POP LIFE.

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Divorce is one of those life events no one prepares you for. (Take it from me, a person who has been divorced.) Because the subject is everywhere — in statistics, pop culture, and maybe even your own family unit — we kind of expect that if it must happen to us, then we'll on some level know how to proceed. (Just me?) The awful reality, though, is so much more complicated; it's a messy emotional cocktail of guilt, relief, disappointment, anxiety, and anger. It's also a process Kacey Musgraves, who filed for divorce from ex Ruston Kelly last year, tries to navigate throughout her masterful new album, *Star-Crossed*.

Amplifying the album's overarching theme into a series of surrealist, through-the-looking-glass scenes is Musgraves' accompanying film, which premiered last week on Paramount+. Directed by Matthew Libatique (*A Star Is Born, Black Swan*) and featuring cameos from Eugene Levy, Victoria Pedretti, Princess Nokia, Drag Race star Symone, and comedian Megan Stalter, the Star-Crossed film offers a deeper look into Musgraves' psyche as it pertains to divorce. The result is magnetic, colorful, stylish, at times hilarious, tragic, and surreal. A movie might be linear, but starting over is not, and in the Musgraves Extended Universe, new beginnings mean trashing a bridal boutique, undergoing broken-heart surgery, running alongside a stallion, and voguing at the club with your friends.

 Uproxx contributor Rachel Brodsky on Kacey Musgraves' new 'Star Crossed' short film



NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



DRAKE

It's been a while since Drake has been in the mix for No. 1 singles on the *Billboard* chart, but now that he's back, he's back with a vengeance. Replacing fellow Canadian superstar Justin Bieber at the top, Drake's trifecta with Young Thug and Future, "Way 2 Sexy," officially claimed the No. 1 rank. The song interpolates Right Said Fred's "I'm Too Sexy," remaking it for the hip-hop generation. It marked Drake's ninth No. 1 and also gave him the dual chart-topping spots as his new album *Certified Lover Boy* also catapulted to the top of the album chart. Not only that, but Drake swept the entire top 5 of the Hot 100, with "Girls Like Girls" featuring Lil Baby coming in at No. 2, "Fair Trade" with Travis Scott at No. 3, and "Champagne Poetry" and "Knife Talk" at No. 4 and No. 5 respectively.

BUBBLING UNDER



CHARLI XCX

While Charli XCX is far from an indie artist, she's been known to chill on the edges of mainstream pop. Whether this is because she wanted to remain fiercely independent, or she just hasn't quite broken all the way in was unclear, but her latest single will likely change things. "Good Ones" is a bit of bombastic, no-holds-barred arena pop that proves exactly how much of a mainstream diva Charli can be when she needs to be. It is bubbling under for now, but this song has all the markings of a late summer pop hit — and the massive music video to match. Check it out above and look for more new music from Charli coming very soon.

LISTEN

CHECK OUT

ED SHEERAN '=' PRE-ORDER BUNDLES



Ed Sheeran's new album, =, isn't out until October 29, but you can preorder it right now as part of several different limited edition bundles. Grab the album as part of a t-shirt box set, a deluxe book vinyl set, standard CD, or on vinyl that was pressed using 100% recycled plastic material, using waste from the production of other vinyl records. There are so many options to choose from, we hope that you can settle on just one!

PICK IT UP

REMEMBER WHEN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BEYONCÉ!



It's Virgo Season, which means the only person we need to be celebrating all month is Beyonce. One of the most well-known Virgos of all time, Bey's insistence on perfection, fierce loyalty, and diligent, hard-working persona perfectly nails all the best characteristics of this grounded earth sign. After a monumental back-to-back release of her self-titled album and *Lemonade*, Bey has been focusing more on her family — like birthing a set of twins — and balancing it with more expansive projects like The Carters, *Lion King*, and *Black Is King*. That can only mean another new solo album is nigh. Queen, we're ready when you are. For now, enjoy the bounty of Virgo season and gear up for the onslaught of new music that autumn always brings.

HER BEST SONGS, RANKED



LOVE LETTERS



ED SHEERAN

Ed Sheeran might be one of the biggest pop stars in the world, but that doesn't stop him from constantly trying to outdo himself. With his new single, "Shivers," he might've done just that. This insanely catchy tune trends toward a much synthier, produced sound while still relying on the foundation of an acoustic framework to set up the song's infectious chorus. After the Halloween-inspired video for his new album's lead single, "Bad Habits," it would've tracked for "Shivers" to be equally spooky, but the song is focused on something just as scary — when loving a person elicits a physical reaction. It's the "Shape Of You" for this new era, and will soon be everywhere for a good reason, it's a spinetinglingly great pop song.

LISTEN

CHRISTOPHER

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