

# No Doubt Returns With 'Saturn'

After 5 Years, Band To Issue Follow-Up To 'Tragic Kingdom'

BY CARLA HAY

NEW YORK—In the fickle world of pop music, waiting five years to release a new album can be risky—even for a multi-platinum act. Will the act's fans stay loyal? Or will they ignore the act and move on to the next big thing?

That question surrounds No Doubt, the Orange County, Calif.-based, ska-influenced rock band whose new album, "Return Of Saturn" (due April 11 on Interscope), is the long-anticipated follow-up to 1995's hugely successful "Tragic Kingdom." The members of No Doubt say that taking years to reach a goal is nothing new for them.

"It took us nine years to become successful," says lead singer Gwen Stefani. "It's such a magical time right now, because we accomplished the goal of doing this record exactly how we wanted to do it. I think we're all really surprised at how much we've grown as songwriters."

No Doubt's other albums include the band's 1992 self-titled debut and 1995's "Beacon Street Incident." Those albums did little to catapult No Doubt to mainstream acceptance, but



NO DOUBT

the group developed a core following, especially in California, through constant touring.

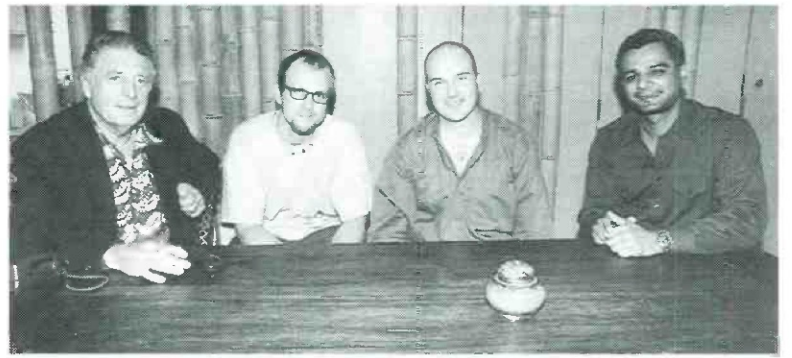
No Doubt reached a new plateau in its career with "Tragic Kingdom," which has sold 15 million copies worldwide, according to Interscope. The album yielded the hit singles "Don't Speak," "Just A Girl," and "Spiderwebs." During the course of "Tragic Kingdom's" run on the charts, No Doubt toured for more than two years and went from playing clubs to headlining arenas.

Guitarist Tom Dumont notes, "Some people work well under pressure, but we realized we work better with no pressure, so we did away

with the idea of having deadlines. We didn't want to put out a half-assed record to capitalize on this or that."

No Doubt—whose other members are bass player Tony Kanal and drummer Adrian Young—returned to the public eye in 1999 with the release of the radio single and video for "New" from the "Go" soundtrack. "New," which is included on "Return Of Saturn," was produced by Jerry Harrison and No Doubt. The rest of "Return Of Saturn" was produced by

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Linking With Palm Pictures. Musician/producer Elwood has inked a recording deal with Palm Pictures, Chris Blackwell's audiovisual entertainment company. The New York-based artist has completed his first album, "The Pariance Of Our Time," with co-producer Steve Lillywhite. The set is due May 16. Shown, from left, are Blackwell; Elwood; Sam Kling, Madgroove Entertainment; and Faisal Durrani, head of music, Palm Pictures.

# Mr. Big's 5th Atlantic Set Sees New Member, Digital Recording

BY CLAY MARSHALL

LOS ANGELES—Eight years after wanting "To Be With You," Mr. Big is prepared to "Get Over It."

Due March 21, "Get Over It," the band's fifth Atlantic release, represents a new chapter in Mr. Big's 10-year existence.

It sees the quartet replace original member Paul Gilbert with one-time Poison guitarist Richie Kotzen. Mr. Big vocalist Eric Martin believes Kotzen, also a prolific solo artist, gave the band a "fresh outlook" in the studio.

"It wasn't as structured as the previous Mr. Big records," Martin says.

"We really weren't a slave to the machine

anymore," says bassist Billy Sheehan, describing the digital experience as "incredibly liberating."

The set's first single is "Superfantastic," which Martin describes as a "satirical look at modern life."

Like "To Be With You," which spent three weeks at No. 1 on The Billboard Hot 100 and pushed the group's 1991 album "Lean Into It" to platinum sales, "Superfantastic" is "more of a pop/adult record, as opposed to a rock record," says Robert Wieger, VP of product development at Atlantic.

"There's definitely a Mr. Big audience from the past that I think it's

important we let them know there's a new record out," Wieger says. "More than anything else, this is an airplay project."

Scott Thomas, PD of top 40/rock station KLYV Dubuque, Iowa, says "Superfantastic" has tested well. "This could develop to be the next 'To Be With You,'" he says.

Though "Get Over It," produced by Pat Regan, marks the first domestic Mr. Big release since 1996, the band has released several live albums in

Japan, where it enjoys its biggest success.

"They were supporting us before anyone else was," Sheehan says.

Since its Japanese release late last year,

"Get Over It" has sold more than 175,000 copies there, Wieger says, with an additional 35,000 "Superfantastic" singles sold.

"Any time there's a new studio release, we sell at least 100 copies," says Ted Gruici, owner of Michigan-based Terrible Ted's Import Music.

Although Mr. Big has no U.S. tour plans at present, it performed with Aerosmith and Buckcherry before an estimated 40,000 fans during a New Year's Eve concert in Osaka, Japan.

The band is managed by San Francisco's Herbie Herbert-Sandy Einstein and booked internationally by London's Rod MacSween-ITB.



MR. BIG

# With Weiland Released, STP Returns To Road; Jerkins Readies Michael Jackson Set

FOLLOWING Scott Weiland's early release from prison at the end of last year—he served almost three months for violating his probation on drug charges—Stone Temple Pilots and Atlantic have renewed their publicity and promotion push for the group's current album, "No. 4," which came out in November.

The band will return to the road with secret shows in April in Los Angeles and New York, to be followed by a round of appearances on radio morning shows where the band will perform acoustically. "Then we're going to play the summer radio festivals, as headliners for many of them," says Weiland. "And we're looking at options after that. We've been approached by both Ozzfest and Family Values, and it's a matter of whether we want to do that or do our own tour."

Next up for STP is the release of a new single, "Sour Girl," which goes to rock and alternative radio April 3.

IN DEMAND: R&B/pop producer Rodney Jerkins—who produced and co-wrote Jennifer Lopez's No. 1 1999 hit "If You Had My Love"—has a lot on his production plate right now.

Over the last year he's been working on Michael Jackson's long-anticipated album, which Jerkins says is now slated for release at year's end. "But when it hits," promises Jerkins, "it will make a big impact." Future projects include Britney Spears covering the Rolling Stones' "Satisfaction," a Whitney Houston/George Michael duet, and Spice Girls, whom he wants to "give a tougher, Darkechild [his production company] sound."

The one act Jerkins still wants to work with: Aerosmith. He'll have to wait his turn, however. Hot producer Matt Serletic is preparing to reunite with the band to begin work on a new album as soon as he puts the finishing touches on matchbox 20's new effort. Serletic produced Aerosmith's smash "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing."

Speaking of matchbox 20, lead singer Rob Thomas says the new Lava/Atlantic album, "Mad Season By Matchbox 20," shows a marked growth from the band's multi-platinum breakthrough "Yourself Or Someone Like You." "The last record was in 1996," he says. "Everybody's a lot better at what we do, especially after all the time on the road."

Choices for the first single are still "being debated," says Thomas, adding that among the contenders is a tune called "Black & White People" that he wrote eight years ago. The album will be out May 23.

HOT ON THE HEELS of his success with the "Tarzan" soundtrack, Phil Collins is working with Disney on a new animated film that will come out in 2004. "It's a nontraditional story," he says. "There's not really much I can say about it; we just started working on it last month. I'm writing the music, and I think I'll be more involved in the underscore as well." He adds that he's also writing for a new solo studio album.

GIVEN THE TORCH HE CARRIES for bluegrass, Ricky Skaggs is the perfect artist to helm a new tribute album to Bill Monroe. Called "Big Mon," the project includes cuts recorded by Dixie Chicks, Dolly Parton, Bruce Hornsby, Travis Tritt, Marty Stuart, the Whites, and Steve Wariner. According to Skaggs, it will be out mid-summer on Skaggs Family Records . . . Warner, who won a Grammy on Feb. 23 for his



by Melinda Newman

participation on Asleep At The Wheel's tribute to Bob Wills, has also wrapped up his new album for Capitol Nashville. The late-spring release features duets with both Clint Black—called "Been There" (which is also on Black's album and is climbing the charts)—and Garth Brooks. The Brooks duet is titled "Katie Wants A Fast One," which we're really hoping is about a car. Brooks has also written a song for the upcoming "Frequency" soundtrack . . . Keeping on the Grammys theme, our favorite winner was the exuberant Bubba Hernandez of Brave Combo, who won for best polka album with "Polkasonic" (Cleveland International). His passion for polka music was completely infectious. "The Czech [polka] music is in grave danger of slowing down if youths don't pick it up, but there seems to be interest in polka in general. Hopefully, maybe labels can find that magic. The music rocks!"

STUFF: Andrea Bocelli will perform seven arena dates this spring, starting with Miami's American Airlines Arena . . . Putumayo Artists has signed Miriam Makeba. Her label debut, "Homeland," comes out April 27. The South African singer will return to the States this summer for a national tour . . . Oasis kicks off the North American portion of its world tour April 5 in Seattle.

Assistance in preparing this column was provided by Gail Mitchell in Los Angeles.

## NO DOUBT RETURNS WITH 'SATURN'

(Continued from page 12)

Glen Ballard.

The 14-song "Return Of Saturn" finds No Doubt steering away from the melodic pop of "Don't Speak" and more toward its alternative roots. The song lyrics, written primarily by Stefani, express self-reflection, vulnerability, and romance, with the subject matter mainly being about relationships. No Doubt's songs are published by Universal Music Publishing (ASCAP).

"It was a hard couple of years," admits Stefani about the time it took to write and record the album. "Writing an album is draining. When you're writing an album, it can get really personal, and we made more of an effort on this record to make the lyrics mean more than just putting words together."

"Ex-Girlfriend," the first single from "Return Of Saturn," was released to modern rock radio in January. The song has risen into the top 10 of the Modern Rock Tracks chart, where it stands this issue at No. 3.

The "Ex-Girlfriend" video, directed by Hype Williams and inspired by the Japanese film "Kite," has Stefani stalking and confronting bandmate Kanal. The video is currently among the top 10 most-played videos on MTV and VH1, according to Broadcast Data Systems.

Because of the song's hook—"I kinda always knew I'd end up your ex-girlfriend"—and the fact that Stefani and Kanal dated for several years before breaking up during the making of "Tragic Kingdom," it may be easy to assume that the song is about their relationship.

But, as Stefani reveals, "the song's not about Tony. I've been in a relationship for about four years," she says of her romance with Bush leader Gavin Rossdale. "And when you're in a relationship, you have your ups and downs. That song was written during a down moment. All I can say about the lyrics on this album are that they are very honest and real. I don't know any other way to write."

She adds, "The hard part was doing this record. Now the fun part comes: We get to play live. We've always been a live band, and that's

what we do best. We can't wait to go out there and play the new album for people."

No Doubt launches a U.S. tour March 24 in Chicago. The band is managed by Jim Guerinet of Rebel Waltz Management and booked by Mitch Okmin of the Mob Agency.

Interscope head of marketing and sales Steve Berman says, "We're doing a massive media and retail campaign for this record. The band will be on the cover of Spin's May issue. We're giving retail outlets over 100,000 promotional posters. We're also going to conduct a very aggressive campaign on the Web. We're looking to target not just traditional

*'We accomplished the goal of doing this record exactly how we wanted to do it'*

- GWEN STEFANI -

music Web sites but also any kind of lifestyle site that fits with the band, such as video-games sites, movie sites, and fashion sites."

Last December, No Doubt performed on the telecast of MTV's New Year's Eve party. In early February, the band was featured on MTV's "Making The Video" and made a live appearance on MTV to introduce the "Ex-Girlfriend" video.

The band has a slew of other TV appearances timed around the album's release, including USA Network's "Farmclub.com" April 10, NBC's "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" on April 12, and MTV's "Total Request Live" during the network's spring break programming.

Michael Young, music director for modern rock station WRZK (X-103) Indianapolis, says, "No Doubt's new album won't be as huge as 'Tragic Kingdom,' but it won't be ignored, either. It's not one of the most anticipated albums of the year. I'm concerned that 'Ex-Girlfriend' isn't be-

ing received that well by listeners. Phone requests for it are OK, but it's not setting the world on fire.

"I really like the band, but No Doubt's sound just isn't as hot as it used to be," Young continues. "I think sales for the new album will be strong the first week or two, but then it will drop off after that."

Rob Sturma, assistant manager of the Warehouse in Hollywood, says, "No Doubt has a strong fan base, and we've had a lot of people asking about this album. It will do well in terms of sales. I can see the album debuting in the top five for national sales in its first week."

Interscope's Berman says, "Do we think we'll sell 14 million records as a follow-up to 'Tragic Kingdom'? It's unfair to put that kind of pressure on any artist. We have a long-term commitment to No Doubt and this project. Whatever 'Return Of Saturn' sells in its first week doesn't matter as much as where the album ends up."

Regardless of record sales, Stefani and Dumont say that maintaining the camaraderie in the band has been one of their greatest accomplishments.

Dumont says one of the biggest misconceptions about No Doubt is that "people think that the guys in the band are jealous of Gwen, but we're not. Being in this band is really like being in a family. You love each other, but sometimes you also argue with each other. I'd rather be in this band with Gwen, Tony, and Adrian than with anyone else in the world. Probably the most important thing we've learned is that communication is the key to overcoming a lot of problems."

Stefani adds, "I'm really proud that this band has been committed to each other for 13 years. We're not a manufactured band targeted to teenage girls. We've gotten to be even closer friends than we were before, because we've been through so much together. The people in this band hang out with each other. That hasn't changed, and no matter what happens to this band, we want to keep it that way."

# Top Pop Catalog Albums

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ARTIST IMPRINT & NUMBER/DISTRIBUTING LABEL (SUG. LIST PRICE)	TITLE	TOTAL CHART WEEKS
		<b>NO. 1</b>		
1	1	CREED ▲ <sup>4</sup> WIND-UP 13049 (11.98/17.98) <b>HS</b>	MY OWN PRISON 6 weeks at No. 1	126
2	2	ANDREA BOCELLI ▲ <sup>1</sup> PHILIPS 539207 (12.98/18.98) <b>HS</b>	ROMANZA	117
3	3	METALLICA ▲ <sup>12</sup> ELEKTRA 61113*/EEG (11.98/17.98)	METALLICA	446
4	8	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB ▲ WORLD CIRCUIT/TONESUCH 79478/AG (10.98/17.98) <b>HS</b>	BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB	41
5	4	BOB MARLEY AND THE WAILERS ▲ <sup>10</sup> TUFF GONG/ISLAND 846210/DJMG (9.98)	LEGEND	558
6	—	TRAIN ● AWARE/COLUMBIA 38052/CRG (11.98 EQ/17.98) <b>HS</b>	TRAIN	33
7	46	SUSAN TEDESCHI TONE-COOL/ROUNDER 471164/DJMG (10.98/16.98) <b>HS</b>	JUST WON'T BURN	6
8	7	BOB SEGER & THE SILVER BULLET BAND ▲ <sup>4</sup> CAPITOL 30334* (10.98/15.98)	GREATEST HITS	279
9	6	PINK FLOYD ▲ <sup>13</sup> CAPITOL 46001* (10.98/17.98)	DARK SIDE OF THE MOON	1197
10	14	MATCHBOX 20 ▲ <sup>10</sup> LAVA/ATLANTIC 92721*/AG (10.98/17.98) <b>HS</b>	YOURSELF OR SOMEONE LIKE YOU	156
11	5	BARRY WHITE ● MERCURY 522459/DJMG (10.98/17.98)	ALL TIME GREATEST HITS	46
12	50	SANTANA ▲ <sup>2</sup> COLUMBIA 33050/CRG (7.98 EQ/11.98)	GREATEST HITS	83
13	9	TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS ▲ <sup>8</sup> MCA 110813 (12.98/18.98)	GREATEST HITS	307
14	10	DEF LEPPARD ▲ <sup>2</sup> MERCURY 528718/DJMG (10.98/17.98)	VAULT — GREATEST HITS 1980-1995	173
15	12	AL GREEN ▲ HI/THE RIGHT STUFF 30800/CAPITOL (10.98/16.98)	GREATEST HITS	84
16	19	BEE GEES ▲ POLYDOR 800071/UNIVERSAL (13.98/22.98)	BEE GEES GREATEST	70
17	21	MILES DAVIS ▲ <sup>2</sup> LEGACY/COLUMBIA 64935/CRG (7.98 EQ/11.98)	KIND OF BLUE	62
18	13	SAVAGE GARDEN ▲ <sup>5</sup> COLUMBIA 67954/CRG (11.98 EQ/17.98)	SAVAGE GARDEN	140
19	17	LIMP BIZKIT ▲ FLIP 490124/INTERSCOPE (11.98/17.98) <b>HS</b>	THREE DOLLAR BILL, Y'ALL	102
20	18	JAMES TAYLOR ▲ <sup>11</sup> WARNER BROS. 3113 (7.98/11.98)	GREATEST HITS	485
21	15	PINK FLOYD ▲ <sup>23</sup> COLUMBIA 36183*/CRG (15.98 EQ/31.98)	THE WALL	566
22	—	ELTON JOHN ▲ <sup>15</sup> ROCKET/ISLAND 512532/DJMG (7.98/11.98)	GREATEST HITS	454
23	11	TIM MCGRAW ▲ <sup>3</sup> CURB 77886 (10.98/16.98)	EVERYWHERE	142
24	20	METALLICA ▲ <sup>7</sup> ELEKTRA 60812/EEG (11.98/17.98)	...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL	512
25	16	BARRY WHITE ▲ CASABLANCA/MERCURY 822782/DJMG (6.98/11.98)	BARRY WHITE'S GREATEST HITS VOLUME 1	45
26	25	QUEEN ▲ HOLLYWOOD 161265 (11.98/17.98)	GREATEST HITS	347
27	23	SARAH MCLACHLAN ▲ <sup>7</sup> ARISTA 18970 (10.98/17.98)	SURFACING	137
28	24	AC/DC ▲ <sup>16</sup> EASTWEST 92418/EEG (11.98/17.98)	BACK IN BLACK	294
29	—	DIANA KRALL ● IMPULSE/GRP 050233/AG (10.98/16.98) <b>HS</b>	LOVE SCENES	9
30	31	METALLICA ▲ <sup>5</sup> ELEKTRA 60439/EEG (11.98/17.98)	MASTER OF PUPPETS	457
31	33	GUNS N' ROSES ▲ <sup>15</sup> Geffen 424148/INTERSCOPE (11.98/17.98)	APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION	451
32	26	BROOKS & DUNN ▲ <sup>2</sup> ARISTA NASHVILLE 18852 (10.98/16.98)	THE GREATEST HITS COLLECTION	104
33	29	SHANIA TWAIN ▲ <sup>11</sup> MERCURY (NASHVILLE) 522886 (10.98/17.98) <b>HS</b>	THE WOMAN IN ME	261
34	35	AC/DC ▲ <sup>2</sup> EASTWEST 92215/EEG (11.98/17.98)	LIVE	102
35	34	SUBLIME ▲ <sup>3</sup> GASOLINE ALLEY 111413/MCA (11.98/17.98)	SUBLIME	178
36	42	DR. DRE ▲ <sup>2</sup> DEATH ROW/INTERSCOPE 50611*/PRIORITY (10.98/16.98)	THE CHRONIC	89
37	40	MADONNA ▲ <sup>5</sup> SIRE 26440*/WARNER BROS. (13.98/18.98)	THE IMMACULATE COLLECTION	296
38	27	HANK WILLIAMS JR. ▲ <sup>4</sup> WARNER BROS. 25801 (10.98/17.98)	GREATEST HITS, VOL. 1	33
39	28	FLEETWOOD MAC ▲ <sup>4</sup> WARNER BROS. 25801 (10.98/17.98)	GREATEST HITS	385
40	30	SADE ▲ <sup>4</sup> EPIC 66686* (10.98 EQ/17.98)	BEST OF SADE	136
41	47	ABBA ▲ <sup>3</sup> POLYDOR 517007/UNIVERSAL (12.98/18.98)	GOLD	156
42	22	MARTINA MCBRIDE ▲ <sup>2</sup> RCA (NASHVILLE) 67516/RLG (10.98/16.98)	EVOLUTION	110
43	36	DAVE MATTHEWS BAND ▲ <sup>4</sup> RCA 66904 (11.98/17.98)	CRASH	197
44	49	SIXPENCE NONE THE RICHER ▲ SQUINT 7032* (10.98/16.98) <b>HS</b>	SIXPENCE NONE THE RICHER	41
45	44	POISON ▲ CAPITOL 53375 (7.98/11.98)	GREATEST HITS 1986-1996	37
46	43	METALLICA ▲ <sup>4</sup> MEGAFORCE/ELEKTRA 60396/EEG (11.98/17.98)	RIDE THE LIGHTNING	429
47	—	KORN ▲ <sup>2</sup> IMMORTAL 66633/EPIC (11.98 EQ/17.98) <b>HS</b>	KORN	147
48	—	ALANIS MORISSETTE ▲ <sup>16</sup> MAVERICK 45901/WARNER BROS. (10.98/17.98) <b>HS</b>	JAGGED LITTLE PILL	214
49	39	CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL ▲ <sup>4</sup> FANTASY 2* (12.98/17.98)	CHRONICLE THE 20 GREATEST HITS	334
50	—	TRACY CHAPMAN ▲ <sup>1</sup> ELEKTRA 60774/EEG (7.98/11.98)	TRACY CHAPMAN	122

Catalog albums are 2-year-old titles that have fallen below No. 100 on The Billboard 200 or reissues of older albums. Total Chart Weeks column reflects combined weeks title has appeared on The Billboard 200 and Top Pop Catalog Albums. ● Recording Industry Assn. of America (RIAA) certification for net shipment of 500,000 album units (Gold). ▲ RIAA certification for net shipment of 1 million units (Platinum). ◆ RIAA certification for net shipment of 10 million units (Diamond). Numerical following Platinum or Diamond symbol indicates album's multi-platinum level. For boxed sets, and double albums with a running time of 100 minutes or more, the RIAA multiplies shipments by the number of discs and/or tapes. RIAA Latin awards: ○ Certification for net shipment of 100,000 units (Gold). △ Certification of 200,000 units (Platinum). △△ Certification of 400,000 units (Multi-Platinum). \*Asterisk indicates Vinyl LP is available. Most tape prices, and CD prices for BMG and WEA labels, are suggested lists. Tape prices marked EQ, and all other CD prices, are equivalent prices, which are projected from wholesale prices. **HS** indicates past or present Heatseeker title. © 2000, Billboard/BPI Communications, and SoundScan, Inc.

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## THE MODERN AGE • BY JILL PESSELNICK

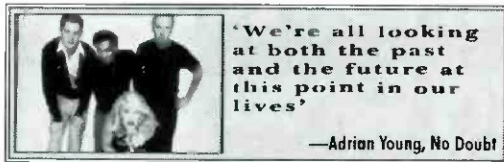
**B**evies of single women can sense impending breakups after they've had a few failed relationships. To find solace, many share ex-boyfriend horror stories with each other.

This may explain why No Doubt's single "Ex-Girlfriend" strikes such a chord with fans. Drummer Adrian Young says, "Girls can really relate to it. For the guys, it's just an edgy song."

Young says that lead singer Gwen Stefani, who wrote the lyrics to the track, "has been in relationships before where she knew that she would become the ex-girlfriend of the guy she was going out with. I probably had girlfriends who had that same feeling when they were dating me."

Ironically, the song that rings so true almost

didn't get recorded. "It was the last track that was written at the end of the recording session. It was definitely kind of a last-minute idea. We felt that the album wasn't quite complete and that we need-



ed another uptempo song. Oddly enough, it became the first single," says Young.

He continues, "We did eight club dates in California where we played the song, and it just didn't

feel right. We changed it around and decided to give it a shot."

No Doubt's gamble worked, and "Ex-Girlfriend" is No. 3 in this issue's Modern Rock Tracks. The single appears on the group's Interscope album "Return Of Saturn," its first full-length set since 1995's "Tragic Kingdom."

"Return Of Saturn" refers to Saturn's 29-year orbit around the sun. Young says, "There weren't any preconceived themes going into the album. We weren't resting on any laurels when we recorded it. It ended up just being a reflection of being 29-ish, especially from Gwen. Everything kind of tied in. We're all looking at both the past and the future at this point in our lives."