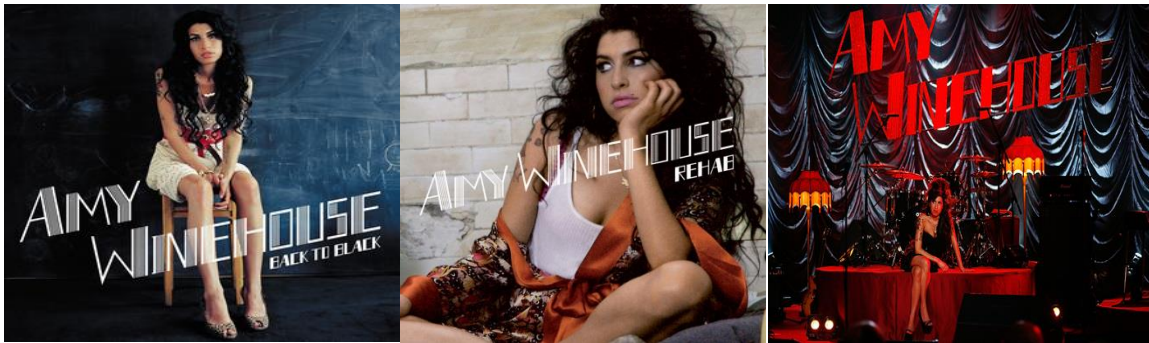


Amy Winehouse

“Back to black”

Amy Jade Winehouse, born in north London on September 14th, 1983 had a successful musical career since the early age of fourteen. She had a passion for music that became obvious whenever she performed. After being successful for over ten years, the stress and pressure of her career motivated her alcoholism which later resulted in her untimely death on July 23, 2011. In her lifetime she produced multiple successful albums, five years before her tragic death she released her album “Back to Black” in October, 2006). The album placed on the top forty chart for over two hundred consecutive weeks in the U.K and became popular worldwide. The album was a huge success; 2.65 million copies were sold in the United States alone and led to five 2008 Grammy awards, which then tied the record for most wins by a female artist in a single night. After her death “Back to Black” became the UK’s best-selling album of the 21st century.



When asked about the title of the album and what it meant, Winehouse said "Back to Black is when you've finished a relationship and you go back to what's comfortable for you. My ex went back to his girlfriend and I went back to drinking and dark times." These themes are found throughout the album.

Before the official release of her 2006 album Amy Winehouse released five singles which included: “Rehab”, “You Know I’m No Good”, “Tears Dry on Their Own”, “Back to Black”, and “Love Is a Losing Game” which were very successful and were a good representation of the direction her life was going at the time. Examples of Winehouse’s struggles in her personal relationships and with alcohol are exemplified in the following lyrics: “*And I died a hundred times you go back to her and I go back to I go back to us*” (*Back to Black*), “*I'm gonna, I'm gonna lose my baby so I always keep a bottle near. He said, "I just think you're depressed."*” (*Rehab*) Lyrically, her songs revealed the strains in her relationships, depression and substance abuse.

Even throughout her struggles and hardships she managed to create an amazing album that will always be a personal favorite of mine. Although the lyrics are dark and depressing, I find Winehouse’s portrayal of her breakup and addiction refreshingly frank. She makes blunt

statements that are directed at her ex-husband in “Me and Mr. Jones” “Nowadays you don't mean dick to me” I find it empowering that Amy remains strong and is overlooking the self-hatred she feels too prove that she was okay, but as events proved she was more fragile than she appeared.



Kiera Shaw