

From the Dark Comes *Lemonade*

- Maeve Reilly

Beyonce set the world on fire with the surprise release of her new album, *Lemonade*, which tells the story of an unfaithful marriage in the form of a song-by-song epic, each track with a different feeling than the last. The twelve track masterpiece is jam-packed with emotion—anger, betrayal, pain, perseverance, vengeance, and everything in between. The album is soaring in success, currently holding the number one album spot on iTunes, and for good reason.

This latest release shows off a new side of Bey's voice, as in "Don't Hurt Yourself," a passionate track with an incredibly raspy and bold sound unlike anything Beyonce has done before. However, she lets the long-loved pureness and rich strength of her voice shine in the ballad "Sandcastles." Furthermore, Beyonce jumps flawlessly from genre to genre between songs, giving *Lemonade* a little touch of everything: pop, rock, hip-hop, and even country influence. Yet somehow, it all flows together seamlessly, like some sort of ingeniously crafted musical experience. Beyonce is showing the world that she'll never stop surprising us and that, vocally, she can do it all.

Due to its lyrical content, *Lemonade* has stirred up massive reaction and speculation amongst fans. With lines like "this is your final warning...you gonna lose your wife," "he better call Becky with the good hair," and "it's such a shame, you let this good love go to waste," Beyonce and Jay Z divorce rumors have begun to fly. The public has taken to social media in huge numbers to speculate who this "Becky" could be.

However, regardless of whether or not there's truth behind these rumors, *Lemonade* is a gift to music lovers everywhere. With impossibly catchy songs such as "Hold Up" and "Sorry," as well as some powerful black pride anthems such as "Freedom" and "Formation," *Lemonade* is truly one of a kind. It's clear that Beyonce has taken her deepest and most personal struggles and somehow cultivated them into a work of art that is authentic, relatable, and altogether beautiful. Maybe life didn't give her lemons, but still she made lemonade.