less I know The Better"

Official Audio: [▶ Tame Impala - The Less I Know The Better \(Audio\)](#)

Official Music Video:

[▶ Tame Impala - The Less I Know The Better \(Official Video\)](#)

The Less I Know the Better is easily Tame Impala's most famous and most listened to song with more than 2 billion streams on Spotify.

The track that almost everyone knows even if they don't know where it's from. It's built around one of the catchiest, descending bass hooks in modern psych-pop, using disco influenced funk that hits like a heartbreak anthem you can dance to. The groove is so tight and sticky that it stays in your head long after you've stopped listening, part of why it's been streamed way more than any other Tame Impala song and even topped Triple J's Hottest 100 of the decade.

Lyrically, the song unfolds like a private confession of jealousy and humiliation: Parker sings about discovering someone he likes is with another guy "she was holding hands with Trevor" a line that became iconic for how it captures that childish, aching sting of rejection.

On Reddit, fans talk about how the tension between the smooth groove and the emotional honesty makes it feel both fun and painful to listen to at the same time — like dancing while your heart is getting crushed.

Interesting back-story stuff from Kevin himself reveals that everything you hear up to the first chorus, basically that whole irresistible intro riff, came together in about 15 minutes during his home studio sessions.



(Cover Art Of The Less I Know The Better)

"Disciples"

Official Audio: [Tame Impala - Disciples \(Audio\)](#)

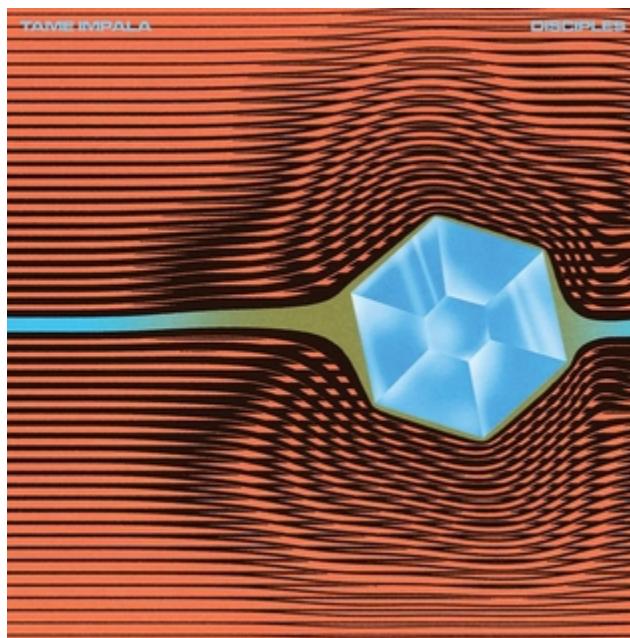
Disciples is another one of the short, hooky interludes on *Currents* that feels like a bright little burst of energy between the album's bigger, more elaborate tracks.

At just under two minutes, it's compact and catchy, almost like a pop radio hit that someone was trying to break out with but cut it too short.

The track was first shared informally by Kevin Parker during a **Reddit AMA?!**, where he dropped the song after a fan asked to hear new music, which makes it feel extra special for fans who were there in "The moment" (see what I did there?).

What makes *Disciples* stand out is how immediate and uplifting it is despite its brevity. that contrasts the deeper emotional weight of the songs around it. On Reddit, lots of fans gush about how *Disciples* instantly boosts their mood, gets stuck in their heads, and even makes them wish it were longer because it's just so fun to replay. In this way, *Disciples* works like a quick musical reset: a short, sweet reminder of pure joy in the midst of an album built on transformation and introspection.

(Fun Fact: One day after school this song repeated in my ears for 3 hours... Why? I couldn't tell you but that memory will not be forgotten.)



(Cover Art Of Disciples)

“New Person, Same Old Mistakes”

Official Audio: [▶ New Person, Same Old Mistakes](#)

New Person, Same Old Mistakes is the **perfect closer** for *Currents* because it wraps up the album's core theme: the idea that change might be possible, but old patterns have a way of creeping back in. (At least that's how I see it)

in one long, hypnotic final statement. The song's slow pace and groovy beat, reflecting the internal tension between feeling like a *brand-new person* and the nagging doubt that you'll *make the same old mistakes* and end up right back where you were in your journey of change.

It's a fitting end to an album about transformation because it doesn't give you a neat conclusion, instead, it leaves you thinking, "*Maybe I'm new, maybe I'm not*," which feels almost like the last thing Kevin wanted listeners to sit with before the silence.

Certain moments make this track especially powerful as a closer. Around **0:15–0:45**, the hypnotic synth and steady beat set that reflective mood that carries you into the core of the song, almost like a musical deep breath. By **1:50–2:20**, when Kevin hits the chorus with "*Feel like a brand-new person (but you'll make the same old mistakes)*," it crystallizes the entire emotional conflict of the album in a few lines. Then around **3:00–3:30** the bridge pulls back into that questioning, introspective space before drifting back into the chorus again, which makes it feel like the song (and the album) is circling back on itself just

like old habits do in real life. The subtle back and forth in the vocals, sometimes sounding like different sides of Kevin's own mind arguing, hits like a final meditation on self doubt and acceptance. Lyrically, this track warns against surface level change: you can look different on the outside, but if you don't deal with what's inside, the *same old mistakes* will come back to you a sobering, but honest way to close an album all about transformation.



My Final Thoughts On "Currents"

Honestly, *Currents* completely changed my life. I don't think I'd even be the same person if I hadn't discovered Tame Impala, my life would probably be 30% worse if Tame Impala Never Existed.

(GOD IN HUMAN FORM)



I've probably played *Let It Happen* hundreds of times by now, and every listen still hits me like the first time, that hypnotic beat drop at 6:15 never gets old. This album is packed with these tiny surprises that make every listen feel like a journey. The way Kevin blends emotion, funk, psych, and electronic pop with lots and **lots** of synth.

In my opinion there is not a single miss on this whole album,
Every song works perfectly, and I honestly can't think of a
single track I'd skip,
(Except for maybe the weird robot voice in past life)...

But If I had to rate it, I'd still give Currents a **10/10**

I just wouldn't be the same Reese Hutchinson I am today
without this masterpiece of an album.
Thank you Tame Impala.

