

Music Review

- Liam Reilly

Drake: Nothing Was the Same (September 24th)

Some may know Aubrey Graham, a.k.a Drake, from his days on the cast of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* on Nickelodeon. However Drake has long since traded in his acting career for a microphone, and is now one of the most successful Hip/Hop acts in the music industry. The Toronto-native is a true musical dual-threat, able to both rap and sing exceptionally well. In Drake's first two albums, *Thank Me Later* and *Take Care*, one can hear a healthy balance between Drake's rapping and singing, with about an even-split on both of the albums. On the last track of *Take Care*, Drake raps, "My Junior and Senior will only get meaner". This promise was fully met on *Nothing Was the Same*, as Drake comes out of the gate with force, rapping often and with authority throughout the album. Even with a significant piece of the album devoted to rap, Drake still puts his vocal talents on display with R&B-style tracks over a hip/hop beat, much in the style of his friend and contemporary The Weeknd. With several notable cameo appearances from the likes of Jay-Z and 2 Chainz, *Nothing Was the Same* stakes Drake's claim as a powerhouse in the Hip/Hop industry. (8.5/10)

Key Tracks: "Hold On, We're Going Home," "Too Much," "All Me (feat. 2 Chainz & Big Sean)"

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