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# POP LIFE.



What would you say to an alien if you got the chance? Maybe you'd lead with a cliché and ask if they come in peace. Or, perhaps you'd inquire about the mechanics of their UFO or how long they have been coming to Earth. But [Ashnikko](#) has a different, more thoughtful answer. After first screaming her head off at the sight of an alien, of course, Ashnikko would have one question on her mind. "I would ask them if they're kind to each other on their planet," she says after some thought. And more importantly, "How do they maintain kindness?"

Ashnikko is no stranger to living in a fantasy world, as is apparent on her just-released debut album *WEEDKILLER*, and she often finds herself listening to podcasts about aliens. But until our conversation, she hadn't yet heard the news about the US congressional hearing on UFOs that had taken place the day prior. Asking aliens about how they practice kindness probably wouldn't be the first question on most people's minds during a close encounter with the third kind. But kindness is something Ashnikko thinks about a lot, especially as someone who's received just about every nasty online comment you could think of — as well as the ones you don't want to — thanks to her overnight blow-up on TikTok.

Anyone who had a TikTok account before the app's mainstream popularity in 2020 could recognize Ashnikko's auto-tuned cackle in their sleep. Her 2019 track "Stupid," a collaboration with Baby Tate, has her laughing into the microphone before belittling a particularly insolent man from her past. Not only was it her first song to gain

international recognition, but it ... g the first songs to go viral on TikTok, ever. Read our latest cover story here.

Carolyn Droke — *Uproxx Cover Story: Ashnikko Is Reclaiming Autonomy*

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

**Ed Sheeran** crashed a wedding after postponing his concert in Las Vegas.

**Taylor Swift's** *Eras Tour* documentary has other movies changing their release dates.

**Rihanna** and **A\$AP Rocky's** second child's name reportedly got revealed, and it has something in common with the whole family.

**Miley Cyrus** apparently tricked her grandma into baking edibles with **Snoop Dogg**.

## NUMBER ONE STUNNERS



## DOJA CAT

Doja Cat's "Paint The Town Red" has claimed the top spot on the *Billboard* Hot 100 this week. Not only is it her first solo hit song on the charts, but it is also the first rap song to reach No. 1 since August 2022. According to the publication, it had been the longest gap for a reigning rap hit since 2001. Finally, as the song sampled Dionne Warwick's "Walk On By," it is also giving songwriters Burt Bacharach and Hal David a chance to shine.

LISTEN

# AUTUMN VARIATIONS

Check out the new album from Ed Sheeran, available 9/29

## BUBBLING UNDER



### EMILIA

Emilia was added to my radar this week after I caught her song “GTA.mp3” on Spotify, but she has already proven herself to be an international powerhouse. The Argentinian musician hooks listeners with the fast-paced dance track. And while I’ve never played Grand Theft Auto, this would be perfect background music for a high-speed chase.

Last summer, she released her debut album as a solo artist, *Tú Crees en Mí?*, which translates to “Do you believe in me?” — and appears to be gearing up for another full-length release. Plus, most of her songs are labeled with an “.mp3,” showing off the inspiration that the 2000s has on her sound.

[LISTEN](#)

## CHECK OUT

### 'BARDI GANG NECKLACE' BY CARDI B



Are you a Cardi B fan? Show off your love of the rapper with this 'Bardi Gang' gold necklace.

PICK IT UP

## REMEMBER WHEN



## MARIAH CAREY GOES NO. 1

This week, thirty years ago, Mariah Carey's "Dreamlover" reached No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100. The song was featured on her album, *Music Box*, and would go on to spend eight total weeks at the top spot. "I wanted to do something that had a happy feeling, something that was more open and release," Carey said. In the years since, the pop superstar has included it on three other compilation albums: *#1's*, *Greatest Hits*, and *#1 To Infinity*.

## LOVE LETTERS



## OLIVIA RODRIGO

Olivia Rodrigo is practically inescapable this week, as she dropped her second album, *Guts*, and fans are loving it. Compared to her debut, she embraces more of her pop-rock influences — where she arguably shines the most. “Get Him Back” has been teased as the next single, and with good reason. It’s catchy, it’s fun, and it seems to pull inspiration from Beck’s “Loser.” On a similar note, the album’s lead single, “Vampire,” is another probably in the top three, as it is a great blend of Rodrigo’s lyricism and emotional state.

Even on her ballads like “The Grudge,” where she reflects about something that hurt her deeply, it shows how much she has grown as a songwriter in just two years.

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