

Music

Good Charlotte

Joel spills on the new album, Hilary rumors and looking for love

Twist: How does *Chronicles of Life and Death* differ from your last album?

Joel: The new songs are very personal in a new way—they're about what we're going through and how we feel inside.

Twist: The lyrics are stronger now...

Joel: I can articulate how I feel better than I used to. I'm more fearless in putting myself out there, where I used to hide it a lot.

Twist: "Walk Away" is about running from problems. What inspired that?

Joel: I have a really hard time with love and relationships. I'm alone right now, and that is because of my fear. So it's about trying to face that fear. I'm not in a relationship, but I hope when that day comes, I can handle it better than I have in the past.

Twist: What would you tell someone in the same situation?

Joel: Take the time and be honest with yourself. Don't be scared to be loved or to love.

Twist: Some of the songs are more melodic. Were all the guys in the band behind that?

Joel: Yeah, everybody was like, "Let's try more things with this record." Billy played piano, Paul played cello, we had a choir come in. Benji was arranging



"I know that I'm living a lot of other people's dreams," Joel says. "I don't take it for granted."

5 MUST-HAVES ON THE GC TOUR BUS

Joel can't live without...

- his iPod
- his laptop
- his T-Mobile sidekick
- his cell phone
- the Aqua Teen Hunger Force DVD



PSST! Don't tell the guys on the Warped Tour: "I've got Usher's 'Yeah,'" he admits.

music for the orchestra and the choir...it was pretty cool.

Twist: Is it hard to see yourself in the tabloids?

Joel: You just can't pay attention to it. Most recently has been the whole Hilary thing, which is just...whatever. We're friends and people make a big deal out of that.

Twist: What are some of your favorite tracks?

Joel: A song called "I Just Want to Live," which is about how things get kind of hectic sometimes, with people always up in your business.

Q If you and Benji had to take on the Olsen twins in a fight, who'd win?

A Oh, come on! We would destroy them! Just kidding. You know, we'd probably let them win. Maybe after they beat us up, they'd decide to take us out to dinner or something. A little double date.

Twist: Who keeps you grounded?

Joel: My friends are always really honest. We can say anything to each other. The guys in the band are my best friends.

Good Charlotte's The Chronicles of Life and Death is out October 5. They're kicking off a headlining tour this fall.

GOOD CHARLOTTE: COURTESY OF GRIFF ACTION; WASE; ANTHONY CUTAJAR/VEE