

BLACK DOG

by Husky Dog

A song-by-song written commentary

featuring...

Dan Becker: Lead guitarist

Zeke Kelly: Vocalist and bassist

Saahir Manjani: Drummer

Chad Preston: Vocalist and rhythm guitarist

I CAVE IN

Dan: Chad was drunk as fuck the night he wrote this. I think he actually blacked out right after.

Zeke: finally they give me a fuckin bass solo. jesus.

Saahir: Our producer Tim did this great thing in the chorus with Dan's voice. I would recommend listening with

headphones, so deep and resonant, but it's hard to pick it out, normally.

Chad: People ask me what the Lyric "I'm an Only Child" has to do with the rest of the Song. These people don't understand basic Psychology. The Truth is, this song is about Desire and Love. Which can be hard to balance.

LADY JUNE

Dan: Just really simple rock n roll. Reminds me of a great 1977 song called "Whole Wide World"

Chad: Zeke wrote this one about Space. I Think he was reading an Isaac Asminov book or something.

Anyways he talks a lot about whether he thinks he can live on an other planet, some day.

He gave me one line to sing here, but it was about going to earth instead of an other planet.

So I think that very likely he was confused.

Zeke: the songs about someone whos lived on the moon so long she forgets what the earth is like.

Saahir: Nearly impossible to keep the crash going during those choruses. Great work by Zeke, though.

STAY AWAY

Zeke: this albums the first that chad had a girlfriend for the whole thing. on the last album he even had a song about not finding one. chad wouldnt shut up about how great she was so we told him to shut the fuck up about it and write a song already. the next day he showed me the lyrics and it was some weird shit like he wanted to lock her up in a tower. anyways there wasnt much there so dan wrote 4 more lines, as a joke. he was making fun of chad. chad liked it and let him sing that part, and then after it dan busted out this fucking cool solo i really liked. so the song was ok.

Saahir: I showed Chad a few chords to use during the chorus and he gave me a writing credit.

Dan: Chad couldn't play the chords Saahir wanted to use for the chorus so Saahir had to play them. I would be fine if we went back to playing three chord songs, but when Saahir suggests something Chad gets really excited about how it can make us "real" musicians.

Chad: I played this song for my Girlfriend and she actually loved it. I was surprised that Dan had something to contribute, because he does not even normally sing his own Songs. He's shy like that but normally says what is on his mind.

I FEEL IT

Saahir: My drum teacher's brother teaches guitar. I finally went to a lesson and learned some chords which I used to write this song. I won't discuss the subject matter as I feel the lyrics speak for themselves.

But I realized I needed to write a song about a girl at some point, so I made it my second one.

Dan: Saahir came to Marc's mom's place to show me some chords. He took like five minutes to play each one and then he asked if I could do it. It's a really good song, and it was awesome to see him so hyped up about it. So yeah, this one was really fun to play, mostly because Saahir was beaming the whole time.

Chad: Really this is a extremely sad Song. To me the motifs are intensely depressing. I think Saahir never got up in there, haha.

Zeke: saahir did a jazzy thing here on guitar i liked. a lot going on but this song still kicks ass.

CRYOCOFFIN

Chad: I was against Recording this one so they held another secret session without me, which was uncalled for. Obviously I should have been singing backup on this, not John WhatsHisFace. But even then, the Husky Dog name should not be on This. It's not our Sound at all.

Zeke: everyone but chad was clearly excited about this one. wasn't that hard to get john to come in. i like the effect tom put on my voice.

Dan: I tried to make the solo like a Tony Iommi solo mixed with a Brian May one. I don't think it's quite there.

Saahir: Very straightforward, just had to hit that crash like it was nobody's business. I love the song.

A PILL

Zeke: not sure if dan wrote much of this. i was there and it seemed like joanne was writing it to seem like something dan would write. dan just did the guitar line. i think joanne just wanted to sing something on this album and chad wouldn't let her write a song herself because last time we only found out what it was about after we released it.

Chad: You Chose Wrong was a song about a shitty Reality TV Show. Dan wrote a little part on A Pill which is fine because I got to sing on it as well. It's a Classic Dan Song.

Dan: I wrote parts of the lyrics and then my wife would help me finish them. Most of the song has no lyrics.

Saahir: Dan played me this song and I instantly understood which parts were off beat and which to play straight. It was a great cohesive moment. I think I got the toms tuned how I wanted them too.

SPACE WAR

Chad: It was like Zeke was writing a concept album about space, completely separate from everything else everyone was writing. Maybe we should have put all of his songs on an EP and released it separately. That could have been better.

Saahir: Zeke wrote all the lyrics and I just suggested a few chords to go under them here and there. I like the spacey synths Marc added. The song was missing something for a while. This was the first song I sang backup on chronologically, and Marc actually gave me some tips. Great guy.

Zeke: that first line i wrote - "how far will this madman go if we let him go too far?" - i still smile about that one.
if you've read your history you know who it's about.

Dan: That delay on my guitar is the Husky Dog sound, man. Distilled.

DISEASE + POLLUTION

Chad: This is our only song that repeats over and over like this song does. But we were short on songs for this Album and Dan and Zeke put it in. I was Painting in my apartment when they were recording this, I think.

Zeke: most of our songs are pretty much the same shit. but dan actually writes really weird, awesome shit. and he started doing this off beat strumming thing and i sang what was in my head at the time. i tried to write more lyrics but they didnt fit so i cut em.

Dan: Zeke's lyrics are about humans ruining the environment of any planet they will visit, not just Earth. Yeah, once he told me that he got me thinking about that shit for weeks.

Saahir: It was strange recording without Chad there. I thought Zeke was going to pass out, the way he was singing.

DON'T SHADOW ME

Saahir: Holy crap, this one was rough. The most takes I've ever had to do on a part. The shuffle part is disparate from some of the other parts and I couldn't keep it straight in my head. Dan has a unique

sense of rhythm that I don't think he fully recognizes, and all his songs have something tricky about them. Yikes.

Chad: Dan knew he couldn't sing this song, so he gave it to me because I really liked it.

Zeke: first time chad and i did a duet. duets are very cheesy but what the fuck can i do about it. dan wrote it and i like dan.

Dan: I knew from the beginning I wasn't gonna sing this one. No way.

ANVIL

Saahir: It seems hard to not know what's going on with someone you love. I believe that's what the song is about.

Chad: I wanted my Girlfriend to sing the part right before the Chorus, but she is totally shy haha. So Mako offered to do it.

Dan: Chad made me text Mako to come record that. I do agree her part completes the song.

Mako Wanata: Chad made me record my vocals for hours, over and over. Then he used the worst take. But playing with Dan was fun.

Zeke: it didnt take hours. maybe 15 minutes.

Mako Wanata: Zeke was doing very interesting things with bass guitar. He used a pedal I had never seen before, and the bass dominated the song. I also knew I thought of Zeke's part at the end, KNOWING WHYYYY. Chad's voice I thought was a bit noisy. Saahir I do not think I saw breaking the sweat, but this seems to be quite easy for him.

BLACK DOG

Chad: The title comes from something I heard Zeke's grandfather say. He's an Irish Immigrant and that was one of those cultural sayings that just stuck in my head. The song is maybe a little negative but hopefully people see the Good in it. I had no plans to put a Rap in it but Zeke insisted and I guess it goes to show, you should have faith.

Saahir: I spent a while writing out the harmonies for my little parts here. I think I ended up singing something different but I felt I needed to contribute something competent, so hopefully they'd want me to sing on more songs.

Zeke: i had nothing to do with writing the rest of the song, which i think makes the clash with the rap stronger. emcee motherfucka's history with the band goes way back so of course i had to bring him in.

Dan: I didn't have a solo on this one so I just stuck a little riff up top and called it a mini-solo.

KEEP MY HEAD ON STRAIGHT

Saahir: I was originally supposed to just get one song on this album, which was the deal we made as a band, but Chad decided he didn't want to end the album on **Black Dog** so I pulled this one out. I think he resented my offering it to Zeke instead of him, but I appreciate the rawness of Zeke's voice. When he doesn't get to sing a song Chad usually just withdraws entirely, which was unfortunate.

Zeke: we got mako to come and play violin here, even though she hasn't played in years. whatever. i like the rawness.

Dan: Marc played electric piano here. He loved the song and probably wanted to steal it. Sucks for him it made it on the album.

Chad: Yeah. That's the last song. So, thanks for listening to the album everybody. Buy all our old ones too. Haha. Bye.