

***The Boy Who Played Harp - Dave***  
*1.21-22.26 - Florio Cafe, Differdange*



*Cover super dope and idk ethereal*

When this project came out in October, I was super amped. I listened to it the weeknd it came out and I think for some reason the time wasn't right for me with this project (me problem its not you its me Dave). So I kinda just let it sit for a couple months and then for some reason a couple days ago I saw the album in my suggested and was like fuck it today is the day I rlly sit with this album and listen to it. The first time I listened to it I realized it wasn't gonna be slappers and its more so a reflective and thereupetic album. Not that other Dave projects don't have vision/are reflective but like they still have just straight slappers on them (verdansk, clash, location) where as this album is only 10 tracks and every track (save for maybe no weapons) is hella dense and hes talking about/wrestling with his demons / his conscious / impact. So saying all this I sat down the other day and literally listened to the whole project with the lyrics pulled up (serious lock in) and gave it my undivided attention. I'm gonna go track by track for my thoughts and then summarize my thoughts and wrap up with a conclusion. BEfore I start though Dave is just different this dude is in his own lane and operates at a different label. I feel like the only reason this album doesn't get more recognition commerically/on the socials is cuz hes talking about real heavy shit on basically every track (outside no weapons and raindance) whcih makes it hard to spin songs off this casually/in a social setting lol. OK lets get it.

*Disclaimer: Before I start, I want to say my interpretation/opinions are just that. Dave's brain operates at about 50 levels higher than mine so I'm sure I missed the mark on understanding plenty of the album / his vision. But thats the beautiful thing about music I get to interpret it/read it/ understand it in my own way. I only say this cuz I hate when I'll read an album "review" and the person is talking about it like they know wtf was going through the artists head or assume their opinions / interpretations are fact. Ok now les goh fr.*

## **1. History (featuring James Blake)**

*"Mum said never build a house on sand but I don't think I listened cuz the villa's on the beach"*

- Using my first bullet point to announce I will be doing bullet points cuz to my brain it makes it easier to get my thoughts out
- I fw the organs / instrumental and this track isn't like super crazy but to me it sets the table perfectly for the rest the album to me. To me he is basically saying I've already made history, I'm at a spot where I don't have to prove shit to anyone. Which kinda allows him to be in a space to fully reflect and sit with his own actions / character now that he's done being motivated by others opinion, his "legacy," or cementing his status.
- So to me it was kinda an acknowledgement that the part of his career that was about proving anything is over, he's already made "history."
- James Blake is himmy johnson. The chorus and backing vocals + the little verse he hits are all amazing and he is an artist that not only has his own unique sound but to me everytime he's on a song he has the unique power to be able to complete change the atmosphere / vibration of the track, which not a lot of artists have.

## 2. 175 Months

*"Im just praying that my purpose can justify my pain"*

- I said I liked the production on the first track, but the production on this track is fucking MAD. One the drums even though they are pretty minimal are so crisp. The beat is so minimal but at the same time feels huge, the pitched up vocals and the synths make me feel like I'm listening to the song alone in like a huge cathedral
- The mix is also so nice. His voice sits perfectly + is crystal clear and I never rlly notice shit like this but its so elite
- This track is crazy and is the perfect example of like you could literally study this song for days due to its density and the level Dave's pen operates at.
- "Prayed for new shoes and used them to walk away from you" Reflection on how he has strayed from a "righteous path," whether it be religiously or morally. Wrestling and going back and forth with his lifestyle, wealth, and how he lives such a lavish listefyle while others live in perpetual suffering.
- He acknowledges how he has been "selling the devil but giving god the glory" pretty cool line to encapsulate how he feels he's been living a hypocritical lifestyle. I'm not sure if hes talking about the content of his music promoting negative shit, how hes lived his life, or what he stands for here but it is a pretty cool line and the level of stepping back and looking at urslef it takes to be able to think this way and gain this perspective on urslef is admirable and vulnerable in a way not many artists are.
- Bottom line is I could right a whole paper on this song but for the sake of time I'll cap it here but this is one my favs on the projects

## 3. No Weapons (featuring Jim Legxcy)

*"She got a BBL, if I put that chick on a BMX, Now she'll wheelie"*

- That line is so tuff and had me weak

- Jim legxcy is fucking him. This song and 3x two of my fav songs of '25. Dude is so talented and doesn't sound like anybody else he has his own sound and is so good at hooks.
- This song feels like the most fun / lighthearted song on album and its fucking bop. Dave's kinda just shit talking on this one, while on every other track he is more so like getting shit off his chest
- He does mention the “righteous path” in his second verse though which to me at least connected this track to the previous tune. He also says the Claremont twins line then immediately repents lol and says lemme get back to the bible
  - Ties in with the last track, hes growing but still has urges, but has more control / restraint of them and this is rlly the only line on the album hes talking like this tbh he doesn't have any other lines talking crazy about women or violence
- Fucking tune right here tho need a collab album from these two fr

#### 4. Chapter 16 (Featuring Kano)

*“They’re gonna talk about won’ts til they divide your will”*

*“Bro used to have braces now it’s my driver that’s on retainer”*

- A MAN LIKE SULLY!!!!!
  - After watching top boy last summer it made this song that much cooler to listen to lol
- The instrumental for this song literally sounds like a classy band at a fancy restaurant, suits the song perfectly given the idea of it / the setting
- The way they keep the sound of the restaurant in the back ground (clinking utensils n background conversation) throughout the song rlly makes it feel like they are just chopping it up over dinner. Also idk if thats james blake doing the background vocals but chefs kiss he salt baed those in there
- Tbh it speaks to both of these guys pen that my with my shit ass attentoion span I literally sat and listened to this whole song and read the lyrics as if it was a tv show it was so immersive
- The way they split it up after the first kano verse mimics the flow of a conversation perfectly its beautifully done / paced
- Transition from chapter 16 to raindance talking about a ring and saying “so whats her name?” Kano talking to him about “don’t overthink it” And then transitioning into song w tens mad cool almost like transitioning from his dinner w kano to then the piano /drums picking up a bit and seeing tems up at the restaurant bar or smthg. Instrumental feels like he’s rapping over a piano in restaurant too in Raindance which blends the songs together and sets the scene which is dope and does so much for atmosphere building and cohesion of the album as one body of work not a bunch of separate tracks. Super cool.
- The song/ending is cool to me cuz Kano has been there done all of it / has wrestled with the same thing Dave is wrestling with now on this album and its just super like idek i

don't wanna sound cheugy but wholesome conversation between two different generations of egoless excellence that is mutually beneficial.

### 5. Raindance (featuring MY GOAT Tems)

*"Lean w it, rock w itttttt, ya finger I could put a rock innittttt"*

- More props to Dave and to the features he placed on this album because this song with Tems (especially being right after the amazing Kano feature) highlights how seamless and natural the features in this album are. When I listen to it straight through, it's like Dave is the constant, and out of the darkness you the features fade in, say there part, then fade out perfectly. From Kano coming and going, and then Tems coming in on this song I was like damn I appreciate so much how well put together and cohesive this album is and how much care went into track placement, feature placement, and with the instrumentals.
- The music video for this song is sick and so tough (  Dave - Raindance (ft. Tems) ) idk if these two r together fr in real life but if they r together good for them let me get a wedding invite.
- LEAN W IT ROCK W IT YA FINGA I COULD PUTTA ROCK IN IT
- YA LEFT WRIST I COULD PUT MY HOUSE IN IT
- Because of the outro on chapter 16 this song doesn't feel like the "love song" or the "song for the females" that was just thrown on the album to cover bases like so many other artists do. It's actually serving a purpose in the album as Dave stepping into a new, mature chapter of his life of like taking a woman serious. The line I mentioned in the "chapter 16" part where Kano asks him "so what's her name" gives the whole track I feel of like oh shit this is like a real Dave experience in terms of relationship and where he's at with his life and not just a love song to satisfy an audience or make his album more versatile. I guess I say all of this to say it feels authentic and fits in the album. I coulda just said that from the beginning I guess but if there's one thing I love to do is talk in circles.
- Shoutout the Drake reference in Dave's second verse they act like two legends cannot coexist type shit
- Fucking banger idk not much else to say bro is 5/5 and each song so far is amazing for a different reason and with a different theme/angle. Real art

### 6. Selfish (featuring James Blake)

*"What if my fear of doing it wrong's the reason I haven't been doing it right"*

- I liked this line above a lot and it stuck out. One: because its applications to my own life but also because of how it fits in the context of the album. It feels like for so much of this album Dave is being torn between two things or like he's in a limbo of being well-intentioned but having vices / desires that cause him to stray (off the "righteous path" we discussed earlier). This line shows that limbo/caught in the middle feeling so well to me. Really cool line and I love how Dave has these lines that stick with you and that you can just sit with / think about.

- Yeah Big meat BLAKE let his nuts drag on this track fr his chorus is gas and he smoked it.
- Some of the themes I noticed in the song that resonated:
  - Amazing song about self doubt, how comparison to others will leave u freaked out, there is no place u “should” be at in life u go at ur own pace selfish
- “What if the reason they call me the greatest is the reason me and you are living on different pages?”
  - Another great line. A lot of Dave’s work in general deals with his own trauma, drive, and rise. This line is so crazy to me at least cuz he’s basically saying: What makes me great (my struggle, my trauma, lifestyle) is the same thing that has severed relationships and made his life harder. But at the same time if he works through these things, he may not be the artist and man that has what it takes to be at the top of his craft. It aligned with the feeling I got from the album that Dave is less concerned with music and everything that comes with it. Not that he doesn’t put everything into his craft but that music is less so the focal point of his life and that he is at a stage of asking “whats best for me and who I am?” as opposed to being concerned about greatness and status in music. Ties back into the intro “History” where hes kinda saying i already made history I’m not concerned with that anymore. Dave could also be in the studio every day and I’m smoking dick. Just my theory
    - Just to be clear not saying he doesn’t fw music and his craft cuz its clear he does I guess it just seems to me like he is rounding himself out as a person and dealing with the part of him that has been thru shit that has nothing to do with music, but inevitably that part of him *allows* him to make such gr8 music, which is why this line so cool

## 7. My 27th Birthday

*“I just got a call my girl’s sitting in the car and it says “serge” but serge sitting in the car*

*“I mean, how do i explain that I don’t wanna heal cause my identity is pain”*

*“Lets see who quits now we ain’t getting paid again”*

*“Never trust a girl whose lock screen’s a picture of herself, I had to learn that shit myself”*

- The serge line fried me lol as well as the lockscreen line. I would add to also not trust the girl who only got solo shots on her gram, but thats just my 2 cents.
- The “identity is pain” line ties into what I was talking about a bit on the selfish track. Crazy and sad line that he feels so attached to pain and that he needs it to make his art so well. Just a moving / emotional line.
- This whole song is so fucking nuts and like dense I just want to say I just appreciate it and like I said with Chapter 16 this song freezes me in the sense I stop what I’m doing and i completely lock in on the song and what hes talking about on the tune. Thats talent and gravity fr not a lot of artists can do that even if they have the skill cuz they are talking about some bs.
- Real music

## 8. Marvellous

- Fw this song its kinda a slapper it is nothing crazy to me though compared to other tracks on the album
- Good tune I think it'll be super hard in concert tbh
- Kid in the song coulda easily been Dave which is the point of the tune I think. Thin line between that kids path and Dave's stardom is the point I think of it I could be tweaking tho.

## 9. Fairchild

*"Try and humanise, she could be somebody's daughter, you As if that's the reason that them fellas shouldn't slaughter"*

- This song is really moving and emotional I was so sucked into the plot of it
- Moving for Dave's part, but also for bringing in the actual female perspective and then how at the end they join in together to sing it. How the beat changes when the women comes in as really cool from a sound standpoint kinda sounds like marvin room lol
- The "somebody's daughter" line is incredible and a gr8 commentary. "thats somebody's daughter" shouldn't be needed to bring humanity and empathy out, they should just exist for the women standing alone as her OWN HUMAN forget being a MANS DAUGHTER
- "All know a victim don't know a perpetrator"
  - Again gr8 line. U do know a perpetrator, odds are u just turn a blind eye
- The instrumental at the end feels like some ludwig typa production btw super tough
- The most moving song / piece of media I've digested in terms of talking about assault, what it's like to be a woman in todays world. And the way Dave goes about it in his acknowledgement that he himself isn't flawless in his actions, hes more so just laying out this story and is the pen / platform for this message → "i'm complicit, no better than u"
  - Real wake up call and inspiring shit. I know i've let plenty remarks / actions slide in my life of guys doing some bs with women, and listening to this song is a wake up call 100%

## 10. The Boy who Played Harp

*"If I was alive in 1912 on the titanic and it was sinking who I am saving? Am I fighting women and children, or am I waiting?"*

*"What would I do in the next generation? But I'm knowing the answer cause what am I doing this generation? Afraid to speak cah I don't wanna risk it, my occupation"*

*"Cause how can you dance in the club? Cause how can you dance in the club? There's a hundred people beggin outside it"*

- Last track now... fw the line about the Titanic because I too have thoughts about if im in a situation where shit hits fan willl I rlly act as I desire too and where my morals are? Dave asking this... then answering this in the following line saying how he doesn't speak up to spare his money / job
  - This is my favorite part of Dave's art is how reflective and self-aware he is of his own shortcomings and things he wants to change within himself

- Gr8 track and gr8 ending to a gr8 album. Beautiful and a top album for me in the year of 2025. Shoutout Dave man

I am absolutely amped to see this album toured and see Dave live in 2 weeks. Since he probably won't be dropping as much going forward, I am extra amped because the opportunities to see him live are limited so this will be a special, more unique event. Amazing album that sucked me in pause and emotionally moved me. 5 stars 10/10