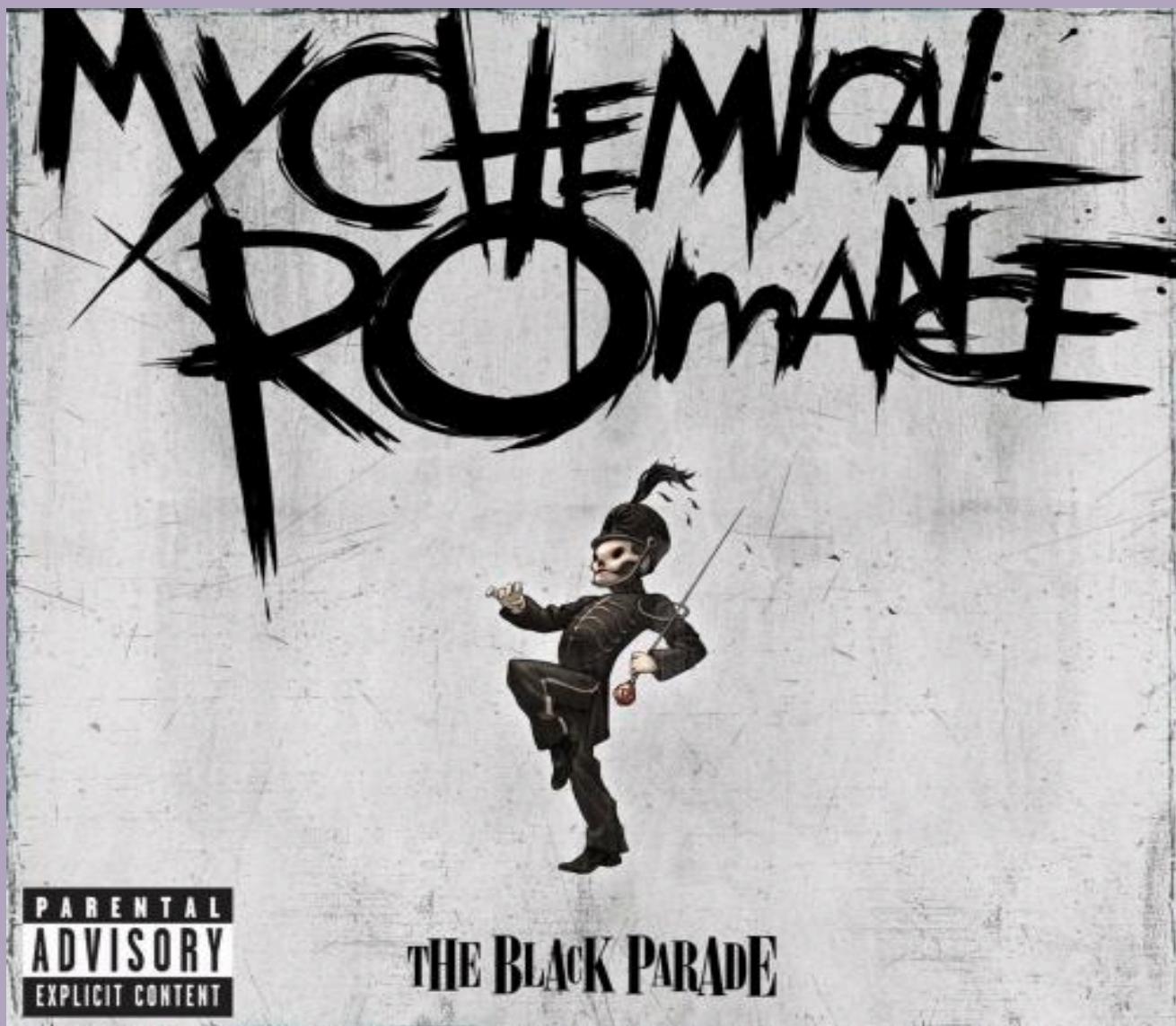


# The Black Parade

By  
My Chemical Romance



# Who are the members?

Gerard Way- Singer   Ray Toro- Lead Guitar   Frank Iero- Rhythm Guitar   Mikey Way- Bass



The main four members are **Gerard Way**, **Ray Toro**, **Frank Iero** and **Mikey Way** (Gerard's brother). They, like many other bands had a difficult time trying to find a drummer. They kicked their old drummer out because he wasn't on time and their old drummer was holding them back from being better. While on tour with **The Used**, they met drummer tech, **Bob Bryar**, who became their new drummer for their album **The Black Parade**

**Bob Bryar**- Drums



## Who is My Chemical Romance?

My Chemical Romance is an American rock band from New Jersey. They formed in 2001 after their lead singer Gerard Way was on his way to work for an internship in New York when he witnessed the twin towers fall on September 11th which influenced him and his friend who was a drummer, Matt Pelissier, to start a band. Gerard was introduced by a mutual friend to their lead guitarist Ray Toro. Gerard's brother Mikey Way wanted to be in a band but couldn't play well so they put him on bass. Frank Iero met the band during their early stages and he was a big fan so he joined and he is the rhythm guitarist. Their first song was *skylines and turnstiles* based on 9/11.

The person circled in the picture is Gerard Way when he was watching the twin towers fall

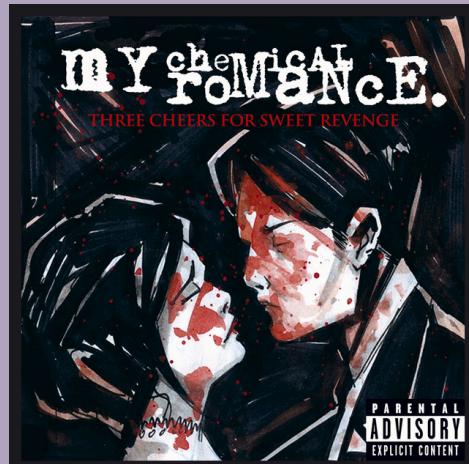
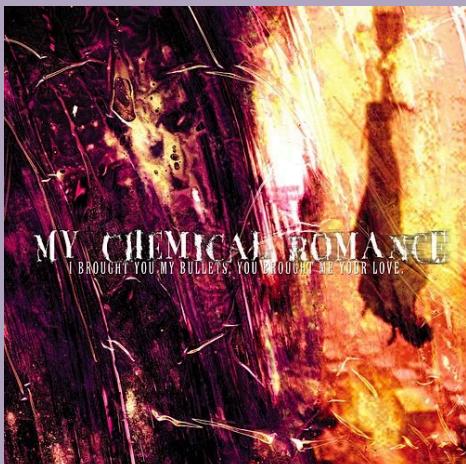


## What led up to the making of the album?

MCR's first album was **I Brought You My Bullets, You Brought Me Your Love** released in 2002. The cover on that album was a picture of Harry Houdini in a straitjacket hanging upside down. Harry Houdini was a big influence on them. The concept of that album is that it is a love story about lovers who will always be taken away from each other. These fictional characters are known as the demolition lovers.

Their second album, **Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge**, was released in 2004. The cover of that album was a picture of the demolition lovers with blood splattered on them. Their second album is essentially about the demolition lovers again but adding onto the previous story. That album is where the band truly found their musical style/identity.

In 2006 they started to make their album **The Black Parade**.



## They Change Their Style For Every Album!



**2001-2003 Bullets Era-** During this period they didn't have any specific style and dressed however they wanted to because they were just starting out as a band. They wore regular clothes.

**2004-2005 Revenge Era-** They started to gain popularity and a specific style which was, mostly black clothing with red accents. Their look was similar to vampires, with their red under eye makeup, and pale look. During this time they often looked greasy and unkempt because they didn't shower.



# The Black Parade And The Making Of It

## 2006-2008 The Black Parade Era-

During this album the band had changed their look yet again. Gerard dyed his hair white, Mikey got laser eye surgery, Frank, Ray and Bob grew their hair out

The outfits they wore were a black and white, military style uniform and the white stripes on their uniforms resembled skeleton ribs. Sometimes they wore skeleton makeup to go along with their costumes.

A cool detail is that Mikey Way (Bassist) wears a military award on his jacket because in their previous album his character dies in war during their music video **The Ghost Of You** which was inspired by a World War 2 movie, specifically the movie **Saving Private Ryan**.

## The Making Of The Album

In early 2006 MCR decided to stay in the Paramount Estate mansion to get some songs written for their upcoming album which was originally called **The Rise and Fall of My Chemical Romance**.

The mansion was previously owned by a famous hollywood couple and on the wifes way home she died in a car crash and was allegedly buried on the property by her husband.

The couple had held many lavish Hollywood parties in their mansion. The mansion was known as “The most beautiful home in Hollywood”. Eventually the mansion turned into an orphanage for girls then got taken over by Nuns and converted into a religious home for girls. Many bands and artists have stayed there and have encountered paranormal experiences.



## The Making of The Album

In April of 2006 to August of 2006 they began to write and record songs. They stayed at the Paramour mansion for its creative, dark and unsettling atmosphere. They wanted to write some songs and develop a concept for their album.

Many songs off of The Black Parade album were written because of the band's experiences at the mansion. The band's experience there was intense and negative, claiming to have experienced many paranormal events during their stay.

Their stay there had worsened all of the members' mental health. Mikey Way, the bassist and brother of Gerard, had to leave to seek treatment for depression and addiction.

Gerard Way, lead singer, became obsessed with the thought of death, ruined his personal life, and experienced frequent night terrors along with the paranormal experiences everyone else in the band were experiencing.

They all went crazy, had lost their minds, and were always on the brink of collapsing during the making of this album and this period of their life. They also had to deal with the pressure from fans to put out a better album than their second album, **Three Cheers For Sweet Revenge**, and the pressure to maintain their popularity.

They left the mansion early even though they were booked to stay longer, it was messing with their minds and they had to leave. While at the mansion, Gerard wrote a note on the wall that said "**we are all a black parade**", which is how they got the name for the album.

The concept of the album is about a patient who is dying from cancer and goes on a journey in the afterlife to reflect on their life and almost every song relates to how the patient feels. The album was released on October 23rd 2006.



## Tracklist

1. The End
2. Dead!
3. This Is How I Disappear
4. The Sharpest Lives
5. Welcome To The Black Parade
6. I Don't Love You
7. House Of Wolves
8. Cancer
9. Mama
10. Sleep
11. Teenagers
12. Disenchanted
13. Famous Last Words
14. Blood (Hidden Track)

### The End.

#### The End 4/5

“Save me! (Get me the hell out of here)  
Save me! (Too young to die and my dear)  
You can't! (If you can hear me, just)  
Save me! (Walk away, yeah)”

The song starts off with a heart monitor beeping in the hospital signaling that the patient is still alive but we can assume he is nearing death.

The beginning of the song starts off with acoustic guitar at first, gets louder and then an electric guitar and bass join in then it goes quiet and a piano plays and this is repeated through the rest of it where it gets louder then decreases and gets louder again. The drumming is very slow and only joins in when it starts to get louder.

The meaning of the song is that the patient is scared of dying and knows that their time is near and is thinking about their funeral and how nobody will cry for them.



Dead! 4.5/5

Dead!

“If life ain’t just a joke then why am I dead?”

The song starts off with the heart monitor stopping signaling the patient is dead. The saying in the song “**Have you heard the news that you’re dead?**” Is a reference to what people were saying about my chemical romance, that they were going to die out and wouldn’t succeed but it was also applicable to the story of the patient and realizing that they are dead and that they didn’t do all of the things they wanted to.

It is supposed to be sarcastic, upbeat and dark. It has several guitar solos. It starts off with a guitar solo by lead guitarist Ray Toro but he doesn’t play the beginning solo live because it is really hard. The drums are a lot faster than the first song.



This Is How I Disappear 4.5/5

Dead!

“To un-explain the unforgivable  
Drain all the blood and give the kids a show  
By streetlight this dark night  
A séance down below  
There’re things that I have done  
You never should ever know”

In the patient’s story this song describes that without his lover he is nothing and has no identity without her. This song was inspired by **Harry Houdini’s wife** who was trying to contact him through a seance after his death and how even an amazing escape artist couldn’t escape death. The seance is a metaphorical expression for someone leaving from another’s life. The song is also about feeling invisible after a breakup by using metaphors like feeling like a ghost and disappearing to describe emotional feelings.



## The Sharpest Lives 4/5

### [The Sharpest Lives](#)

This song is the aftermath of the patient's lover leaving him. His lifestyle starts to get more reckless and he is running from his feelings. He uses alcohol to cope with being abandoned and to take the pain away. This song starts with electric guitar and bass then the drums join in. Starts off kind of quiet and then. This song is also about how this impulsive lifestyle might feel good in the moment but it destroys you later on. **"Give me a shot to remember and you can take all the pain away from me"** This could either be a reference to a gun or alcohol.



### [My Chemical Romance - Welcome To The Black Parade \[Official Music ...](#)

## Welcome To The Black Parade 5/5

**"We'll carry on, we'll carry on  
And though you're dead and gone, believe me  
Your memory will carry on, will carry on  
And in my heart, I can't contain it  
The anthem won't explain it"**

This song is about the patient's fondest memory when he was a child, seeing a marching band with his dad and thinking about his childhood memories before death. The parade is death coming to collect the patient appearing in the form of his happiest memory which was seeing a marching band when he was a young boy. It's about legacy, hope and carrying on after loss. The song starts off with a piano intro on the G note. Then drums that resemble a marching band join in and start to get louder then the rest of the band joins in. This song is known as one of the many "emo anthems". It is debatable that they are an emo band but they were a big influence on some emo things. This is one of their most popular songs off of this album.



## I Don't Love You 4.5/5

 [My Chemical Romance - I Don't Love You \[Official Music Video\] \[HD\]](#)

“I don't love you like I did yesterday”

In the story this song is about a break up and pushing people away cus he was dying. They were two lovers in an abstract world. His time was near and the love had faded so he needed to sabotage himself to move on from her before he died.

Instrumentation sounds mostly like clean guitar, steady drums and overall it's a softer sound compared to the rest. In the music video there are two lovers who are very different and then they collapse into dust.

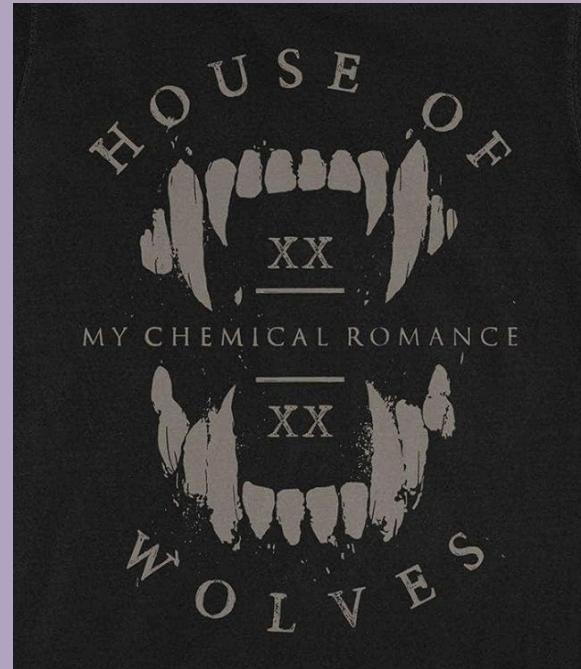


## House of Wolves 4.5/5

 [House of Wolves](#)

“S-I-N, I S-I-N  
S-I-N, I S-I-N  
S-I-N, I S-I-N  
S-I-N, I S-I-N”

This song is about the patient thinking about whether he is going to heaven or hell. He accepts that he has done bad things and he thinks he is going to go to hell because he is a sinner. He struggles with his morality. “**Well I think I'm gonna burn in hell...**” The wolves represent temptation, sin and fear of punishment. The instrumentation is distorted, the drums are fast.

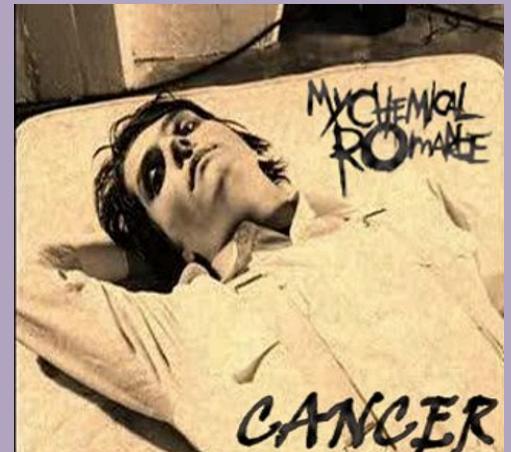
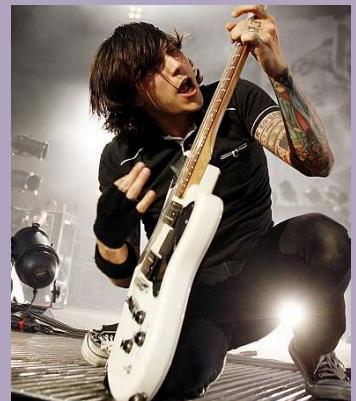


## Cancer

### My Chemical Romance - Cancer

“Cause the hardest part of this is leaving you”

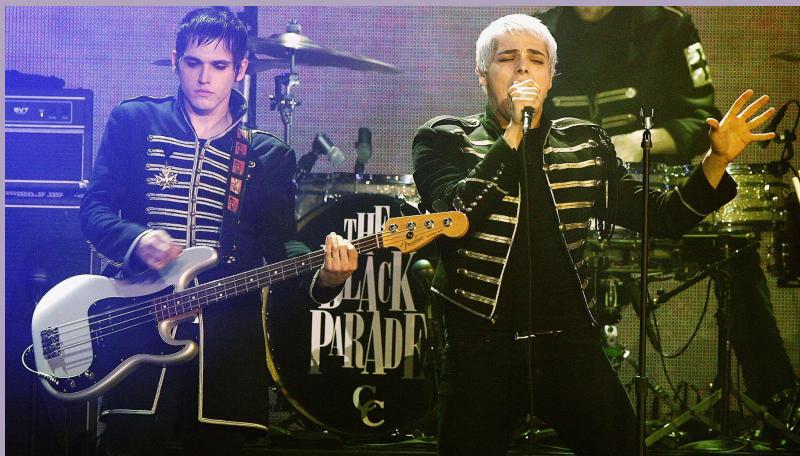
This song is about the patients experience with cancer but it also about how lead singer Gerard way's depression crawled over him like an illness. During their time at the paramour mansion rhythm guitarist Frank Iero saw Gerard had the word “cancer” written on his wall. This song has a piano beginning, light guitar, subtle bass, and minimal. It is also about apologizing to loved ones as they fade away into death.



## Mama 5/5

### My Chemical Romance - Mama

The theme in this song is about the patients guilt, and disappointment. His life was flashing before his eyes as he died and he was thinking about his inadequacies as a son and his mom's failure in raising him. “**You should have raised a baby girl, I should have been a better son**”. He compares his life to a soldier writing a letter to home and his own family trauma. In the song it talks about shooting people possibly in war. This song was demoed at the paramour mansion. The instrumentation has a cabaret/ carnival feeling, the bass is more prominent, aggressive guitars, more theatrical, the drums are quieter.



## Sleep 5/5

"They're-they're these terrors

My Chemical Romance - Sleep

And it's like, it feels as if somebody was gripping my-

They're these terrors

And it's like, it feels like as if somebody was gripping my throat

Night, uh, they're not like tremors, they're worse than tremors

They're-they're these terrors

Like last night, uh, they're not like tremors, they're worse than tremors

They're-they're these terrors

And it's like, it feels like as if somebody was gripping my throat and

squeezing and

It's like as if somebody was gripping my throat" -Gerard Way



Sleep was written at the paramour mansion when lead singer, Gerard Way had extreme sleep paralysis which inspired him to write this song about it. That quote was a voice recording made by Gerard when he woke up from the night terror. He put that voice recording at the beginning of the song with a piano in the background. The theme of this song is fear, nightmares and losing your mind to insanity. The instrumentation has slow but loud guitar riffs, slow but loud drums.

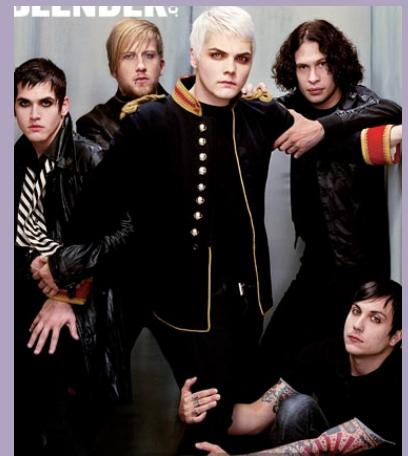


My Chemical Romance - Teenagers [Official Music Video] [4K]

## Teenagers 4/5

This song doesn't necessarily relate to the story but it is fun and catchy. Gerard way came up with the song when he was on the bus having an anxiety attack while on a subway around aggressive teens and how adults fear younger generations. It is also about gun violence and social alienation

It is a commentary on youth culture, rebellion, embracing fear and danger. In the music video, My Chemical Romance is doing a performance in a high school for teenagers and then by the end of it the teenagers rampage the stage and steal their equipment and knock them over.

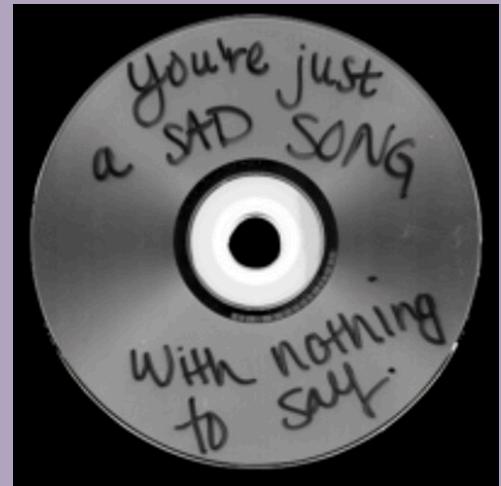


## Disenchanted 4/5

### ► My Chemical Romance - Disenchanted

“I spent my high school career  
Spit on and shoved to agree”

The patient spent his life wasting away and reflects on his life. The patient feels disappointed with life, fame and the meaning of things. The patient is looking back at life and realizing it didn't turn out the way he wanted it to. The instrumentation starts off with acoustic guitar, then clean electric guitar, and an emotional guitar solo. During My Chemical Romance's stay at paramour mansion Mikey Way wanted this song on the album so bad that he would whisper it in other bandmates' ears while they were sleeping. This song almost didn't make it on the album.



### ► My Chemical Romance - Famous Last Words [Official Music Video] [HD]

## Famous Last Words 1000000000/5

“I am not afraid to keep on living, I am not afraid to walk this world alone.”

Death cannot be talked about without the acknowledgement of life and what it means to be alive.

Despite the situation the patient refused to give up, survival, resilience, not fading away even when death is near and also. The instrumentation is clean and loud. “I see you lying next to me with words I thought I'd never speak, awake and unafraid, asleep or dead.” This quote is about how Gerard's brother Mikey would sleep on his floor while at the Paramour mansion because he was scared. This song is mostly dedicated to Mikey Way and his struggle with depression and addiction. In the music video they set the black parade float on fire and set everything on fire and act crazy. Frank Iero jumps on Gerard's leg and Gerard's foot swells up so during the music video when he is yelling he is in actual pain. Gerard's foot was swelling so much they were unsure if it was able to go back into his shoe so they forced him in it and kept going and dealt with it afterwards. Bob Bryar the drummer was close to the fire and caught on fire and suffered a burn from this music video.



## ► My Chemical Romance - Blood [Official Music Video] [4K]

### Blood (Hidden Track) 3/5

Doesn't necessarily relate to the story, it's about rebirth, death and blood. Not my favourite, personally.

**The Black Parade B sides-** AMAZING! Kill all your friends was my first my chemical romance song, Heaven Help us, My Way Home is Through You and a few live versions are on the b sides also. Definitely my favourites.

**After The Black Parade-** They made an album called **Danger Days** where they changed their style and made more pop music and an EP called **Conventional Weapons** which is really good. After that they went on hiatus in 2013. In my opinion, Conventional weapons should have been an album. Most of the fan favourites are on Conventional Weapons. My favourite MCR song is "The Ghost Of You"

Overall 10/10 because it has helped 2000's music culture and it's also a good album but Three Cheers For Sweet Revenge is definitely better in my opinion. Thanks for reading my album review! :D

