

Ali Gatie writes from the heart, and his unfiltered approach transforms his hypnotic songs into diaristic messages to anyone out there who feels as intensely as he does. “Can’t Give Up,” the Toronto singer/songwriter’s introspective new single from his debut album, *Who Hurt You?*, shows just how emotionally rich his music can be. “I could put that song out as a poem, and it would still be just as beautiful,” he says. The timeless piano ballad finds Gatie at his most moving and personal. “*When I look up in the sky, I see the stars and I see your eyes,*” he sings. “*I don’t want to say goodnight.*”

The 17 tracks on *Who Hurt You?* chronicle Gatie’s evolution from a poor, unknown 18-year-old into a 25-year-old Platinum-certified artist. Through it all, love has been his north star. “I’ve always been searching for love—in my career, in my love life, in my family,” Gatie says. “The concept is who hurt Ali Gatie, right? But we wanted to make it more universal. The acronym is *WHY?* If you’re so interested in who hurt Ali Gatie, who hurt *you?* There’s a reason I wrote the record, but there’s a reason you’re listening.”

Gatie gravitated toward writing as a child after his family emigrated from Yemen to the suburbs of Toronto. He shared a bedroom with his mother, whom he bonded with over poetry. The young Gatie had a contemplative disposition. “I had good friends, but I had different music tastes,” he recalls. “I remember when Adele’s ‘Hello’ came out, and none of my friends thought it was cool, but I was like, ‘This is incredible; this is the concept of a record, not just a song.’”

By 2016, Gatie had begun recording love songs and weaving conceptual storytelling of his own. He slowly built up his devoted LISNer fanbase—so named because his goal was always just to get people to listen—by answering every DM and pouring a foundation of total transparency. Gatie has resonated far and wide with his listeners by combining intuitive lyricism and evocative soundscapes. From romantic tracks such as his double-Platinum 2019 hit “It’s You” to conceptual EPs *You* (2019) and *The Idea of Her* (2021)—plus smash collaborations such as October 2020’s “lie to me” with Tate McRae, or last summer’s “Butterflies” with MAX—he has soundtracked every phase of falling in or out of love.

“The one theme prevalent throughout my whole career was this question of, ‘Who hurt you, man?’” he says. Naturally, *Who Hurt You?* provides answers, digging deep to show his growth as a man and his versatility as an artist. As Gatie continues to expand his reach, he never forgets the people who first asked that question in the early days. Whether it’s one of his R&B ballads like “Million Miles Apart,” a daring pop single like “The Look” featuring Kehlani, or the unexpectedly rap-inflected “Fall Out,” Gatie uses the record to share all of himself with his dedicated fans.

This fall, Gatie will embark on his *Who Hurt You?* tour and connect with his fans in real life for the first time. However they experience his music, his goal is always the same: he wants to reach out a hand to anyone who’s listening, to be there for them through his songs. “I

want the listener to hear this record and feel like they've had the conversation before," he says. "Or to feel like we're having a conversation we need to be having *right now*."