

Honey Gentry

Heaven, California

Available to stream and download everywhere from **Friday 27th April**

From the **Moonlight EP**, the first studio release from Honey Gentry, out **Friday 29th June 2018**.

Honey Gentry is a singer-songwriter from London, UK. Lyrics of dreams, devotion and nostalgia swim in the lush, vintage-inspired instrumentation. Come in, the water's fine.



What Inspired *Heaven, California*

I wrote this song in late 2016, following a decade of dreaming about California and almost two years of working on music and self-releasing EPs online. Growing up in dreary London, 'California' came to represent a faraway, untouchable, unreachable dream - where glamorous, ambitious, hopeful people went to make their wishes come true; a beautiful landscape to explore endlessly for the rest of time. California represented, in short, the "unattainable". Throughout my life I have come to be fascinated with finding out what everyone else's 'California' is - whether it's a perfect partner, perfect job, or writing that perfect song, it seems we all have a dream that's always just one step ahead of us, if we only reached our arms out a little longer or kept going just that one more day before giving up... our California is something deep within us that bounces out into the world reflecting back to show us our true desires in the form of Other. Whilst the lyrics might reflect a love song, *Heaven, California* is a song to my dreams, one minute strong and tangible, the next incredibly hazy and impossible to shake off when you snap back into reality. Something that might just slip through your fingers at any moment - I suppose that's what I would like

a listener to take from this song, some kind of exploration of what their own unattainable dreams are.

I thought it was fitting to choose an image for the artwork that was taken in California itself in late 2017 - the real California, not the dreamy utopia I had constructed in my childhood (although taking a photograph in a dreamworld would certainly be an achievement in its own right).

About the Production

All of the guitar work on the EP (including *Heaven, California*) was written and performed by Ruben Elbrond-Palmer, an incredibly talented musician that I have had the privilege of working with since late 2016 when the writing process for this EP was in its infancy. We spent most of 2017 rehearsing, recording demos and perfecting the tracks, and went into the studio in February 2018 to record the EP over two days.

All of the music on the *Moonlight* EP is performed by Ruben. The EP was recorded at Resident Studios in London, engineered by Caradog Jones and mastered by Pete Maher.

About Honey Gentry

My love of music stretches back as far as I can remember, and I was - like most kids - a product of my environment in that both of my parents were music lovers too. Some of my earliest memories include sitting on the landing in our house in the morning watching my mum dry her hair to Heart radio before work. Although my mum embedded a love of pop music in us, it was during the long car rides with my dad that I consider most of my music education occurred. Madonna's *Music*, No Doubt's *Rocksteady*, and Shakira's *Laundry Service*, were soon followed by Kate Bush's *The Hounds of Love* and - naturally! - Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. Admittedly by the time I was 13 I was more interested in *American Idiot* and *Nevermind* than I was in *Stairway to Heaven*, but my dad, bless him, was trying.

I always knew that I wanted to make music of my own, to contribute something to the world that I loved so much, but the biggest hurdle was my own lack of confidence in myself - a strong doubt that even if I could write a song, that I would even have anything to say. It took me until I was 20 years old to even give myself the permission to write a song - and I haven't stopped since. Throughout 2015 and 2016 I self-released two EPs under my own name, and shared demos and covers online, playing small (and I mean tiny) gigs around London, making friends, connecting with people. In the summer of 2016, I found myself stuck in a bit of a MIDI-rut and reached for an acoustic guitar, and *Honeydew* was born. This was quickly followed by *Angel, Honey* and *Bleed, Honey* and finally, *Heaven, California*. This new style was so different from anything I had written before - it was honest, and simple. It followed a summer of getting back to basics, listening to Bobbie Gentry, Dolly Parton, Joan Baez, Leonard Cohen. I found myself debating whether I should release it as a side project and see whether anyone

was interested. I settled on releasing it as Honey Gentry just to see if anyone liked it. A few more demos followed and things started to catch on - once Ruben worked his magic on a few of the demos, I realized we were developing what would become the sound of the EP. A few popular tumblr users stumbling across my music meant I was able to reach thousands with my demos on the platform, and this spread out to other social media channels, and boosted the aforementioned confidence in a way I never could have dreamed. I am now looking at launching this single to the over 1,100 monthly listeners on Spotify - something I would have never believed two years ago.

In terms of the inspiration behind my own music, some of the most important contributors sonically and conceptually are Fleetwood Mac, Heart, The Pierces, Mazzy Star, Joan Baez, Kate Bush and, of course, Bobbie Gentry. In attitude, work ethic and creativity, I am just as inspired by Gwen Stefani, Die Antwoord, Trent Reznor and Marilyn Manson, and try to learn something from every musician that I encounter, whoever they are and whatever their story.

For more information

Visit the website: www.honeygentry.com

The music

- www.youtube.com/c/honeygentry
- www.honeygentry.bandcamp.com
- www.soundcloud.com/honeygentry
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Social media

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