

EMINEM



Marshal Bruce Mathers III, but professionally known as **Eminem**, (often styled as **EMINEM**). He is 46 years old and was born on October 17th, 1972. He is an American rapper, songwriter, record executive, record and film producer, and actor. He is one of the most



influential hip hop artists, and one of the greatest at that. Eminem even got places in the *Rolling Stone* list of 100 Greatest Artists of All Time at number 83, and labeling him the “King of Hip Hop”

He spent most of his childhood moving from city to city, which, unfortunately always made him ‘the new kid’. Eminem had a really rough childhood, which includes things such as; father leaving when he was an infant, being bullied in school, and emotionally abusing mother. Eminem’s school bully, D’Angelo Bailey, severely injured Eminem’s head in an assault, which is actually mention in Eminem’s song, “Brain Damage”. Eminem’s mother filled a lawsuit against the school in 1982, but the case was dropped the following year because the school was “immune from lawsuits”. He failed 9th grade three times, due to poor grades. Eminem wanted to become a comic book artist when he was younger, and who thought he would drop that wish and become a rapper? I’m glad he did. It’s hard to imagine what hip hop would look like if Eminem never became the influential artist he is today.

Recovery



Eminem's 7th studio album, Recovery, was released on June 18th, 2010, by Aftermath Entertainment, Shady Records, and Interscope Records. Recovery is the follow-up to Eminem's previous album Relapse, which released in 2009. Recovery has a total of 17 songs and has a total length of 76:59. The album was recorded from 2009 to 2010, which is the same year it was released. Recovery was originally going to be called Relapse 2, but

Eminem changed it when he found that the album "musically different from its predecessor". The album was dedicated "To anyone who's in a dark place tryin' to get out. Keep your head up...It does get better!" Eminem was in a "full-blown addiction" while recording one of his previous albums, Encore, which released in 2004. He got happier and seemed more "alive" when he "first got sober" during the recording of Relapse. Recovery sold over 6 million copies in the united States, and over 15 million copies worldwide. On the album, Eminem brings in other artists, such as Lil Wayne on the track "No Love", Sasha Grey on the track "Space Bound", and Rihanna on the track "Love The Way You Lie".

5/5 Stars

SONGS

My favorite and possibly most popular song on Eminem's *Recovery* album is the 7th song, "Not Afraid". The song was released on April 29th, written and produced by Eminem, Boi-1da, Jordan Evans, and Mathew Burnett. The song carries a "positive message and depicts Eminem's change in direction from drugs and violence". The song features a choir that assists Eminem in the heavily layered chorus. The vocals are sung over a guitar, synthesizer, and piano. No Auto-Tune was used on the vocals, but many reverberation tools were. Music critics gave "Not Afraid" a review of mixed to positive. They praised the song for being "anthemic in nature and carrying a positive message". It did, however, receive negative criticism because the theme of the song had suddenly changed and it was considered to be "less affecting than some of his other songs". The music video for the song was shot in New York City and Newark, New Jersey and directed by Rich Lee and was released in May 2010.



"Not Afraid" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5-yKhDd64s>

(LANGUAGE WARNING)

5/5 Stars



The 15th song on the album *Recovery* is “Love the Way You Lie”, which features artist Rihanna. The singer and songwriter Skylar Grey wrote and recorded a demo version when she felt she was in an “abusive romantic relationship” with the music industry. Eminem chose Rihanna to sing the chorus, while he sang the verses. He ended up collaborating with Rihanna

because they both had “past experiences in difficult relationships”. The recording sessions were held in Ferndale, Michigan, and Dublin, Ireland. The track is a midtempo hip-hop ballad with a pop refrain, which is backed by guitar, piano and violin. The song describes “two lovers who refuse to separate despite being in a dangerous love-hate relationship”. The song was released in June 2010 by Interscope Records as the second single from the album. The music video, directed by Joseph Kahn, stars Dominic Monaghan and Megan Fox in a violent relationship. To emphasize this, Eminem and Rihanna are shown standing in front of a burning house, implying that that’s the house of the two lovers in the relationship.

“Love the Way You Lie” - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uelHwf8o7_U

(LANGUAGE WARNING)

5/5 Stars

The last song we are going to be looking at is “Space Bound”. It might not be the most popular, but it’s one of my favorites. “Space Bound” was released on June 18th 2011 as the fourth and final single on the album Recovery. The song was written by Eminem, Steve McEwan, and Jim Jonsin. The chorus was sung by McEwan, who also provided guitars and Eminem sun the versus. The song was recorded in Parkland Playhouse by Robert Marks, and was also recorded by Mike and Joe Strange in Effigy Studios. Jonsis spoke about the theme of the chorus in “Space Bound” and said this: “The chorus was based on a chase, a guy who's chasing after a woman that he's crazy about, he loves her; she's everything to him. I'm a rocket ship aiming at her heart, her heart's the moon—I'm going full-on”. The song features a sample of “Drive” from R.E.M. and “Song for Bob” by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis. Guitars provided by McEwan and additional keyboards were by Danny Morris. The music video for “Space Bound” was filmed over three days in February 2011 in, Los Angeles, California. It was produced over five months and directed by Joseph Kahn. The song did spark controversy because at the end of the video, Eminem shoots himself in a motel.



“Space Bound” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JByDbPn6A1o>

(LANGUAGE WARNING)

4/5 Stars

Importance of Album

This album is important because it is a mark of when Eminem became sober. This year is the 11th anniversary of when Eminem started going sober, and he is still standing strong. Eminem commemorated the occasion by posting a picture of a sobriety coin to Instagram and Twitter. The caption states Eminem saying “11 years – still not afraid.” The album



got a lot of criticism, mostly good. Jody Rosen, writing in *Rolling Stone* called Eminem’s album Recovery his “most casual-sounding album in years” and said that he “sounds content to be rap’s wittiest head case”. Recovery was nominated for ten awards, and the album won five, including the Favorite Rap/Hip-Hop Album at the 38th American Music Awards, and the

Top Rap Album at the *Billboard* Music Awards, etc. Recovery has a total length of 76:59. The picture to the right is Eminem showing off his sobriety coin last year, which symbolized his ten years of being drug/alcohol free.



My Opinion

I personally think this is Eminem's greatest album of all time. If you want to call yourself a rap fan but haven't heard a few songs from this album, you NEED to. I understand some people can't stand Eminem, but if you're a rap fan, you need to listen to a few songs. They don't call him the 'King of Hip-Hop' for no reason. Eminem is my favorite artist, and I love all of his songs and I can't wait to see what he releases in the future. Eminem was actually featured in a song that was released May 2nd, by Logic called "Homicide" **(STRONG LANGUAGE)**



By: Hayden Petersen