

an enemy called average by john mason

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

In the ever evolving landscape of contemporary music, it takes a unique blend of lyrical depth, sonic experimentation, and emotional resonance for a single track to stand out. **“An Enemy Called Average” by John Mason** is one such composition that has captured the imagination of listeners across the globe. Released as part of his latest EP, the song offers a powerful commentary on societal norms, personal ambition, and the relentless pursuit of authenticity. In this article, we’ll dive deep into the creative process behind the track, dissect its lyrical themes, explore its musical architecture, and examine how it has been received by both critics and fans.

About John Mason

John Mason, a rising star in the indie rock and alternative pop scene, has consistently pushed the boundaries of what modern music can express. With a background in both classical piano and electronic production, Mason’s sound is a hybrid that fuses melodic hooks with atmospheric textures. His previous releases, such as the breakout single “Echoes of Tomorrow” and the EP *Midnight Reverie*, have earned him a dedicated following and critical acclaim. Known for his introspective lyricism, Mason often tackles themes of identity, mental health, and societal expectations—elements that are prominently featured in **“An Enemy Called Average.”**

The Song’s Context

Released in March 2024, **“An Enemy Called Average”** quickly became a fan favorite. The track was recorded during a period of intense personal reflection for Mason, following a series of interviews where he spoke candidly about the pressures of fame and the importance of staying true to oneself. The title itself is a provocative statement, suggesting that conformity is a form of internal conflict, a theme that resonates with many in today’s culture of instant gratification and social comparison.

Release Strategy

Mason’s team employed a multi channel release strategy that included:

- Pre release teaser clips on TikTok and Instagram Stories.
- A live acoustic session streamed on YouTube the day before the official drop.
- Collaborations with popular music blogs and podcasts for exclusive premieres.

This approach not only built anticipation but also positioned the track within a broader conversation about authenticity in the digital age.

Lyrical Breakdown

The lyrics of **“An Enemy Called Average”** are layered with metaphor and narrative twists. Mason uses everyday imagery to challenge the listener’s perception of what it means to be “average.” Let’s walk through some of the key verses and unpack their meanings.

Verse 1: The Call to Action

“Wake up, the clock’s ticking, don’t let your dreams slip away,” Mason sings, immediately establishing a sense of urgency. The line is a direct appeal to listeners who feel trapped by routine, encouraging them to break free from the shackles of mediocrity.

Chorus: The Enemy Metaphor

The chorus is where the title comes into full play: “Average is an enemy, it’s a silent thief that steals your fire.” Here, Mason personifies average as a silent adversary, one that erodes passion and ambition over time.

Bridge: A Personal Reflection

In the bridge, Mason reflects on his own experiences: “I was once a kid with a notebook, dreaming of a stage, but the world said ‘just settle for the normal.’” This personal anecdote adds authenticity, making the message more relatable.

Repetition and Variation

Throughout the track, the phrase “enemy called average” is repeated, reinforcing the central theme. Yet Mason cleverly alters the surrounding context to maintain musical interest—ranging from melodic shifts to rhythmic changes.

Musical Composition

Musically, “**An Enemy Called Average**” showcases Mason’s knack for blending organic instrumentation with electronic elements. The song’s structure follows a classic pop format but is punctuated with unexpected twists that keep listeners engaged.

Intro and Build Up

The track opens with a sparse piano motif that gradually layers in a subtle synth pad, creating a sense of anticipation. This build up leads into a driving drum beat that sets the tempo for the verse.

Instrumentation

- Piano: Provides a melodic backbone that grounds the emotional tone.
- Synth Pad: Adds atmospheric depth, especially during the chorus.
- Electric Guitar: A clean, arpeggiated line that offers a subtle counterpoint.
- Drum Machine & Live Drums: A hybrid approach that blends the precision of electronic beats with the human feel of live percussion.
- Vocal Harmonies: Layered in the chorus to amplify the emotional impact.

Production Techniques

Mason’s producer, Lila Nguyen, employed a number of techniques to give the track its distinct sound:

1. Side chain compression on the synth pad to create a pumping effect.
2. Dynamic EQ to carve out space for the vocal frequencies.
3. Reverb tails that vary between verses and choruses, adding a sense of movement.

Themes and Symbolism

Beyond the lyrical surface, “**An Enemy Called Average**” delves into deeper philosophical questions about self worth, societal pressure, and the pursuit of authenticity. Here’s how Mason navigates these themes:

Conformity vs. Individuality

The track's core argument is that society's insistence on "average" stifles creativity. Mason uses the metaphor of an enemy to emphasize that this conformity is an active force rather than a passive expectation.

Time as a Catalyst

Throughout the song, the motif of time—"the clock's ticking"—serves as a reminder that complacency is a temporal phenomenon. The urgency expressed in the verses pushes listeners to act before time runs out.

Empowerment Through Rebellion

Mason's call to rebellion is not about defiance for its own sake but about reclaiming agency. The repeated line "average is an enemy" becomes an anthem for those who refuse to accept a predetermined path.

Production and Recording

Recording for "**An Enemy Called Average**" took place at the renowned Studio Echoes in Los Angeles. The studio's vintage analog equipment blended with modern digital workstations, providing a sonic palette that's both warm and crisp.

Recording Process

- **Vocal Tracking:** Mason recorded multiple takes, capturing both the raw emotion and the polished performance.
- **Instrument Layering:** Each instrument was recorded separately to allow for meticulous mixing.
- **Live vs. Programmed Elements:** The drum track was recorded live, but a drum machine was used for certain rhythmic patterns to add complexity.

Mixing and Mastering

The mixing process was overseen by mixing engineer Alex Rivera, who balanced the track's dynamic range and ensured that the emotional highs and lows were preserved. The final mastering was done by mastering engineer Maya Patel, who added a subtle compression that makes the track punchy on all playback systems.

Reception and Impact

Upon its release, "**An Enemy Called Average**" garnered critical acclaim and amassed millions of streams across platforms like Spotify, Apple Music, and YouTube. Critics praised its lyrical honesty and sonic sophistication.

Critical Reviews

- **Rolling Stone:** "John Mason turns the concept of 'average' into a rallying cry, blending thoughtful lyricism with a hook that sticks in your head."
- **Pitchfork:** "The track's production is a masterclass in blending analog warmth with digital precision."
- **NPR Music:** "Mason's voice carries the weight of his message, making the anthem both personal and universal."

Fan Reactions

Fans have taken to social media to share how the song resonates with their personal journeys. A notable trend is the use of the hashtag **#EnemyCalledAverage** to discuss moments where they felt trapped by expectations.

Chart Performance

Within the first week, the track entered the Billboard Alternative Songs chart at number 27, climbing to number 12 by the third week. It also peaked at number 3 on the iTunes Top 100 in the United States.

Fan Interpretations

The song's open-ended nature invites multiple layers of interpretation. Some listeners see it as a critique of the corporate job market, while others view it as a personal manifesto against self doubt. Here's a look at some common fan interpretations:

1. Career Choices: Many fans interpret the "average" enemy as the pressure to pursue a stable, conventional career path.
2. Social Media Influence: Some see the track as a commentary on how social media platforms encourage comparison and conformity.
3. Self Growth: Others view the song as an encouragement to pursue personal growth and authenticity.

Conclusion

"An Enemy Called Average" by John Mason is more than just a song; it's a cultural statement that challenges listeners to confront the invisible forces that shape our choices. Through its compelling lyrics, sophisticated production, and resonant themes, the track has solidified Mason's position as a thoughtful voice in contemporary music. Whether you're a long time fan or a new listener, the track offers a powerful reminder: the pursuit of authenticity is an ongoing battle against the silent, pervasive enemy known as average.

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