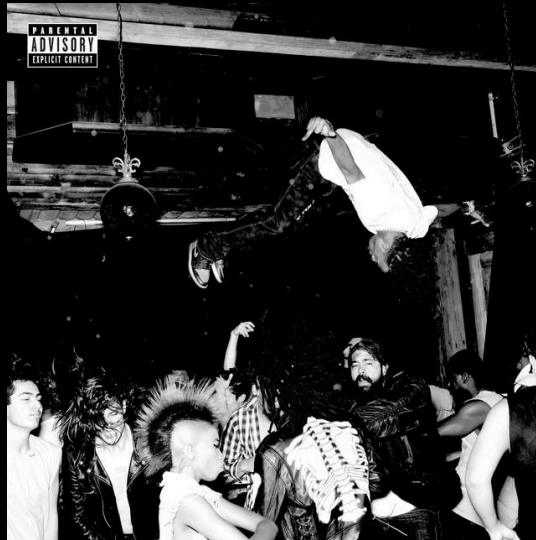


## Die Lit By Playboi Carti



### Artist Overview

Jordan Terrell Carter or famously known as Playboi Carti is an American rapper known for his unique vocal style and fashion. Carti was born and raised in Atlanta and started making music under the name Sir Cartier in 2011, releasing his earliest tracks on the music platform Soundcloud. He would eventually sign with Awful records in 2014 and then interscope records in 2016 having heavy ties with the infamous A\$AP Worldwide. After gaining some traction on soundcloud during this time, Carti was actually still working a regular job at h&m and multiple fans would come up and recognize him leading him to quit in 2015. In 2016, he would feature heavily on the A\$AP Mobs collab album “Cozy Tapes Vol.2” and also have a feature on Lil Uzi Vert's “The Perfect LUV Tape”.

After gaining a bigger underground fanbase throughout these years, fans would actually get impatient with him not dropping a mixtape or album and would create a fanmade mixtape in 2016 titled **In Abundance** featuring unreleased and leaked tracks from the 2015-16 era. It was only until 2017 where he would gain mainstream attention, dropping his self-titled mixtape, **Playboi Carti**. This mixtape would feature his hit songs like Magnolia, wokeuplikethis\*, and my personal favourite, Location. During this time he would even appear on the Jimmy Fallon Show to perform. It was then on May 11, 2018, where he would release his now infamous debut album, **Die Lit**. After Die Lit being very positively

received, fans could absolutely not wait anymore for his next album. He even started a now infamous rap label called OPIUM. His label consists of 5 members including himself, Ken Carson, Destroy Lonely, Homixide Gang, and ApolloRed1. He would then release a single in 2019 for his latest album which fans hated at the time for his annoying high pitched voice but he doubled down on the style eventually releasing **Whole Lotta Red** on Christmas Day of 2020. During this time and the Whole Lotta Red era in general, Carti would develop a new and controversial persona incorporating more satanic lyrics into his songs and even getting satanic tattoos. This would drive a lot of casual fans and other listeners away from his music. The album was not received well but fans grew into it (including me) and is now widely regarded as the most influential rap album of the 2020s. This era also created some of his most popular leaked and unreleased songs ever including “Kid Cudi”, “24 Songs” and “Not Real.”

After Whole Lotta Red, Carti would actually not release another song for nearly 4 years until he went on a crazy single run in 2024 releasing hits like “2024”, “EVILJORDAN”, “BACKR00MS”, his hit features on The Weeknd's “Timeless” and Travis Scott’s “FE!N”, and more. During the 5 year wait for his new album, Carti was constantly clowned for posting fit pictures instead of dropping the album and a controversial moment where he came on Adin Rosses stream, took his payment, and just left after only 5 minutes. After waiting for so long Carti finally dropped his new album on March 23, 2025, simply titled **MUSIC**. As of now, the album has been pretty polarizing with mixed reviews leaning more positively. As of October, 2025, Playboi Carti is one of the most popular and relevant rap artists out right now and is currently on the Narcissist tour with his Opium label.



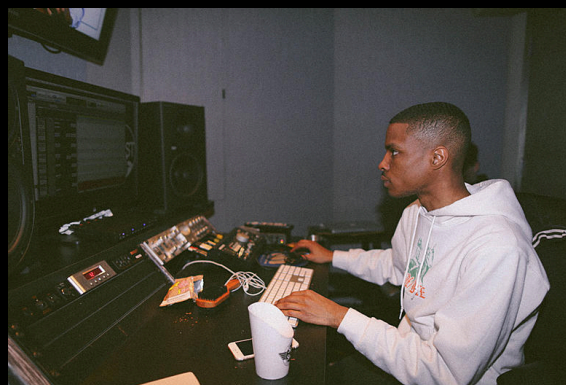
## **Album Background And Release**

Cardi began working on *Die Lit* in December 2017, teasing the album through studio sessions with the infamous trap and hip-hop producer, Pierre Bourne, also the album's executive producer. According to the magazine *Dazed*, Cardi worked on the album completely in Atlanta where he wanted to reconnect with the creativity of his early career. He described working in a stripped back environment, specifically saying, "white tee on no jewelry", and relying on instinct for the songs rather than overthinking. Cardi also brought up the spontaneous and fast nature of the sessions, often recording 5 to 6 tracks in one session. In March 2018, Bourne teased the album was finished and ready to release.

Eventually on May 3rd the 1st single for the album was released titled "Love Hurts" featuring Travis Scott. The cover art for the single features the model Justine Mae Biticon. The song showcases a very laid back and stripped down beat with smooth flows from both Cardi and Travis. On May 10th, A\$AP Rocky would show off the album cover for the first time and on May 11, 2018, the album was surprise released exclusively on Tidal Music, then every other streaming platform after. The album's artwork, photographed by Nick Walker, features Cardi stage diving into a punk crowd, perfectly capturing the raw, vibe heavy energy of the album.



Cover art for "Love Hurts"



Pierre Bourne in the studio.

## The Album

Die Lit is a Trap album consisting of 19 tracks, characterized by its heavy hitting 808s and melodic flows throughout. The album's primary producer Pierre Bourne, also incorporates elements of cloud rap on certain songs to create an ethereal sound, complimenting Carti's vocals perfectly. He also incorporates elements of rage rap on a couple songs. The beats and instrumentals on Die Lit, blend unconventional sound textures emphasizing rhythm and vibes over lyrical complexity. Vocally, Carti uses a number of different styles including his infamous baby voice. He uses high-pitched tones, repetition, and extremely expressive and influential ad-libs. While also having a very smooth voice throughout the album, he does switch it up one time doing a very interesting gravelly voice on the 2nd half of the track "Foreign".

Instead of focusing on complexity in his lyrics, he explores themes of luxury, his success, and street culture. Carti also explores his past relationships and how they affected him in certain songs as well. Tracks like "Love Hurts" and "Flatbed Freestyle" especially showcase his experimental vocals. His lyrics and vocals from this album really challenged what hip-hop could sound like at the time, highlighting that music can just be for the vibe and just listened to. This really created a blueprint for the underground rap scene in which his influence is still everywhere and very alive.

Die lit also showcases off countless features from infamous hip-hop artists, each giving excellent performances including Skepta on Lean 4 Real, Lil Uzi Vert on Shoota, Young Thug on Choppa Won't Miss, and more. Overall, I can describe Die Lit as very sugar high and vibe heavy with looping hooks throughout, creating such a fun and unique soundscape that's almost impossible to not bop your head to.



Picture from the "R.I.P" music video.



## Review Of Every Song

### Long Time-Intro

The intro to the album of Die Lit is widely regarded to many fans as the best Carti song of all time if not the top 10 and I can see why. This is my 2nd favourite on the album. Produced by Art Dealer, the song features an infectious instrumental built around a reversed synth sample with little trap drums throughout the song. The rhythm feels laid back and dreamlike which pairs amazingly with the lyrics of reflection, determination, and the luxuries he can enjoy since becoming a successful artist.

This song feels like a party lap for Carti especially with lyrics like “No cap and gown I ain’t go to class. I’d rather die before I come in last”, reflecting that even though he never went to college, he took a gamble on his music career and it paid off. You can see him reflecting on how he went from nothing to an extremely successful artist in the infamous chorus saying, “I ain’t felt like this in a long time, I ain’t had shit in a long time”. I give this song a 10/10.

Link To The Song:

[Long Time-Intro](#)

### R.I.P

Being the 2nd song on the album and produced by Pierre Bourne, this song sort of sticks out like a sore thumb from the rest of the album which is not a bad thing at all but worth mentioning. This song features a crazy rage instrumental. I can best describe it as explosive, and raw designed for rage and high energy. This song was really the blueprint for Carti's later albums like Whole Lotta Red and MUSIC that incorporated a similar rage sound.

The song also probably features the most aggressive and vulgar lyrics of any song on Die Lit that perfectly fits the rage instrumental. One of my favourite lines from the track, “F\*ck that mumblin’ shit, f\*ck that mumblin shit”, and also “Bought a crib for my mama off that mumblin shit”, takes jabs at people hating on his style of rapping calling it “mumble rap.” This is my personal favourite song off Die Lit and my 2nd favourite Carti song of all time. I give it a 100/10.

Link To The Song:

[R.I.P](#)

### **Lean 4 Real (feat. Skepta)**

Produced by IndigoChildRock, this song probably features the most ethereal and dreamy sounding instrumental of the whole album. It's the perfect song for late night walks or drives. It also includes the first feature of the album, Skepta, an english rapper. I've also never personally tried it but I believe this song would be amazing to listen to while high. The song is also an ode to the drink Lean which also makes it clearer.

While this track has one of the best instrumentals of the album, the lyrics can get a little bit boring with the chorus just being a refrain of "I'm on them beans for real. Im on that lean for real", beans being a reference to drugs. Skepta however, kills his verse and delivers a really good flow with some memorable bars like "Had to go super sayian, had to go birds eye view, this a computer game." I think if Cardi had a better performance on this song it would probably give it a 10, but for now I'll give it a **9/10.**



Link To The Song:

[Lean 4 Real \(feat. Skepta\)](#)

## Old Money

Produced by Pierre Bourne, this song has a pretty minimalist instrumental with a laid back flow from Cardi. It's a pretty chill song with not much to it. The song is also very ad-lib heavy. It's one of the more mellow, atmospheric tracks on Die Lit.

The lyrics of the song include themes of wealth and also him openly addressing his switch up in style with lyrics like "Old money, new ho, Old swag, new flow." Due to the more minimalist style of the song it's definitely not one of my favourites on the album but I still enjoy it enough to give it a 8/10.

Link To The Song:

[Old Money](#)

## Love Hurts (feat. Travis Scott)

Love Hurts, also produced by Pierre Bourne is even more minimalist than Old money and doesn't even have 808s. Love Hurts was also the first single for the album and features the infamous Travis Scott. Both rappers deliver very smooth flows on the song with a very catchy refrain. The whole song is built around an almost mechanical sound that took me some getting used to as well.

Like it was talking about before, the catchy refrain is "Ooh okay, shawty know what's up, shawty want a rockstarrrrrr, okay." It's super infectious and the main reason I revisit it as the beat isn't exactly my favourite. Due to the rapping performance being amazing but the beat being more stripped back, I'd give this song a 8.5/10.



Link To The Song:

[Love Hurts \(feat. Travis Scott\)](#)

## Shoota (feat. Lil Uzi Vert)

Produced by Maaly Raw, Shoota is the most streamed song sitting at around 800 million streams on Spotify and for good reason. Lil Uzi's feature takes up the first half of the song building up to a crazy beat drop. His performance is known as one of his best ever and Cardi also delivers a great chorus and verse. The song and especially before the beat drop is built around a bell-like melody.

Shoota also includes a ton of memorable lyrics from Uzi and Cardi including, "You know that I'm smokin' dope, I'll be high 'til next week, Know I had to let her go 'cause she can't arrest me", hitting just before the beat drop. What follows on Cardi's chorus is equally as memorable and hits like a truck with the beat drop including, "Uh, woke up with my toolie, what it do? Huh, uh Meet me in the alley with the troops, uh I got red shooters, I got blue, huh, yeah." Due to literally everything about the song being amazing but it just being slightly overplayed I have to give it a 9.5/10.



[Link To The Song:](#)

[Shoota \(feat Lil Uzi Vert\)](#)

## **Right Now (feat. P'ierre Bourne)**

Produced by Pierre Bourne, this is the only track that he actually raps on and provides vocals. This song's instrumental is super high energy and is built around an interesting synth that adds to the fast paced feel of it all. The whole song really gives a smooth, almost bouncy feel. The chorus of this song is very repetitive but in between the verses Pierre and Carti give are super smooth, very catchy, and feel so built into the song.

Pierre Bourne also brings some memorable lyrics to the table with bars like, "Did it all on computer aye, Bill gates, Yeah, all my bills paid, yeah", working so well with the beat. Carti also gives some lyrics that incorporate so well into the song like, "I'm with the stick, I'm in the 6, I'm in the wagon, I'm in the b\*\*ch, I'm in the bricks, I'm in the ashes." The words stick and b\*\*ch hit right with the 808s and just makes it really clean and nice to listen to. Due to this song being one of Carti's best performances and a really nice instrumental, I have to give it a **10/10**.



[Link To The Song:](#)

[Right Now \(feat. P'ierre Bourne\)](#)

## Poke It Out (feat. Nicki Minaj)

Produced by Pierre Bourne, this song is definitely the most bouncy and fun song of the album and also marks the halfway point. It's also the longest song on the album which feels a bit unnecessary because of the nature of the song. When I think of the beat I almost think of a birthday party or a carnival because of the fun feel of it all.

Where I do think this song falls short however is the performances from Cardi and Nicki. The song features a repetitive chorus just like many others on the album which I usually enjoy, but with a runtime of 4:30, It just gets old and doesn't work as well. Nicki on the other hand, I believe to be the weakest feature on the album but still enjoyable enough to provide lyrics like, "All of my buddies in ten, all of my money in Yen." Because of it being one of my favourite beats on the album but more average performances from the rappers I'd give this song a 8/10.



Link To The Song:

[Poke It Out \(feat. Nicki Minaj\)](#)



## Home (KOD)

Produced by Pierre Bourne, this song gives an annoying sound and is the only song I don't like on the album. It's built around an instrumental that almost sounds reversed like from another song. The lyrics however, aside from the chorus, are the only strong aspects of the song as he actually goes more introspective and reflects on a past relationship he had that sounded very love hate.

With lyrics like "She a loyal b\*tch you gotta pay for those", but also "You changin mood swings' you got me I don't know", It seems like Carti had a very mixed relationship with the girl he's talking about. With lyrics at the end of the song like "You like the cash girl, you like the cash grow", probably hints that she was a gold digger and used him for his money, leading to their eventual breakup. Due to this being a song with some great introspective lyrics on the album, but then also having a boring instrumental, I have to give it a 5.5/10.



Blac Chyna, a girl that Carti briefly dated in 2017 who he may be talking about in the song.

Link To The Song:  
[Home \(KOD\)](#)

## Fell In Luv (feat. Bryson Tiller)

Produced by Pierre Bourne, this is the 2nd most streamed song for good reason featuring an absolutely heavenly instrumental and super catchy chorus from Cardi. This song in my opinion is the upgraded version of Home, the previous track. It features that same reverse sound, but does it in a way better way. It also features very bouncy 808s similar to poke it out. Bryson Tiller, the feature, also kills it even being a mainly r&b artist and still delivers a great rapping performance.

When it comes to the subject matter and lyrics, Cardi has clearly fallen in love with a girl and he's super attached to her. The lyrics reflect this with the chorus being "I fell in love, I fell in love, and that's okay, cause we in love." This song definitely covers the most adult themes but in a more loving, almost r&b way being less vulgar and aggressive as R.I.P. I have to give this song a **10/10** due to the super catchy instrumental and killer verses.



Link To The Song:

[Fell In Luv \(feat. Bryson Tiller\)](#)

## **Foreign**

Produced by Pierre Bourne, this has definitely been one of my favourites off the album in recent times due to the super smooth and catchy chorus. It also features an almost mechanical instrumental that's super unique and original but also features those familiar, heavy hitting 808s. There's also a unique vocal performance from Cardi on this song that he doesn't really use on any other song where on his 2nd verse, he uses a gravely, high voice.

In this song the main theme of it is a fancy foreign car and just cars in general. He also just goes through a lot of different flexes. It's reflected through the really catchy chorus, "Ooh, hop in that motherf\*ckin' foreign, and that motherf\*cker be roarin, big gun b\*tch yeah show em." He also really goes on in this song about all his luxuries with lyrics like, "Hundred thousand yeah my price, too many rings like I'm Mike", and also "My diamonds they ice, they bite. Your diamonds they aight, a-aight." This song has heavily been in my rotation recently and with such a good chorus, I have to give this song a **9.5/10**.

Link To The Song:

[Foreign](#)

## **Pull Up**

Produced by Pierre Bourne, every song from now on also is so I won't mention it anymore. This song arguably features the most minimalist and repetitive lyrics of any song on the album. By the end of the song, it can get a bit boring. The instrumental however, is amazing and completely carries this song. It features a very cool and catchy almost alien sounding synth. Like something you'd hear from a UFO. It also features a great 808 rhythm that just adds to the song perfectly.

Like I said earlier, the lyrics are super repetitive and there's not much to say about them. The chorus is simply the refrain "pull up" and "bih". His flow on his verse is also pretty sleepy and slow. He goes over the themes of luxury like other songs but just as interesting. Due to the mediocre lyrics but amazing instrumental, the song is still fun enough for me to give it a **7/10**.

Link To The Song:

[Pull Up](#)

## Mileage (feat. Chief Keef)

Mileage is definitely up there with Poke It Out for being such a fun song. The instrumental and melody are super upbeat and happy. Carti and the legendary Chief Keefs performance also really help with the whole vibe of the song both delivering catchy verses and a super memorable chorus.

The lyrics and overall subject matter of the song are pretty funny and almost feels like a love song. The chorus being "Miley Cyrus, catching bodies. Don't care if that P\*ssy got some mileage mileage", is probably Carti referring to a past or present relationship he had where the girl probably had quite the past of lots of relationships, but he doesn't care because he's too in love. Chief Keef on the other hand, delivers such a nice and melodic verse with funny bars like, "She got more mileage than a car, and she just pulled up to the spot spot spot." Due to the extremely upbeat and fun nature of the song, it's definitely a 10/10 for me.



Link To The Song:

[Mileage \(feat. Chief Keef\)](#)

## FlatBed Freestyle

Although not even being in the top 3 most streamed songs on the album, I'd say FlatBed Freestyle is definitely the most TikTok famous and most recognizable. The song features a very minimalist style just like Love Hurts, however this song has very heavy hitting 808s. It also includes a really experimental vocal style from Carti that served as a blueprint for his next album Whole Lotta Red. It's a higher pitched, slurred, almost baby voice that definitely takes time to get used to.

Due to this unique vocal style, it can be pretty hard to understand what Carti is saying sometimes but it doesn't really matter because the song isn't focused as much on lyrics. The infamous opening to the song however being, "In Atlanta with some organic", is super memorable as it spread across Tiktok and Instagram reels super fast. With a pretty minimalistic sound but some very interesting vocal techniques, I'd give this song a 8.5/10.



Link To The Song:

[FlatBed Freestyle](#)



## No Time (feat. Gunna)

No Time is definitely one of the more chill, late night songs on the album. The instrumental is very laid back and minimalist, but still has familiar hitting 808s. Carti and Gunna's performances also really add to this, both delivering a laid back flow while also keeping the song interesting throughout. It's also one of the more introspective songs where Carti talks about the struggles of fame and his inner demons. In a past interview, Carti even talks about how smoking is the only thing keeping him sane.

Lyrics like "We ain't got time. I drop my demons off. clear my mind", suggesting that Carti has very little time to do things since gaining fame and has only gotten more struggles. With the evidence from the interview, the second half of the lyric probably refers to him clearing his mind by smoking and getting high. Gunna on the other hand, sticks to more minimalist, simple lyrics but still gives a great melodic verse. This song is really solid all round but I just don't listen to it as much as certain other songs leading me to a 9/10.



Link To The Song:

[No Time \(feat. Gunna\)](#)



## Middle Of The Summer (feat. Redd ColdHearted)

This song is definitely very interesting in a lot of ways, specifically the feature and instrumental. The instrumental actually samples a song from Carti's self-titled mixtape titled "Let It Go." It's a super bass heavy, almost experimental song and has a really good verse from Carti. This song on the other hand is a bit more repetitive and has a more familiar, generic beat. The feature as well is actually one of Carti's childhood friends being super unknown in the music industry having only released a couple singles. A weird fun fact as well is on the official tracklist for Die Lit on Spotify, the feature is shown as Red Coldhearted not having the 2 d's in Redd and not having an uppercase H in ColdHearted. So when you click on the feature, it brings you to a completely different artist!

When it comes to the lyrics and verses, they can get a bit boring and aren't exactly memorable. Carti just delivers a decent chorus that isn't bad but can get boring. Redd ColdHearted is also just decent and is nothing crazy but does interestingly deliver one of the only singing verses of the album. I would also definitely say this song is underrated as it's one of the least streamed on the album. Due to an interesting beat and fun enough verses, I'd give this song a 8/10.



Link To The Song:

[Middle Of The Summer \(feat. Redd ColdHearted\)](#)

## Choppa Won't Miss (feat. Young Thug)

This song is totally more of a personal favourite for me and I love almost everything about it. It also of course features the trap legend Young Thug so that's when you know it'll be good. It has such a fun and bouncy instrumental with similar vibes to Poke It Out but just better including heavier hitting 808s and really smooth flows, specifically on Young Thugs part. The flow he has on certain bars that I'll specifically get to later are just so addicting to listen to. Carti also delivers a fantastic chorus that's really catchy. Despite all these amazing factors as well the song is actually one of the least streamed!

One of the really great flows from Young Thug is "a Bentley truck is my g-wagon." He says it in such an addicting way. The super catchy from Carti being "Choppa wont miss a n\*\*\*a. hundred round drum killin everybody", is funny because despite the pretty violent and serious lyrics, It's over a really fun beat and flow. This song is also my 3rd most streamed on the album and just puts me in a good mood anytime it gets played leading me to a **10/10**.



Link To The Song:

[Choppa Won't Miss \(feat. Young Thug\)](#)

## **R.I.P Fredo (feat. Young Nudy) - Notice Me**

The song title R.I.P Fredo pays tribute to a young drill rapper Fredo Santana who sadly passed away on January 19, 2018. His death really hit Carti hard as he was a friend and it was in the middle of the Die Lit studio sessions. Notice Me was the original title for the track as its included in the chorus. Despite the somber and sad title, the song is very aggressive and hard hitting. The beat especially, hits like a truck right as you hit play. It also has a very energetic verse from Carti and Nudy that compliment the beat perfectly. Also despite not having a crazy amount of streams, it was super popular on TikTok around the 2021 era.

Carti's chorus on this song is super aggressive being "hittin that b\*tch with the fire, uh notice me", which is also why the song was originally titled Notice Me. Young Nudy's verse is nothing crazy but still fits the song well and is a nice addition. This is a perfect song to play to hype you up for basically anything really like a sports game or driving to a party which leads me to a **9.5/10**.



Link To The Song:

[R.I.P Fredo \(feat. Young Nudy\) - Notice Me](#)

## Top (feat P'ierre Bourne)

Top is the 19th and final song on this legendary album and also being the least streamed. It's a pretty simple but also bouncy beat that is super underrated. The song also features Carti's most repetitive chorus up there with Pull Up which is also probably why it's the least streamed. The verse however in the middle of the song is amazing and really brings the song together.

The repetitive chorus, "I'm on the top of the building" is sung 32 times! This does unfortunately bring the song down a bit but the really good beat and verse save this song and make it super underrated. I believe it to be a satisfactory ending to the album that captures the energy of it all leading me to a 8.5/10.



Link To The Song:

[Top \(feat. P'ierre Bourne\)](#)

## **Conclusion**

This has easily been the most fun I've had making a school project and I really wanted to make sure that it was quality and I had all the right facts. Throughout the making, I was super invested in finding new facts I never knew about certain songs and aspects about the album. Die Lit is my favourite album of all time and I also listened to 1017 minutes of it in 2025. In summary, I gave 6 ten ratings, R.I.P, Long Time, and Right Now are my top 3, and Home(KOD) is my least favourite. Whether you like this album or not, it's impossible to deny this album pushed the boundaries on what hip-hop could sound like and the underground scene would not be how it is today without it. I give this album a Perfect

# **100/10**

## **I Hope You Enjoyed The Review!**