HOUSE OF SOLO

ART ISSUE

DIGITAL COVER

ABBY ROBERTS



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Abby Roberts Rising Star

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Abby wears outfit by VILANIA K + bangles by ALEXIS BITTAR + necklace & bracelet by ANINE IRDEM + ring by GIOVANNI RASPINI + ring AEOLUS STUDIO + boots by MARC JACOBS



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The sound of a rising star

Her artistic persona was discovered at the age of 11 through social media, while she was doing makeup tutorials and creating enchanting designs. Today, Abby Roberts is at the forefront of her music career with the release of her second EP, Obscura, launched two years after Ashes. This deeply personal album is reminiscent of her own experiences, capturing moments of immense reflection, sadness, and fear.

With a much more mature sound and the experiences of a twenty-something-year-old, Abby opens up to her nearly 2 million followers about dating, friendship, and the imposter syndrome she suffered in the early stages of her music career. The indie work features collaborations with acclaimed singer Halsey and re6ce, and it also portrays a variety of 80s-inspired rock sounds. With this work, Abby catapults herself as a rising star and a voice to be recognized in the music industry.

Her most recent work came after a time of selfreflection and through the process of maturing in her music career. "'Obscura' has been a more reflective process. I've approached some of the songs from different perspectives rather than just 'this is how I feel' - some of them paint a picture of a specific scenario and overall are more imaginative." she added. This EP comes alongside a different version of Abby. As the 22-vear-old explores a new side of her career, she discovers new parts of herself along the way. The experiences of adulthood turn each melody into a testament of growth, and each lyric is relatable to her peers. "[The EP] It's definitely a coming-of-age tale, so I would say [it is for] anyone who is in a similar position to where I was when I wrote it; people in their late teensearly 20s coming into adulthood for the first time and having these life-shaping experiences," Abby says.

> As she moves away from the career that brought her to stardom at the age of 11 and discovers new talents, new questions arise in her head. "It seems they got a memo that I didn't read. They stripped me out of my clothes, put me on display. Then they're laughing at the parts I was hiding," she sings in "Imposter Syndrome." These lyrics portray a woman who is self-conscious and unsure of her own worth — a feeling that intensified as she stepped away from the career she had always known and ventured into new territory.

She explains, "Imposter Syndrome was about all this self-doubt I had on a writing trip out to LA. It was the first time I'd been there to work on music, and I was in rooms with all these incredibly talented and highly acclaimed producers, writers, and artists. I just felt crippled by the weight of feeling like a complete fraud. I didn't feel deserving...." In this song, she worked with singer and songwriter Halsey, with whom she toured

after recording her first EP. "I was obviously super intimidated working with such an incredible artist that I'd admired for years, and I just didn't want to make a fool of myself in front of her. But I feel like the aura that she has is just so comforting and nonjudgmental."

> Her creative journey starts from the lyrics, "Writing is my favorite part," she reveals. Each song emerges from a seed of inspiration, nurtured by collaboration with her producer. Drawing from diverse musical influences like Lana Del Rey, Slowdive, and The Cure, she shapes her sound to best convey her feelings. She claims that "Volatile" is her most personal song from Obscura. The release of this song was "scary" due to its raw vulnerability. "It goes into detail about one of the most heartbreaking experiences I had: having a friend breakup with my best friend at the time," she shares. The song is an unfiltered expression of her emotions, laying bare the pain of lost friendship.

However, being so vulnerable and open to her followers can be daunting in a world where people have so much to say through social media. She admits, "When people have their opinions and criticisms on it, I feel like it cuts that much deeper; that was a deeply personal part of myself that someone on the internet said they hate." Yet, she believes that this vulnerability is crucial for genuine artistic expression. "It's so important to be vulnerable and sensitive in art because that's what really connects with people and pushes boundaries."

> Her roots as a makeup artist have shaped her evolution as a singer-songwriter. Roberts claims, "It's part of the whole world-building and an extension of me as an artist expressing myself." Her videos serve as a canvas for exploring new looks that reflect her emotional landscape. "I love finding how I can craft the perfect makeup look or visual to fit the world of whatever song it is I'm working on," she explains. Her multifaceted creativity has helped her build a unique and recognizable style. However, it is her lyrics that have made her relatable and approachable to others.

Each song in "Obscura" is imbued with deep emotions, creating a space where listeners can feel at home while understanding the lyrics. For instance, "Imposter Syndrome" relates to anxiety and paranoia, "Idea of You" to lust, "Protocol" to self-doubt, "Volatile" to rage, and "I Lose Myself in You" to guilt. "I want people to listen to it and know they are not alone in these experiences. I felt so much shame and embarrassment from a lot of these feelings and felt like I needed to hide them away and keep them to myself, but we are all going through the same things and it's okay to scream about it together," Abby says.







