



## **The College Dropout Kanye West**

By: Mitchel Hustins

Some General Info about Kanye. Kanye was born June 8th 1977 in Atlanta Georgia US. Kanye also has 24 grammys and 75 nominations. Six of Kanye's albums are in the Rolling Stones top 500 greatest albums of all time. Kanye's father Ray West was a Black Panther. Kanye is also held as one of the most influential artists of all time.

Some info about the album and its creation. His documentary does a very good job on explaining how this album became a thing. It started with Kanye being a producer in the late 90's not making any music but was getting sick of making beats for people and wanted to make both beats and music so he could get a little bit more recognition.

He made Jesus Walks and went to Roc-a-fella to show them the songs so they would sign him as an artist. A lot of well known Rappers at the time like Jay-z really liked Kanye and would've loved it if he got signed. But after showing the People in Roc-a-Fella they actually didn't like the song and actually laughed at it which is crazy because that song is insanely good but he kept on trying showing some of his friends the beats he was making and free styling with people like Mos Def and Talib Kweli and they were really digging Kanye.

Kanye was signed as a producer for Roc-a-Fella but wanted more. He was signed as a producer in 1998 but in 2002 he got signed as an artist. He then started working on the College Dropout full time.

## Through The Wire

1st single for the album.

Through The Wire probably has one of the craziest backstories of any song.

October 23, 2002 the day Kanye West life would change.

Kanye was driving home from a recording session in L.A. when he fell asleep at the wheel and got in a serious collision in his rented lexus.

He crashed into an oncoming car. Kanye's jaw was shattered in three different places and the driver in the other car broke both his legs.

Kanye had to undergo emergency surgery where he got his jaw wired shut as well as having a metal plate in his chin for a month.

As much as it was really painful for him to rap he still wanted to get his album out more then ever and while recording through the wire he had to take multiple pain medications just to get through the recording session.

In the song Through The Wire he rapped while his jaw was wired shut which makes the song so iconic he samples the song "Through The Fire" by Chaka Khan.

What I really like about the song is that the sample says through the fire and he twists the words and makes the sample say through the wire which is insanely cool to me.

Just everything about this song is so cool to me. The background story is just insane that he was able to live through the car crash.

Through The Wire also won music video of the year in 2004 and got nominated for rap solo performance but lost to Jay-z with his 99 Problems song in 2005.

 Kanye West - Through The Wire



## Jesus Walks

2nd single for the album.

Jesus walks was the first song he decided to start working on for his album the college dropout. That's when he would show the people working in the Roc-a-Fella building his song and at first like I said up there they did not like it and actually laughed at the song thinking he was going to be going nowhere and was better off just making beats for other people.

The song was released on May 25th 2004 as a lead single for his album.

The sample to the song is Walk with Me performed by the ARC choir.

Jesus Walks peaked at #11 on the billboard top 100.

Jeen-Yuhs Kanye's Documentry actually shows a clip of them rehearsing Jesus walks live with the choir and it really goes to show how amazing Kanye is when he puts his mind to it.

[Kanye West - Jesus Walks \(Version 2\)](#)



## **All Falls Down (feat. Syleena Johnson)**


3rd single for the album.

Kanye wanted to use Samples from Lauryn Hill on her song Mystery of Iniquity but after asking if he was able to use it he got told they weren't aloud to use it and he ended up getting Syleena Johnson to sing the part instead of Lauryn Hill and Syleena absolutely killed it!

"It wasn't until I hung out with Dead Prez and understood how to make, you know, raps with a message sound cool that I was able to just write "All Falls Down" in 15 minutes," said Kanye West. A crazy cool bar that comes from this song goes "Couldn't afford a car so she named her daughter Alexis (A Lexus)"

The song was released February 24th 2004.

The song Peaked at #7 on the billboard top 100 and it was his first single in the top 10.

 Kanye West - All Falls Down ft. Syleena Johnson



## **Slow Jamz (feat. Twista and Jamie Foxx)**

4th single for the album.

So something kind of funny is that this song is actually Twista's song and is also under his name but it's on the college dropout and Kanye is just a feature on this song with just a little backstory behind the song.

There was a recording session with Kanye and some other people and Jamie Foxx was asked to come and Kanye didn't know he was coming so he was surprised when he came through the door.

Kanye sang a freestyle for Jamie Foxx and Jamie really liked it and wanted to hop on a song with Kanye. Slow Jamz ended up becoming the song that he got put on.

Jamie would sing some bars for Kanye but Kanye didn't want R&B and said can you make it more hip hop and Jamie laughed and thought Kanye wasn't going to get too far.

One of the funniest bars comes off this song that goes "Got a Light Skinned friend look like Micheal Jackson, Got a Dark Skinned friend look like Micheal Jackson"

The song peaked at #1 on billboard top 100 which was the first #1 for Kanye Twista and Foxx.

[▶ Twista - Slow Jamz \(Feat. Kanye West & Jamie Foxx\)](#)



## Spaceship (feat. GLC, Consequence)

This song doesn't really have too much background knowledge but it's one of my favourite songs off the album.

This song was originally supposed to be on GLC's album but Plain Pat who was Kanye's Manager at the time insisted it should be on Kanye's album instead.

This song samples Marvin Gaye's song Distant Lover.

The song also shows Kanye's early career of singing and using his killer voice to spew out vocals instead of just rapping.

Spaceship was supposed to be the sixth single for The College Dropout but they ended up scrapping that idea because they were mainly focusing on promoting Kanye's upcoming album Late Registration.

This song was Released the same day as the College Dropout February 10th 2004.

[▶ Kanye West - Spaceship \[The Real Official Video\]](#)





## Summary of the album.

In my opinion this is one of the greatest debut albums of all time with banger after banger on the album rarely any skips funny skits, amazing features on the album, great production cool album cover not much to criticise on the album to be honest.

The backstories behind some of the songs on this album are insane especially with through the wire that song alone could get an entire essay on it.

The significance of this album is that people at the time were saying hiphop/rap was dying and there was no coming back and then kanye dropped The College Dropout and changed the game forever tons of new artists got huge inspiration from Kanye and what he's done. Without Kanye there honestly would not be Rap.

After this album he would release tons of amazing albums after including Late Registration, Graduation 808's and heartbreak, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, Watch The Throne (His collab album with Jay-z), Cool Summer, Yeezus, The Life of Pablo, Ye, Kids see ghosts (His collab album with Kid Cudi), JESUS IS KING and then his last album for now Donda.

All those amazing albums after The college dropout.

I would rate this album a 10/10 not to be biassed or anything but there is literally nothing wrong with this album and would heavily recommend you listen to this right now!

