# Joy Crookes reveals battles with racism and self-doubt amid rising success



Joy Crookes, the British singer-songwriter, recently opened up about her ongoing struggles with self-doubt and her harrowing experiences with racism in an interview and photoshoot for Glamour UK. At just 26, she has already made a significant impact on the music scene, particularly following the acclaim of her debut album, "Skin," which emerged in 2021 to widespread praise. However, despite her impressive monthly listener count of 2.5 million on Spotify, Joy candidly reflects on pervasive insecurities that many artists face.

In her conversation with Glamour, Crookes expressed a feeling of inadequacy, remarking, "I sometimes worry I’m not interesting enough for this industry." This sentiment adds a layer of complexity to her narrative as she compares her experience to that of legends like Lauryn Hill, whose treatment in the industry has been widely scrutinised. Joy's worries are emblematic of broader issues faced by women in the music industry, particularly women of colour, who often feel they need to navigate a landscape that can be unforgivingly biased.

Crookes' journey reflects more than just an artist battling anxiety; it's a testament to resilience forged through adversity. She recalls her difficult time working in hospitality, where she experienced racism first-hand. "That was one of the most racist experiences of my life," she noted, describing how patrons reacted with disdain towards her, even while she served them. Such experiences not only shaped her as a person but also fuelled her artistic expression, influencing the themes of identity and cultural representation in her work.

Born in Lambeth, South London, to a Bangladeshi mother and an Irish father, Joy's mixed heritage resonates deeply throughout her music. Her debut album "Skin" was celebrated for its soulful exploration of relationships and the cultural dynamics of her upbringing. This nuanced perspective has garnered critical acclaim and has made her one of the prominent voices for underrepresented communities in the music industry. In a statement about her creative process, Joy has previously emphasised the importance of authenticity, stating that her art is not merely about music, but also about providing representation and speaking to the challenges faced by marginalized groups.

On the horizon, Joy has announced her upcoming album, "Juniper," set for release on September 26. This highly anticipated follow-up promises to build on the successful foundation laid by "Skin," showcasing her evolution as an artist. In a recent update, she mentioned that the album will feature tracks such as "Pass The Salt" with Vince Staples and "Mathematics" with Kano, among others. The accompanying UK and European tour, which kicks off in November, further demonstrates her commitment to connecting with her audience as she continues to champion the importance of accessibility in music for minority artists.

Glamour UK's latest issue, featuring Joy alongside fellow artists Darkoo and CMAT, marks a celebration of female talent, a vision championed by the magazine’s new Head of Editorial Content, Kemi Alemoru. In her inaugural editor's letter, Alemoru expressed a commitment to amplifying a diverse range of voices that reflect the experiences of modern women. This focus aligns with Joy's mission to champion representation and authenticity in her craft.

As she navigates the complexities of the industry, Joy Crookes stands as a powerful example of resilience and artistic integrity, using her platform to address not only personal struggles but also the broader issues of racism and representation in the music world. Her journey underscores the need for ongoing conversations about diversity and equity in creative spaces, as she continues to inspire a new generation of artists.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14742917/Joy-Crookes-doubt-racism-Glamour-UK.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/joy-crookes-interview-2022)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14742917/Joy-Crookes-doubt-racism-Glamour-UK.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.vogue.com/article/joy-crookes-skin-interview), [[5]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/music/artists/diaries-boring-joy-crookes-making-pop-sex-london-buses-love/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.clashmusic.com/features/performing-my-identity-joy-crookes-interviewed/), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-61634346)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14742917/Joy-Crookes-doubt-racism-Glamour-UK.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.npr.org/2021/10/17/1046850276/joy-crookes-first-album-embraces-power-heartbreak-and-racial-justice)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/joy-crookes-interview-2022), [[3]](https://www.vogue.com/article/joy-crookes-skin-interview)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14742917/Joy-Crookes-doubt-racism-Glamour-UK.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/joy-crookes-interview-2022> - In this interview with Glamour UK, Joy Crookes discusses her music, community, and authenticity. She reflects on her rise in the music industry, her debut album 'Skin', and the importance of staying true to oneself. Crookes emphasizes the significance of representation and the influence of her mixed heritage on her artistry. She also shares insights into her creative process and the challenges of navigating the music industry as a woman of color.
3. <https://www.vogue.com/article/joy-crookes-skin-interview> - Vogue's interview with Joy Crookes delves into her debut album 'Skin', exploring themes of identity, gentrification, and cultural representation. Crookes discusses her upbringing in South London, the impact of her Bangladeshi-Irish heritage on her music, and the challenges of being a woman of color in the music industry. She also reflects on the significance of her music videos and the messages they convey about cultural identity and social issues.
4. <https://www.clashmusic.com/features/performing-my-identity-joy-crookes-interviewed/> - Clash Magazine's interview with Joy Crookes focuses on her debut album and the exploration of her identity through music. Crookes discusses the influences of her Bangladeshi and Irish heritage, the importance of authenticity in her work, and the challenges of being a woman of color in the music industry. She also shares insights into her creative process and the themes of power, heartbreak, and racial justice present in her music.
5. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/music/artists/diaries-boring-joy-crookes-making-pop-sex-london-buses-love/> - In this interview with The Telegraph, Joy Crookes discusses her approach to music, the influence of her cultural background, and the importance of authenticity in her work. She reflects on her experiences with racism, the impact of her mixed heritage on her artistry, and the significance of representation in the music industry. Crookes also shares insights into her creative process and the themes of identity and social issues explored in her music.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/newsbeat-61634346> - BBC Newsbeat features Joy Crookes discussing the importance of providing platforms for artists from minority groups. She emphasizes the need for accessibility in the music industry, especially for individuals from backgrounds where entering the field is challenging. Crookes shares her personal journey, highlighting the lack of entertainment industry connections in her family and the significance of representation for minority communities in creative industries.
7. <https://www.npr.org/2021/10/17/1046850276/joy-crookes-first-album-embraces-power-heartbreak-and-racial-justice> - NPR's interview with Joy Crookes explores her debut album 'Skin', focusing on themes of power, heartbreak, and racial justice. Crookes discusses the inspiration behind her music, the challenges of being a woman of color in the music industry, and the importance of addressing social issues through art. She reflects on her upbringing in South London, the influence of her Bangladeshi-Irish heritage, and the significance of authenticity in her work.