**LIL SKIES BIO 2021**

Family gives life meaning.

Lil Skies makes every move with his family in mind. His very moniker nods to his dad’s rap alias *“Dark Skies*,*”* and the two even teamed up on a mixtape, *Father-Son Talk*, way back in 2013. Before his career took off, he ducked out of college and cooked dope in the garage to support everyone. Minted as a rising star, Skies named his 2019 chart-topping debut, *Shelby*, after his mother. As a father himself now, the multiplatinum Waynesboro, PA rapper goes harder than ever in 2021 on his second full-length offering, *Unbothered* [All We Got Ent./Atlantic Records].

“I would die for my family,” he affirms. “I’ve got a big heart, and I wear it on my sleeve. I pretty much live to make others happy. I care about my loved ones so much. My son motivates me to keep going and making more songs, because I’ve got somebody else to take care of. It’s not just about me; it’s about my little boy. All of my albums are just phases. They represent my growth. *Unbothered* is where my life is at the moment.”

Skies tirelessly put in the work to get here. His 2017 breakthrough mixtape, Life of a Dark Rose, vaulted to #10 on the Billboard Top 200 and picked up a platinum plaque. On its heels, 2019's Shelby bowed at #5 and became RIAA-certified Gold. Racking up over 4 billion streams, he logged three double-platinum singles—“Red Roses” [feat. Landon Cube], “Nowadays” [feat. Landon Cube], and “Lust”—one platinum single with “I,” and four gold singles, namely “Creeping,” “Welcome to the Rodeo,” “I Know You” [feat. Yung Pinch], and “Cloudy Skies.” Not to mention, he sold out shows across North America and received praise from *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, *Complex*, *Noisey*, *Hypebeast*, and many more.

Holing up back in Pennsylvania during the Global Pandemic, he pieced together *Unbothered* throughout 2020. Beyond a handful of songs in Los Angeles, he recorded the bulk of the project at his boy Kamrin Houser’s crib in Waynesboro.

For the first time since junior high, Lil Skies freestyled most of the songs.

“When I made my first mixtape, it was all freestyle,” he says. “I hadn’t done that in so long. I spent so much time writing songs. A lot of these tracks were just off the top of my head. It was more challenging and rewarding for me.”

Paving the way for the album, he dropped “Havin My Way” [feat. Lil Durk], “OK,” “On Sight,” and “Riot, which impressively generated over 42.5 million Spotify streams in a few months’ time. The music reflected heightened storytelling in addition to catchy and combustible bars underpinned by charisma and emotion all at once.

“I’ve always got people telling me how to live my life and what to do,” he admits. “I can’t base my pain and what I go through on somebody else’s experience though. I need to live my own life. To me, *Unbothered* means, *‘Fuck the attention. I don’t care what anybody says. I’m going to make what I want to make*.*’* This time, there is more upbeat energy and storytelling. I’m telling it like it is. Don’t pay attention to the hate and the negative shit. Stay grounded and stay focused on what you’ve got going on. I feel like I'm getting more involved, and I'm letting my true past show. *Unbothered* is more about me and my life.”

It kicks off with the opener “Fade Away.” A lighter flicks as a glitchy beat cackles in the background. His melodic verses glide over the production before he announces, *“Growing up all I did was the music. I got a story to tell*.*”*

“It’s literally a letter to myself,” he says. “I have depression, so I’ll be down a lot. So, I’m telling myself, *‘You don’t have to prove anything to anybody. You already did it’*. I’m trying to hold it down. It’s a reminder that this is for me.”

He tears through “Take 5” with energetic delivery as a hummable hook *“tells the haters to sit down and take five, because y’all ain’t doing shit*.*”* On the other end of the spectrum, his rhymes lean into a skittering bounce during “Excite Me” [feat. Wiz Khalifa]. Continuing a string of fan favorite collaborations, he reunites with Wiz over smoked-out production courtesy of CashMoney AP [Lil Durk, Young Thug]. “Think Deep Don’t Sink,” “Locked Up,” and “Trust Nobody” address anxiety head-on with confessional rhymes.

“I wasn’t trying to hide how I’m living, what I’m going through, or how I feel because of the paranoia,” he sighs. “It pretty much made me. It’s hard for me to really trust anybody.”

“Mhmmm” closes out *Unbothered* with one last emotionally charged lyrical display above icy warbling transmissions.

“It’s about being a standup man,” he adds. “I’m not going to be out here living good, if my mom doesn’t have a house or my son isn’t taken care of. You need to be there for everybody who needs you. If you’re really there, you’ll never feel like you can do enough, because there’s always more help that will be needed. If you care and have a heart, you’ll take care of the people you love.”

In the end, Lil Skies delivers an important message to himself and listeners on *Unbothered*.

“When you hear the record, I hope you’re inspired to do what you want to do and not let hate tear you down,” he leaves off. “There’s a lot of bad stuff in the world. I’m telling the kids to stay grounded, and I’m telling myself to stay grounded and keep working too. Understand there are going to be some dark days and bad days, but you’ll come out stronger for sure. Keep chasing the dream.”