



D'ANGELO  
AND THE  
VANGUARD  
BLACK  
MESSIAH



“*Black Messiah* is a hell of a name for an album. It can be easily misunderstood. Many will think it’s about religion. Some will jump to the conclusion that I’m calling myself a Black Messiah. For me, the title is about all of us. It’s about the world. It’s about an idea we can all aspire to. We should all aspire to be a Black Messiah.



It’s about people rising up in Ferguson and in Egypt and in Occupy Wall Street and in every place where a community has had enough and decides to make change happen. It’s not about praising one charismatic leader but celebrating thousands of them. Not every song on this album is politically charged (though many are), but calling this album *Black Messiah* creates a landscape where these songs can live to the fullest. *Black Messiah* is not one man. It’s a feeling that, collectively, we are all that leader.”

# AIN'T THAT EASY

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Music by D'Angelo

Lyrics by D'Angelo, Q-Tip and Kendra Foster

## VERSE 1

Take a toke of smoke from me as you  
dream inside · Let your days slip away  
come with me and ride · My darlin' you  
aren't the average kind · You need the  
comfort of my lovin' · To bring out the  
best in you · I hope that you do · See  
what you've given to me · Separatin',  
debatin', stay with me that's all you  
have to do

## CHORUS

You can't leave me · It ain't that easy  
To walk away · When I want you to  
stay, baby · You can't leave me · It ain't  
that easy · Ow ow ow

## VERSE 2

Ever hit with a choice that you can't  
decide? · Which direction left or right ·  
Shut your mouth off and focus on what  
you feel inside · See ya'll know I'ma go  
with my vibe · You won't believe all the  
things you have to sacrifice · Just to get  
peace of mind · And you take what they  
give as if it did suffice · Still it's just a  
waste of time · I offer you the truth ·  
You need the comfort of my lovin' to  
bring out the best in you · I wanna give  
you give you somethin' to feed your  
mind · No separatin', no don't debate it  
Faithfully we'll see this love through

## CHORUS

You can't leave me · It ain't that easy  
To walk away · When I want you to  
stay, baby · You can't leave me · It ain't  
that easy · Ow ow ow

## BRIDGE

I got just what you need babe · All this  
love you'll receive, yeah · I been waitin'  
so long

## VERSE 3

I tell you this sincerely · I need the  
comfort of your lovin' · To bring out  
the best in me · I'm gonna keep you  
Safe from evil opinion · What I got  
can't duplicate it · Faithfully we'll see  
this love through

## CHORUS

You can't leave me · It ain't that easy  
To walk away · When I want you to  
stay, baby · You can't leave me · It ain't  
that easy · Ow ow ow

You can't leave me · It ain't that easy · To  
walk away · When I want you to stay,  
baby · said It ain't that easy · Ow ow ow

You can't leave me · said ain't that easy

# IOOO DEATHS

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Music by D'Angelo  
Lyrics by D'Angelo and Kendra Foster

## VERSE 1

I can't believe I can't get over my fear  
They're gonna send me over the hill  
Ah, the moment of truth is near  
They're gonna send me over the hill

## VERSE 2

I can't believe I'm so caught up in the  
thrill · Ain't nothin gonna change my  
will · Locked and loaded up, and I  
know the drill · They're gonna send  
me over the hill

## PRE-CHORUS

I been a witness to this game for ages  
Ever since stare death in the face, no  
time to waste · But oh!

## CHORUS

And if I charge it to the game before  
Every time I slip into the unknown  
Well that's only when the spot gets  
blown · It's war · That is the Lord!  
I won't nut up when we up thick in  
the crunch · Because a coward dies  
a thousand times · But a soldier only  
dies just once · Once, once

## VERSE 3

Yaweh, Yehushua · He don't want no  
coward soldier · Aaah stick it in the golden  
sand · Musta didna hearda ma prayer

I receive everything that it means  
And wield it victoriously · Aha, and  
cast out all the wickedness · Send me  
over the hill · I was born to kill · Send  
me over the hill

## PRE-CHORUS

I been a witness to this game for ages  
And if I stare death in face, no time to  
waste · But oh!

## CHORUS

And if I charge it to the game before  
Every time I slip into the unknown  
that's only when the spot gets blown  
It's war · That is the Lord! I won't nut  
up when we up thick in the crunch  
Because a coward dies a thousand  
times · But a soldier only dies just  
once · Once, once

# THE CHARADE

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Music by D'Angelo and Questlove  
Lyrics by D'Angelo and Kendra Foster

## VERSE 1

Crawling through a systematic maze  
to demise · Pain in our eyes · Strain  
of drownin', wading through the lies  
Degradation so loud that you can't  
hear the sound of our cries (doo, doo)  
All the dreamers have gone to the  
side of the road which we relay on  
Inundated by media, virtual mind  
fucks in streams

## CHORUS

All we wanted was a chance to talk  
'Stead we only got outlined in chalk  
Feet have bled a milliwon miles we've  
walked · Revealing at the end of the  
day, the charade

## VERSE 2

Perpetrators beware say a prayer if  
you dare for the believers · With a  
faith at the size of a seed enough to  
be redeemed (doo doo) · Relegated  
to savages bound by the way of the  
deceivers · So anchors be sure that  
you're sure we ain't no amateurs

## CHORUS

All we wanted was a chance to talk  
'Stead we've only got outlined in chalk  
Feet have bled a million miles we've  
walked · Revealing at the end of the  
day, the charade

## BRIDGE

With the veil off our eyes we'll truly  
see · And we'll march on · And it really  
won't take too long · And it really  
won't take us very long

Revealing at the end of the day,  
the Charade

# SUGAH DADDY

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Music by D'Angelo, Pino Palladino and James Gadson  
Lyrics by D'Angelo, Q-Tip and Kendra Foster

## VERSE 1

It's just the way she's so raw and uncut  
She needs a spankin' to shake her up  
And I just wish that I could open  
her up · To this deeper place of love  
High priced snake skin on her arm  
(oooh) · Lace satin covering up her  
charms · You shoulda seen the way  
they tossed and turned · The way she  
made the congregation squirm

## CHORUS

Girl's got a worldly view · Apparently  
she sees through you · Her love was  
never meant to share for two · She said  
I'll do it if you'll be my sugah daddy

## VERSE 2

Take a note from my philosophy · I'ma  
give her what she need · Can't snatch  
the meat out of the lioness mouth  
Sometimes you gotta just · Ease it out  
I give her a pacifier · I fill my baby's  
crib with all the sweetness daddy  
wants to give · And when it comes  
to rocking her to sleep, I'll never tire  
This is the way I pat my baby on the  
butt · She had me hooked with only  
just one glance · She need a spankin,  
baby, that's wussup · Lawd, lawd  
You say you wanna be the one she chooses  
to star in her meaningless romance

## CHORUS 2

Girl's got a worldly view · What's a  
sassy girl to do · And if the decision  
was left up to me · You best believe  
that I would be her sugah daddy  
Brown eyes that will make you blue  
Eyes that'll see right through you  
She crossed her fingers when she said  
her vows · She said I promise that I'll  
sock it to you daddy

## VERSE 3

So I take the child to my crib · I ain't  
gonna tell you what we did · I hit it  
so I made the pussy fart · She said it's  
talkin' to ya, talkin' to ya Daddy!

# REALLY LOVE

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Music by D'Angelo

Lyrics by D'Angelo and Kendra Foster

## VERSE 1

When you call my name · When you  
love me gently · When you're walking  
near me · Doo doo wah I'm in really love  
with you, I'm in really love with you

When you look at me · I open up  
instantly · I fall in love so quickly  
Doo doo wah I'm in really love with  
you, doo doo wah I'm in really love  
with you · I'm in really love with you

## BRIDGE

All night beside you I'd lay · I love you  
deep when you come to my bed · Doo  
doo wah, I'm in really love with you  
Ooh wah, I'm in really love with you

## VERSE 2

When you touch me there · When you  
make me tingle · When our nectars  
mingle · I'm in really love with you, I'm  
in really love · I'm not an easy man, to  
overstand, you feel me · But girl your  
patient with me · Doo doo wah, I'm in  
really love with you, I'm in really love  
with you

## CHORUS 2

All night I wish for you here · Lay  
your head beside my hip · Doo doo  
wah, I'm in really love with you · I'm  
in really love with you

Doo doo wah, I'm in really love with you

I'm in really love with you

Oh how I love the little things you do  
I'm in really love with you



# BACK IN THE FUTURE (PART I)

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Music and Lyrics by D'Angelo

## VERSE 1

Traveling at the speed of light and  
then · At the same time I'm in the  
same spot too · The room was kept in  
'Bout the same way you left it · With  
about the threats you mess in attitude  
Where ya' been with all your grin  
Until all your friends turn their backs  
on you · Reminiscing over what you've  
been missing · Could be just like  
cousin's kissing, · That's taboo

## CHORUS

I just wanna go back, baby · Back to  
the way it was · I just wanna go back,  
baby · Back to the way it was · I used  
to get real high, now I · But now I'm  
just getting' a buzz · I wanna go back,  
baby · Back to the way it was

## VERSE 2

If you win, no matter if you lose · You  
got to come back again · Pay some  
dues · Back in Richmond, shit ain't  
changed a bit in · Niggas with a little  
piss in got some attitudes · I been  
wondering if I can ever again · So if  
you're wondering about the shape I'm  
in · I hope it ain't my abdomen that  
you're referring to

## BRIDGE

Seasons may come and your luck just  
may run out · And all that you'll have  
is some memories, oh

Seasons may come and your luck just  
may run out · And all that you'll have  
is some memories, oh

Seasons may come and your luck just  
may run out · And all that you'll have  
is some memories, oh

## CHORUS

Said I just wanna go back, baby · Back  
to the way it was, now, now, now  
Back to the way it was, now, now,  
now · I used to get real high · Now I'm  
just getting' a buzz, now, now, now  
I said back to the way it was, now,  
now, now · I just wanna go back, baby  
I just wanna go back, baby · Back to  
the way it was, now, now, now · Back  
to the way it was, now, now, now  
I used to get real high · Now I'm just  
getting' a buzz, now, now, now · Back  
to the way it was, now, now, now

# TILL IT'S DONE (TUTU)

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Music by D'Angelo, Questlove and Pino Palladino  
Lyrics by D'Angelo and Kendra Foster

## VERSE 1

In a world where we all circle the fiery  
sun · With a need for love · What have  
we become? · Tragedy flows unbound  
and there's no place to run · Till it's  
done · Questions that call to us, we all  
reflect upon: · Where do we belong?  
Where do we come from? · Questions  
that call to us, we all reflect upon · Till  
it's done

Till it's done

## VERSE 2

Carbon pollution is heating up the  
air · Do we really know? Do we even  
care? · Acid rain dripping on our trees  
and in our hair · Are you there? · Clock  
ticking backwards on things we've  
already built · Sons and Fathers die,  
Soldiers, Daughters killed · Question  
ain't do we have resources to rebuild  
Do we have the will?

## VERSE 3

Perilous dissidence evening up the  
score · Do we even know what we're  
fighting for? · Destinies crippled and  
thrown about on the floor · When  
we're waging war · Questions that call  
to us, we all reflect upon: · Where do  
we belong? Where do we come from?  
Questions that call to us, we all reflect  
upon · Till it's done

Till it's done

# PRAYER

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Music and Lyrics by D'Angelo

Soul prayer, soul prayer · Hallowed  
be thy name · Kingdom come, will be  
done, oh yeah · I do... the devil on your  
feet · I know that he will, he will try to  
stop you · From seeing your days

REFRAIN

But you got to pray all the way · Till  
you get on · I believe that some day  
we will rise

I know that he will try to harm you  
And if you can · I know that you will  
make it to the promised land · But you  
got to pray, you got pray · Oh you got  
to pray for redemption · Lord, keep  
me away from temptation · Deliver us  
from evil, oh yeah

REFRAIN

And all this confusion around me  
Give me peace · I believe that love...

# BETRAY MY HEART

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Music and Lyrics by D'Angelo

## VERSE

As the day must have its sun · And the  
night must have its moon · Sure as  
both must rise and fall · I'll be there to  
see you through · Just as long as there  
is time · I will never leave your side  
And if ever that you feel · That my love  
is not sincere

## CHORUS

I will never betray my heart · I will  
never betray my heart · I will never  
betray my heart

## VERSE

Like the breeze that blows in June  
I will steady keep you cool · This I swear  
with all that's true · I'll take nothing in  
place of you · When you're feeling down,  
down, down · You, my soul, can depend  
on me · You don't ever have to fear  
That my love is not sincere

## CHORUS

I will never betray my heart · I will  
never betray my heart · I will never  
betray my heart

## BRIDGE

Through the storm, through the rain  
I'll come running to ease your pain  
Like the rails that cross the trains  
Like the blood in your veins

## CHORUS

I will never betray my heart · I will  
never betray my heart · I will never  
betray my heart

# THE DOOR

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Music by D'Angelo

Lyrics by D'Angelo and Kendra Foster

I told you once but twice · You wasn't  
very nice · In your hands you held my  
life · I told you once but twice, my love  
Don't lock yourself out that door  
No no no · Don't lock yourself out  
that door

Behind a silky shade · You danced  
the masquerade · On a float in your  
parade · And on the music played  
My love · Don't lock yourself out that  
door, no no no · Don't lock yourself  
out that door

I wrote a perfect song · You sang it  
all night long · Held your breath when  
you were done · And waltzed out with  
the sun · My love · Don't lock yourself  
out that door, no no no · Don't lock  
yourself out that door

I told you once but twice · You wasn't  
very nice · In your hands you held my  
life · I told you once but twice, my love  
Don't lock yourself out that door, no  
no no · Don't lock yourself out that  
door

# BACK IN THE FUTURE (PART II)

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Music and Lyrics by D'Angelo

I just wanna, I just wanna, · I just  
wanna go back now · I just wanna go  
back now

The season may come when your luck  
may just run out · And all that you'll  
have is a memory, oh

The season may come when your luck  
may just run out · And all that you'll  
have is a memory, oh

The season may come when your luck  
may just run out · And all that you'll  
have is a memory, oh

The season may come when your luck  
may just run out · And all that you'll  
have is a memory, oh

Used to get real high · Now I'm just  
getting' a buzz

Used to get real high · Now I'm just  
getting' a buzz

Used to get real high · Now I'm just  
getting' a buzz

# ANOTHER LIFE

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Music by D'Angelo and Questlove  
Lyrics by D'Angelo and Kendra Foster

## VERSE 1

How does one attempt to be · The  
kind of friend that you would want  
to keep? · I just want to say to thee  
Even though might be hard to believe  
The candy coated thoughts that drift  
through my sleep · Lets me know its  
you that holds the key · I got a craving  
for confection so sweet · For the taste  
of when our lips first meet

## CHORUS

Oh, In another life, I bet you wouldn't  
know that · Oh, In another life, I bet  
you were my girl

## VERSE 2

I just wanna take you with me · To  
secret rooms in the mansions of my  
mind · Shower you with all that you  
need · Take my hand, I swear I'll take  
my time · I'm not surprised to find that  
angels compete · For the chance to lay  
down at your feet · I'm gonna touch  
all of the places that please · Pull you  
close · I wanna feel you breathe

## CHORUS

Oh, In another life, I bet you wouldn't  
know that · Oh, In another life, I bet  
you were my girl

It's another reason for the season  
I don't wanna break your heart · Oh, in  
another life, I bet you were my girl, Oh!

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ALL WE  
WANTED WAS  
A CHANCE  
TO TALK  
'STEAD WE  
ONLY GOT  
OUTLINED IN  
CHALK

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