



## AMY SHARK

When Amy Shark sings, it feels like the Australian songstress is sharing a secret.

Just above a whisper, clean guitars resound, airy production buzzes, and lyrical transmissions of cinematic nostalgia unfold on her debut EP, *Night Thinker* [Wonderlick/Sony Music/RCA Records]. These six songs certainly wouldn't be out of place during a lovelorn nocturnal moment in *Stranger Things*, and they provide the perfect introduction to Shark.

"I guess I'm a pretty intense person," she admits. "I tend to get very emotionally invested. Because of that, I always want to make sure that I'm writing really personal lyrics. It's all autobiographical, but I try to have these different elements like synth drops and beats so there's movement. Everything needs to have this gritty nature though."

Emblematic of that sound, her independent single "Adore" entered regular rotation on Triple J in Australia and organically caught fire back in 2016. It reached #3 on the country's charts, received an ARIA platinum certification, peaked at #1 on Shazam and iTunes Australia, and amassed over 12 million Spotify streams and counting. However, this moment has been in the making for nearly her whole life...

"Music was always just an underground thing for me," she goes on. "For the longest time, I'd only show my songs to certain people."

Growing up in Gold Coast, Queensland—what she describes as a "real cruise-y skateboard beach town"—Shark became enamored with her parents' extensive record collection, listening to everything from The Police to Silverchair. By high school, she fell in love with a diverse array of influences, including Tegan & Sara, Dashboard Confessional, Death Cab for Cutie, Missy Elliott, and more, picking up a guitar at the age of 15.

Post-University, her "angry all-girl band broke up," and she focused on her day job as a video editor.

"It took me a while to really find my voice," Amy explains. "I started to put together everything that I love about music—fat beats, guitars, and other sounds. I never want to over-produce anything. It all needs to be quite minimal, because the lyrics need to be clearly heard. It has to be a great song acoustically before I'm confident enough to even go into production. Everything gets the campfire test first."

In 2016, after being turned down the year prior, she received a grant to work with producer M-Phazes [Eminem, Kimbra, Daniel Johns]. Together, they perfected "Adore" from Shark's initial bedroom demo.

“I was reminiscing about the best times in life,” she says. “I think that’s why people connected to it so deeply. Everyone has this moment where they realize they’re just starting to get feelings for another person. It’s the best. You want to spend every waking minute with them. They might even feel the same way. I tried to zone in on all of those little, fleeting moments. It’s easy to write a love song that uses general watered down shit; I tried to hone in on the details.”

Those kinds of details add a sense of wonder to *Night Thinker*. The follow-up single “Weekends” begins with a hummable guitar melody punctuated by admissions such as “*You ban me from sleeping pills and codeine...You switch from vodka, lime and soda and I hate every girl that’s ever known ya.*”

“If there was ever a sequel to ‘Adore,’ it would be ‘Weekends,’” she continues. “Everybody’s had those times growing up. You’ve got a really shitty part-time job, and you’re just getting by so you can hang with your friends. There might be one person in particular you’re hoping is going to be at the same place you’re headed that night. When I was a teenager, I must’ve been a bad employee, because all I did was stand around and talk,” she laughs. “Those were some amazing memories.”

From the hypnotic dreamscape of “Drive You Mad” to the longing of “Deleted,” *Night Thinker* soundtracks a myriad of emotions.

“I look really deeply into things,” Shark remarks. “That’s where the EP name came from. My brain doesn’t stop. I’ll put a magnifying glass on every moment. It’s just who I am. I don’t filter a lot.”

Personally directing and editing *Night Thinker*’s music videos, it’s no surprise Shark remains a movie buff. Her last name serves an homage to an all-time favorite *Jaws*, while she splits her time obsessing over Steven Spielberg and George Lucas classics as well as indie flicks. “Those are all big influences,” she smiles.

With a host of new music on the horizon and sold out shows in Australia and her North American live debut, Shark’s secret is out in 2017.

“I can’t believe where I’m at now,” she leaves off. “I hate using the word ‘lucky,’ because I’ve kept doing this and worked really fucking hard. I love creating songs listeners can feel. They might move when they hear the beat, but maybe they’ll take a step back and think. I’d love that.”