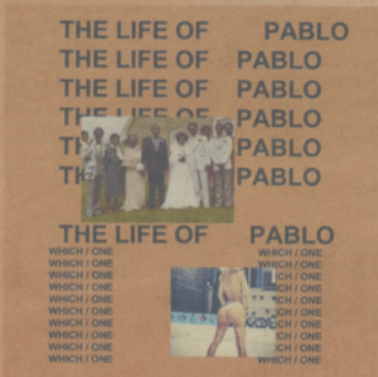




Three of West's album covers illustrate the dark and light aesthetics he's created.

At left is 2010's "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," bottom left is this year's "The Life of Pablo," and at bottom right is 2012's minimalist industrial hip-hop "Yeezus."



hook and the tabloid headline inspiring lyric from West, "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex. Why? I made that bitch famous." Another prod from West at the listener in a desperate plea for attention. The song itself is close to the digital punk of Ye's last album, but is no "Swish" (another of the titles West had given this album before release).

Most Christians would say that claiming to be like God is blasphemous, but that doesn't stop West from hinting at his own apotheosis. "Low Lights" is two minutes of a woman praying in really quite a beautiful expression of her own faith. West said that the song was inspired by moms driving their kids to school and going to work. Still, halfway through something in the brain is triggered and one wonders "Is this prayer to Jesus or to Yeezus?"

The divine associations West has created for himself are too strong to not have him creep into your mind every time God is mentioned. On the album *Chance the Rapper* says, "I met Kanye West, I'm never going to fail." Couldn't the same also be said of one's savior?

At track 10 the album finally starts to be redeemed. "Waves" was the title track back when the album was still called

"WAVES," and only made the final cut on *Chance the Rapper*'s insistence. It's the most radio-friendly song on the album. From there to track 18 are eight fine songs. Both of West's "Good Fridays" singles are in the last half of the album. There are guest appearances from Frank Ocean and Kendrick Lamar.

"Wolves" contains a fantastic West & Kardashian to Joseph & Mary allusion.

"What if Mary was in the club, when she met Joseph around hella thugs?"

Cover Nori in lambs' wool  
We surrounded by the fuckin' wolves."  
The profane sides of West and Kardashian mingle with Christ in the manger. It never lets up.

West's shtick has been repeated over and over in his music. He reached the execution of its perfection in two albums: "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy" and "Yeezus." Both of those albums pulled off the divergent themes of West's music in two sonically dissimilar, but fully refined ways.

"The Life of Pablo" fails because it isn't committed to a sound. It is unfinished and weighed down by its own track list. If an album isn't supported by its songs, what supports it?

## THE GREATEST TWEETS OF ALL TIME:

**KANYE WEST** @kanyewest - Feb 9  
All memes are wrong... The Life of Paul... The life of Pablo... Ultralight beams...Moms dads daughters sons stand up

12K 27K

**KANYE WEST** @kanyewest - Feb 9  
BILL COSBY INNOCENT !!!!!!!!!!!!!

45K 54K

**KANYE WEST** @kanyewest - Feb 14  
Mark Zuckerberg invest 1 billion dollars into Kanye West ideas

38K 63K

**KANYE WEST** @kanyewest - Feb 13  
I write this you you my brothers while still 53 million dollars in personal debt... Please pray we overcome... This is my true heart

16K 36K

**KANYE WEST** @kanyewest - Feb 14  
I made *Dark Fantasy* and *Watch the Throne* in one year and wasn't nominated for either ... I will have over 100 Grammys before I die

24K 44K

**KANYE WEST** @kanyewest - Feb 14  
I'm this generation's Disney... I want to bring dope shit to the world...

26K 40K