

‘Aurora’

New Album Is The Real Bea Miller

Emma Nagel

Bea Miller released her sophomore album on Feb. 23, 2018 via Hollywood Records as a follow up album to her debut album “Not An Apology,” which was released back in 2015. Ever since she appeared on the second season of “X-Factor” in 2012, Bea Miller has proved that she is a force to be reckoned with. Singing songs about defying conformity and expectations, Bea has risen to the status of superstar.

“Aurora” (originally titled “Spectrum”) is about growing up and transitioning from adolescence into adulthood. She sings about topics such as girl power, boredom, and slut-shaming. “Aurora” is a body of work that showcases a girl with something to say and a voice to say it with.

In an interview with *Teen Vogue*, Bea breaks down the difference between creating her first album and creating her second album.

“What was different about the first album is that I didn’t write it,” she told the interviewer. “My label said, ‘We think you’re cool and have stuff to say, but you’re new to the industry. We’ve been doing this for so long, so just put out a record we think is going to work.’”

Bea was 15 at the time and tried to rebel against her label. “I rebelled like ‘No, this isn’t my vision!’ But they said, ‘If you do this now and pay your dues, your next record you can do what you want.’” And they kept their promise because Bea has writing credits on 13 out of the 14 songs, which is something she is very proud of.

“This album is the real Bea Miller. But I also don’t think in the past I was ready to be that, and now I’m ready to be here with all my walls broken down. “Aurora” let me figure out what the hell I was supposed to be doing. I was almost teaching myself through writing without even realizing it. It’s like therapy. You can hear my progression as a person and how much happier I became, which

is really cool for me to hear because I’m proud of. The album is full of 14 tracks in total and every song tells a story. Before releasing the album in full, Bea released nine songs in three chapters with three songs each. Chapter 1: Blue, Chapter 2: Red, and Chapter 3: Yellow.

The first part of the album deals with the frustration of sadness, but also the message that it is okay for young girls to stand up for themselves. “Song Like You” opens the album with Bea testing her limits on how far she can take her voice. She sings, “A song like you would never tell me the truth. It would turn me on, break me down, make me feel like there is nothing outside this room.” What Bea is describing is being with someone who makes her forget about the rest of the world, and then the realization that her lover is not the good person she believed him to be, and instead he ended up being destructive to her mental health.

“Burning Bridges” is the second song on the album and serves as a breakup ballad. When providing commentary on the song in a self-produced YouTube video, Bea describes it as “The anger that you feel once you’ve recognized that you’ve been with somebody or had somebody in your life for too long, and you feel betrayed by the realization that they haven’t been doing anything positive for you.” This song has the angry tone of someone who is torn up inside by the fact that they stayed in a toxic relationship for too long. The English nursery rhyme “London Bridge is Falling Down” is sampled in this song.

“Motherlove” is the third song on the album, and is the fiery anthem of the album, calling out a guy who doesn’t care about anyone’s feelings and just wants to screw them over. Bea sings, “Don’t call me just because you have nobody else. You’re desperate and full of sh**, boy I can tell.” The song is one of those anthems that girls will have on repeat when trying to get over a guy who did





"Anna," color pencil by Abbie Knight

not treat them right.

“I Can’t Breathe” is a slower song out of all the tracks on the album. Bea wrote this song when she was in a dark place, when she was depressed, and she felt like she could not get out of it. Bea’s gentle voice is accompanied by a soft piano that pulls at your heartstrings. Bea sings, “How can I live in the moment when my thoughts never feel like my own and don’t know how to admit that I’m broken.” This song is for those who are voiceless and who feel like they are worthless and can’t breathe. However, Bea reminds us that there is a light at the end of the tunnel no matter how down we are – there always comes a day when the sun will shine again.

The middle section of the album switches gears and goes from being sad and angry and not doing anything about it to using that anger as empowerment to better herself and finally walk away from toxic situations. These six songs have a different tone to them than the rest of the album, but that is what makes them stand out.

“Like That” is Miller finally using her weaknesses as her strengths. She takes what once was tearing her down, and uses it to build up her empowerment. She gets stronger from these past experiences and realizes the person she wants to be. The next set of songs include, “Buy Me Diamonds,” “Outside,” “Girlfriend,” “Bored,” and “Warmer.”

“Buy Me Diamonds” is a dance song that is cute, but also tells the story of a girl who is tired of getting burned and does not want a relationship that will easily be destroyed, but rather something that is tangible and won’t betray her. She sings, “Give me something I can hold, that I can trust and call my own, that won’t run out and leave me cold... Save your love and buy me diamonds.”

“Outside” is essentially a song about not wanting to go outside because you’re in a slump. Bea said she wrote the song when she was in a rut and hated life. She notably sings, “It doesn’t even matter all the things I say, nobody’s listening to me anyway.”

“Warmer” is about the newness of a potential relationship – the feeling that you get when you like someone, and you are ready to start having fun again, but you want to keep it on the low because

it’s still new, but it’s like you’re getting warmer or closer to a real relationship.

The final part of the album includes the songs “Repercussions,” “S.L.U.T. (Sweet Little Unforgettable Thing),” “Crash&Burn,” and “To The Grave.”

“Repercussions” has an electronic beat to it that makes it an instant bop. Bea really starts to show just how much she’s grown since the beginning of the album. In this song she does not care about the repercussions of her actions, and she is going to do whatever makes her happy, regardless of what the haters think or say.

“S.L.U.T.” is a song about body shaming and calling out body shamers. Bea wanted to turn the narrative around on being called a slut. Instead of viewing it as a negative connotation, she decided to flip it to being called a ‘Sweet Little Unforgettable Thing.’ Bea sings memorable lyrics such as, “I love myself, I wanna see it. When I turn around, look in the mirror, and if you don’t like it, you can leave it, cause it’s my own and I’ll keep owning it.” As the song continues, it becomes more relatable with these lines, “We gotta learn to stick together. Love your color, gender or whatever, cause your happiness don’t need a censor. Just mind your own and we’ll keep owning it.” It’s a positive way of showing a body shamer, *Hey, I like who I am and you cannot change that.*

The album ends with the song called “To The Grave” featuring Mike Stud. This song has the perfect melody, beat, lyrics, and production. It ends on a softer note but alludes to the fact that there is still so much more to come from Bea Miller.

Overall, “Aurora” is a killer album. From the vocals, lyrics, and production of every song, it makes the album a definite listen. Bea’s creativeness really shines through on this album, and you could tell she put her heart and soul into every detail.

I would rate this album 4 out of 5 stars because while I do not care much for the number of times she swears on the album, the production, and the thought that was put into the album are phenomenal. For only being 19-years-old, Bea Miller is a superstar and powerhouse.

The album was definitely worth the wait, and I cannot wait to see what Bea Miller has up her sleeve next.

