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# POP LIFE.



Though Charli XCX is always going to do it her way, *Crash* is about as close to a mainstream pop record as she's ever gotten. With five records and a deeply influential mixtape, *Pop 2*, under her belt before this release, Charli is no longer a fledgling pop talent with a chip on her shoulder; *Crash* cements her as the pop veteran who can do it all. Given it's her last album for Atlantic Records, the major label that has released all five of her studio albums, it makes sense for Charli to play the mainstream star after years of flirting with the boundary between having a "main pop-girl moment" and relentlessly avoiding the surreal machinations those moments demand.

Across the album's twelve tracks, in just under 34 minutes, Charli distills sounds and tones from practically every corner and era of pop, filtering it all through her own glitchy, no-holds-barred lens. Playing by the rules is almost her way of giving a coy Elle Woods "*what, like it's hard?*" brush off to the artists who can't color outside the lines the way she often does. "Oh, I love selling out," Charli told NPR days before the album's release. "Selling out creates pop culture. To get Warhol-y about it, that's what that is — it's mass-market selling out. I think it's pop-tastic and fun and disposable. We're in this disposable culture now more than ever so I'm kind of here for it." The funny thing is, even when Charli goes full tilt — big hair, slutty, video-vixen outfits, virgin and whore dichotomies galore — she can't shake the counter-culture twist that has always defined her.

— Caitlin White, *Uproxx Pop Critic*, on Charli XCX's brash new album, *Crash*

## NUMBER ONE STUNNERS





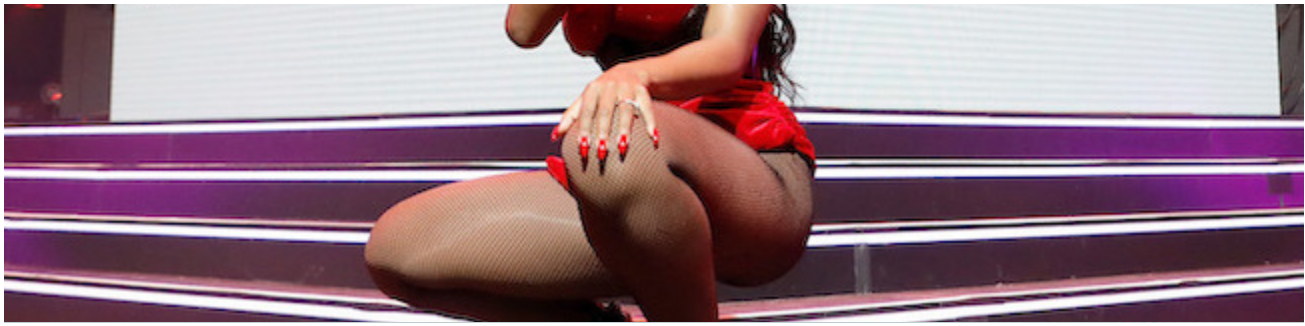
## GLASS ANIMALS

After a lengthy journey to get to the top of the charts, Glass Animals seem like they're going to be sitting pretty at the No. 1 spot for a while. This Oxford, UK band was just a rising indie outfit until their third album, *Dreamland*, saw frontman Dave Bayley opening up and writing personal lyrics in a way he never had before. "Heat Waves" was one of those songs, a track about desperately missing someone even though you know it's better to be apart, and it's definitely struck a nerve with listeners. This week marks the fourth one in a row that Glass Animals have led off the Hot 100, and it is now tied with the longest-running No. 1 by a British group — the Spice Girls' "Wannabe" led the chart for four weeks about 25 years ago. That means if they hit a fifth week, Bayley and co. are bigger than the Spice Girls. Stay tuned! With their Best New Artist nomination at the Grammys looming, this might just be the year of Glass Animals.

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## BUBBLING UNDER





## NORMANI

It's not really, ahem, *fair* to call Normani an artist who is bubbling under, but due to the more lowkey nature of her latest single, "Fair" still hasn't been on the radar for some pop fans. It's time to change that.

Technically the third single for Normani's still unannounced debut album, "Fair" follows up her initial, peppy release, "Motivation," and the show-stopping collaboration with Cardi B, "Wild Side," that definitely established her ability to make an R&B moment happen. "Fair" reflects on a relationship where one person feels betrayed, but still can't get over the love they felt for the person who let them down. It's a slow-burning anthem for the heartbroken, and as always, no one delivers like Normani. Give this one a chance and feel yourself start to fall under Normani's spell once more.

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## CHECK OUT



This is the last week to get up to 30% off merch from your favorite artists like Gucci Mane, Logic, and more as part of Warner Music's Merch Madness event. Don't miss out!

**CHECK IT OUT**

## REMEMBER WHEN

### LATTO



It's time for an incredibly short Remember When anniversary — looking back just six months ago when Latto dropped her lane-shifting “Big Energy” track, and inadvertently set herself on the path to become an absolute superstar. Prominently featuring a sample of Tom Tom Club's 1981 single, “Genius Of Love,” which was made popular by Mariah Carey's “Fantasy,” the pair have now teamed up on a remix of “Big Energy.” Basically, it interpolates some of Carey's hit into the middle of Latto's, oh and adds some DJ Khaled into the mix for good measure. That remix dropped earlier this week, so it's only fair to look back on the six month run the original had, working its way up the *Billboard* Hot 100, and commemorate this moment. In another six months, it's likely Latto will be one of the biggest stars on the planet.

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## LOVE LETTERS



## CHARLI XCX

*You coulda had a bad girl by your side...*

It's hard to choose just one song to praise off the new Charli XCX album, because it's one of the most cohesive and diverse projects she's released in a while. But the standout from my perspective is "Constant Repeat," a song that chronicles the potential and demise of a relationship, mimicking the way a rejection can feel haunting with the feeling of a song stuck in your head. Aside from the clever structural setup within the lyrics, the song's refrain is almost video game-like in its incessant synths and dramatic build up, which makes it both exciting and hypnotizing. Whenever I'm listening to the record this one always stands out as some of Charli's best songwriting work on the album. Check it out below.

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