

It's official. I now love Avril Lavigne. I'm not afraid to admit that I'm a fan of her.

I checked out her debut album, *Let Go*, a whopping 20 years after its release. And that is mainly because of how I instantly fell in love with its lead single to the point where after watching the music video just once, I wished my mother would go out and buy it for me. Suffice to say, I still have *Let Go* on my full album playlist, even after all those years of Avril supporting her fans only to spiral out of control with her music career.

Now obviously the thought of a (then) teenager writing songs that are meant to be compared to the likes of Alanis Morissette and Michelle Branch is a bit preposterous. Indeed, it is music snobs' unwillingness to accept this proposal that led to it being dismissed as wannabe punk upon its initial release. Given that I was just an infant when this album came out, I didn't have this problem.

Today, I am instantly enamoured by how great Avril sounds throughout the album while she airs out her grievances about her life. Sure, it may seem immature when compared to the likes of Shirley Manson or Lorde (to compare her to another singer/songwriter who began their career as a teenager)... but it is nonetheless endearing due to the level of details she goes into on each track. The backing instrumentation really helps sell her angst here, but I feel her next album does a better job at amplifying her day-to-day grievances, given how this feels a bit safe compared to what would come next.

(plays "Never Gonna Give You Up" by Rick Astley)

**APRIL FOOLS, EVEN THOUGH IT'S APRIL 2nd! YOU ALL HAVE BEEN RICKROLLED!**

I fucking hate Avril Lavigne. Fuck this singer. Fuck her commercial accessibility. Fuck her commercial pop shit. Fuck her sappy melodies. Fuck her artistry. Fuck her for incorporating post-grunge/Nickelbackian elements into her music all because Arista wanted her to sound like other artists such as Faith Hill and Shania Twain. I mean, seriously? Britney Spears attempting to be fucking Nickelback and Creed? Who asked for that? Fuck her and her radio replayability that lasted for half a decade. Just fuck Avril and her posturing.

Her ass belongs at Hot Topic.