

# POP FLASH.



A synth's sinister arpeggio sculpts an eerie background for [Dorian Electra](#)'s breathy, autotuned vocals as they sing of (both literally and figuratively) f\*cking the world on their *My Agenda* album opener "F The World." Jarring and adrenaline-inducing, the song is written from the perspective of an incel and offers a brief introduction to the eccentric world carefully constructed by Electra on their sophomore album. Not everyone can effectively pen a concept album inspired by the alt-right and incel communities that is simultaneously endearing, hilarious, and thought-provoking. But then again, there's no artist quite like Electra, who dons a penciled-on mustache as their signature look. And it's this commitment to pushing boundaries that leads them to masterfully explore the darkest corners of the internet through a queer lens on *My Agenda*.

The album has been described as both futurist and hyperpop, two genre labels that have recently been popularized by [Charli XCX](#) and the rise of [100 Geecs](#) in the mainstream. Electra has collaborated with both artists, even accrediting Charli to helping jumpstart their career after joining the singer for her 2018 [Pop 2](#) tour. "The biggest takeaway from being in close situations with Charli is that it's important to really love the people that you work with on a daily basis — those people should be your friends," Electra told me over the phone in the days following *My Agenda*'s release.

Collaborating with their musician friends and staying true to their artistic vision opened the door for other exciting opportunities. The cult following Electra has garnered since their debut LP *Flamboyant* earned them a chance to participate in [Red Bull Radio's Fireside Chat series](#) and secured them album features by some of the biggest queer icons in left-of-center pop. Unpacking their aesthetic influences and inspiration on *My Agenda*, Electra talks researching the incel community, subverting

harmful internet culture, and collaborating with the likes of the Village People, Pussy Riot, and Rebecca Black.

— *Uproxx Contributor Carolyn Droke. Read her full interview with Dorian Electra [here](#).*

## NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



## 24K GOLDN + IANN DIOR

Ariana Grande got her No. 1 earlier this month, but not even “Positions” was strong enough to hold off the “Mood” of 24kGoldn and Iann Dior. Getting a huge boost in streams from the ever-hilarious creators on TikTok, the bouncy song has topped the chart for a total of four weeks, even if they’ve been nonconsecutive. If this song reminds me of anything, it’s Justin Bieber’s catchiest hits, usually anchored by an assist from Chance The Rapper, so it’s no surprise he just hopped on a remix of this song, too. Given that, and the original’s return to No. 1, expect to hear a lot more about moods and how to shake them off — by listening to this bop — before the year is over.

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## BUBBLING UNDER



## GABBY BARRETT + CHARLIE PUTH

I rarely include country-leaning songs in this newsletter, because it's focused mostly on pop, but a banger as wild and strong as "I Hope" absolutely deserves the shine. Gabby Barrett had a barn-burning anthem on her hands already, but then Charlie Puth got involved and turned the country hit into a pop one, too. Pilfering a bit from "Before He Cheats" — and invoking a strong Carrie Underwood smolder — Barrett's first massive hit is off her new album, *Goldmine*, but it definitely won't be her last.

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## REMEMBER WHEN

## 17 YEARS AGO TODAY: BRITNEY GETS HER

# STAR



We'd be remiss not to note what happened on November 17th exactly seventeen years ago — Britney Spears got her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. At just 21-year-old, Britney became the youngest singer to ever get a star on the walk, though if teenage sensations like Billie Eilish keep it up, odds are someone is going to break that record soon. Still, it's important to recognize the trailblazer Britney was in her time, and take a moment to discuss how much she deserves to be in charge of her own decisions again. Hopefully the conservatorship under her father is released soon, legally or otherwise, and Spears can be back in charge of her own estate and well-being. We're always rooting for you Britney!

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**LOVE LETTERS**



## MILEY CYRUS

In case you haven't been paying attention, Miley Cyrus is back in a big way. Her next album, *Plastic Hearts*, is out in just a few weeks, and the lead-up to the record has been flecked with moments of brilliance. The biggest and best of which is the disco-country, careening lead single "Midnight Sky," which lifts a riff from Stevie Nicks and co.'s "Edge Of Seventeen." In celebration of the musical allusion, and in a quick nod to mashup culture, the two collaborated on "Edge Of Midnight," a sparkling ode to both tracks, and the chance for Miley to throw in her lot with Stevie. It's a sweet amalgamation of past and present, and an indication that Cyrus may have a classic album in her yet. Hey, with Angel Olsen as a confirmed guest on the tracklist, and Mark Ronson as a recent producer, anything could happen. And let's be honest, when it comes to Miley, that's always the case.

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