

Siamese Dream
The Smashing Pumpkins



Album review by Starla Kijek

Preview of the album and the success

Siamese dream was released on july 19 1993 with the record label virgin records. As their second studio album, with 13 tracks and a play time of 63 minutes. The album reached #10 on the Billboard 200 at debut. The album sold well over 6 million copies all over the world. Bringing the smashing pumpkins to the mainstream. Over time this album has now been considered one of the best albums of the 1990s and grunge era.

Original front cover

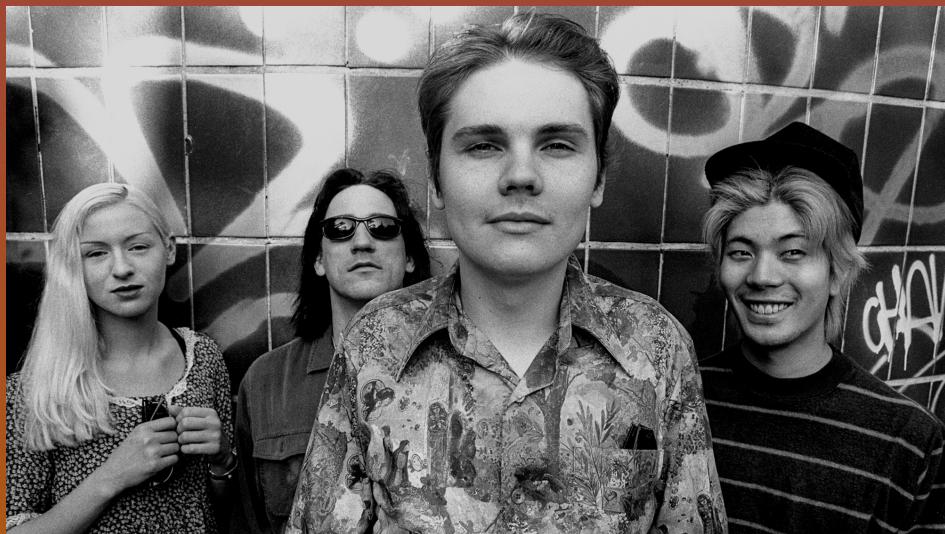


Back of LP/CD



Background of the smashing pumpkins

Billy Corgan who is the lead guitarist and singer, used to work at a local record store in Chicago around the late 80s, while working at the store he would meet James Iha; the guitarist. Corgan thought of the name “The Smashing Pumpkins” and had an idea to start a band with that name. Originally it was just Corgan and Iha, but after a show that they performed together, they met D’arcy Wretzky and invited her to be the bassist after they figured out she played bass. They would play shows as a trio, and use a drum machine. Until Corgan was introduced to a jazz drummer Jimmy Chamberlin



Making and themes of the Album

Siamese dream explores themes of love, depression, hope, personal conflict, control, and childhood trauma, which makes this album very personal and what the band wanted and not the label.



Track list

- 1)Cherub rock - 4:58
- 2)Quiet - 3:42
- 3)Today - 3:21
- 4)Hummer - 6:57
- 5)Rocket - 4:07
- 6)Disarm - 3:16
- 7)Soma - 6:29
- 8)Geek U.S.A - 5:13
- 9)Mayonaise - 5:48
- 10)Space Boy - 4:27
- 11)silverfu*k - 8:42
- 12)Sweet sweet - 1:37
- 13)Luna - 3:33

Cherub Rock 4.7★/5★

I personally couldn't think of a better opening song for such an iconic album. From the opening riff and drumming, to the lyrics picking at issue within the music industry and being "sellouts". I think that this Cherub Rock is the perfect song for helping define the 90's alternative rock scene.

<https://genius.com/The-smashing-pumpkins-cherub-rock-lyrics>

Quite 4.5★/5★

This song is one of the heavier tracks on this album. I feel like it captures the raw a harder rock that the smashing pumpkins are capable of.

Today 4.8★/5★

Today has a more upbeat and uplifting lyrics then the meaning behind them. In the chorus it says “today is the greatest day that i've ever known”, in an interview Corgan says that “it's a joke about how I want to kill myself.” So in reality of this song, it's a very dark and depressing song on how someone is going through a hard time in their life, with depression, substance abuse, loss, and suicide.

<https://genius.com/3326783>

Disarm 5★/5★

Disarm to me is a powerful song with the instrumentation alone, with the acoustic guitar as the main instrument, to the use of different progression instruments, to give the song a strong build up. As the lyrics also get more powerful.

Mayonaise 6★/5★

Mayonaise is one of the best songs ever made. Not only does it have one of the best guitar riffs, but genius and deep lyrics. You'd think Mayonaise (which is spelt wrong) is such an odd name for a song, Right? **WRONG!** Its not fully confirmed, but how i perceive it as the phonetics for "My Own Eyes". Which i think is so smart, and a cool little easter egg for big Smashing Pumpkins fans.

The instrumentals for mayonaise are genuinely some of my favourite. I love how the song starts off nice and soft with a few guitars, and then jumps straight into a harsher and more emotional sound in the guitar.

Spaceboy 4.7★/5★

Spaceboy is another softer and more mellow track on this album. It starts off with a gentle guitar riff, and then eventually the other instruments are involved. The lyrics are supposedly about corgins little brother, jesse that has tourettes, whom is referred to as spaceboy. This song personally feels like if a song could wrap you in a warm and strong comforting hug.

silverfu*k 4.6★/5★

Silverfu*k is yet another song that is heavy, with hard and fast drumming, strong guitar riffs, yelling lyrics. But then becomes slow, eerie , and distorted. Then jumps right back into the heavy rock. I think a song like this is a great piece capturing 90s alternative grunge scene.

Luna 5★/5★

Luna is my second favourite song on this album. I think that it's a perfect song to close such a beautiful album.

Luna starts off with deeply angelic and soft sounding guitar. Then follows with soft and gentle lyrics to a love song.

Closing Thoughts

Siamese Dream will always have a special place in my heart, and i genuinely think that this album is perfection. I have many memories and emotions attached to this album and i think thay the songs perfectly can capture song of those emotions. I love the varieties of soft and mellow songs, then hard and raw songs, that are perfectly spaced out, i'd give this album as a whole 5/5!