

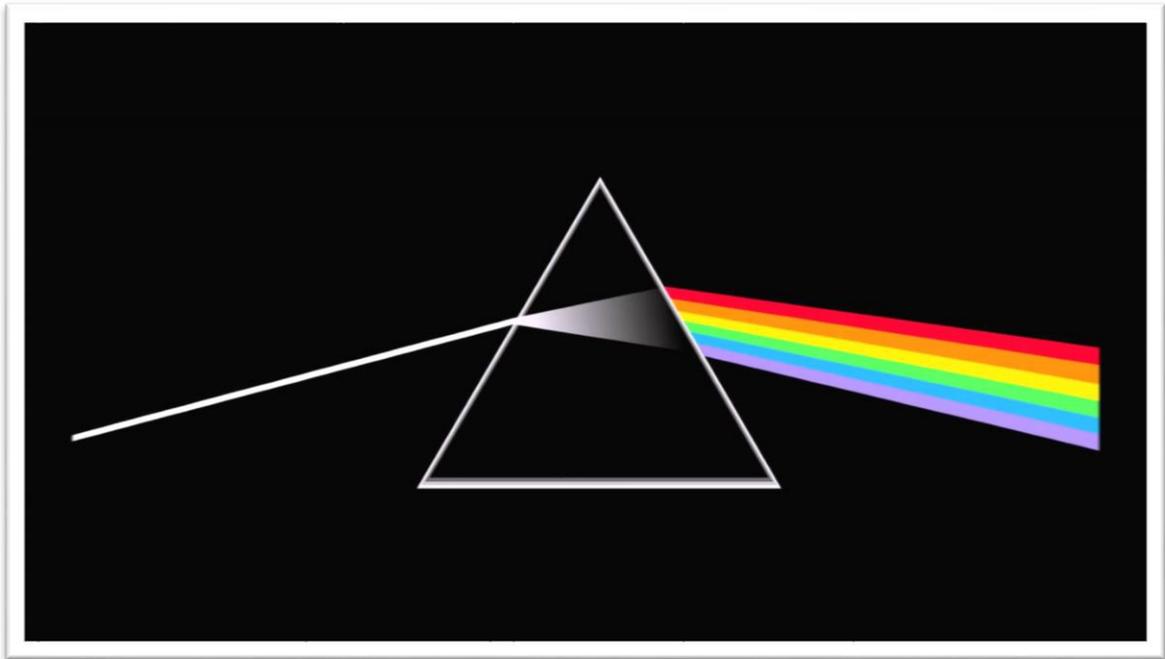
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The Dark Side of the Celebrity's Life



1. Artists who have gone bankrupt:

- **50 Cent:** On July 2015 the rapper filed for bankruptcy after being ordered to pay \$5 million to a woman who said he posted her sex tape online without permission.

- **Lady Gaga:** she was bankrupt during her 2009 Monster Ball tour. Gaga had \$3 million dollars in the bank and she used it all in to make her stage, so she was bankrupt during the show.

- **Shane Filan:** he was declared bankrupt in 2012 after losing a wallet-busting 18 million due to bad property investments.

- **Michael Jackson:** despite the fact that he was the most successful entertainer in the history of pop culture, Jackson spent money like there was no tomorrow. Jackson had to take out an enormous loan to keep Neverland Ranch operating, but could no longer afford to keep up on payments. The huge debts left his children with almost nothing after Jackson passed away.

- **Lindsay Lohan:** after starring in the smash hit “Mean Girls”, Lindsay’s career derailed. She developed a drug and partying habit that seemed like it would never end and her life became a circus. After not being able to land a notable acting gig for quite some time, Lohan went bankrupt in 2012.

- **Marvin Gaye:** after racking up nearly 70 hit songs in the Top 40 Charts, Gaye became a millionaire. That money would be short lived, though, as Marvin went broke due to spending way too much money. After declaring bankruptcy, Gaye was out of money and could never find his way back to financial comfortability.

- **Toni Braxton:** the singer has filed for bankruptcy twice, in 1998 due to low royalties from her record label, and 2010 because she canceled her Vegas show after learning she was ill. She had bankruptcy filings in 2010 and the other in 2013, with a \$50 million in debt.

- **MC Hammer:** he burned through millions in the wake of the success of “U Can’t Touch This”. It wasn’t enough to fund MC Hammer’s rumored 90-person entourage, \$20m mansion and tax payments. In 1996, he owed more than \$13m, while owning about \$9m in assets.

- **Cindy Lauper:** in the early 80s’ after her first group flopped.

- **Tom Petty:** when his record label was acquired by another company, Tom refused to be traded and declared bankruptcy in 1979 to try to nullify his previous contract.

- **Marvin Gaye:** the singer filed for bankruptcy in 1978 after an expensive divorce from his first wife.

- **Mick Fleetwood:** the drummer declared bankruptcy in 1984, counting assets of \$2,404,430 and debts of \$3,697,163.

- **Wayne Newton:** the singer filed for bankruptcy with debts of \$20 million in 1992.
- **Lauryn Hill:** she plead guilty to tax evasion in 2012, and was close to being evicted from her home. She served almost 30 days in prison.

- **Nas:** he had his earnings garnished in 2009 to pay over \$6 million back in taxes. He also claimed that his ex-requested over \$300,000 for child support, and that if he had to pay, it would completely bankrupt him.

- **Lil' Kim:** Lil' faced bankruptcy after being sued by her former label for \$2.5 million in 2008. In 2012, she reportedly owed the government \$1 million back in taxes.

- **Common:** in 2012, he faced foreclosure on his Chicago condo.

- **Xzibit:** he attempted to file for bankruptcy in 2009 and 2010.

- **Trick Daddy:** his home was reportedly foreclosed in 2010. He also allegedly owed over \$150,000 in back taxes around that time.

- **Aaron Carter:** he filed for bankruptcy in 2013. At the time, he owed over \$3.5 million in taxes for the money he made early on in his career.

- **Suzanne Shaw:** the former Hear'Say singer admits that at the height of her money troubles, she was 200,000 in debt.

- **Duncan James:** The Blue star filed for bankruptcy on September 2013 after the band's company Blueworld went into administration in May.

- **Wayne Newton:** at one point in the 1980's, Newton was the highest paid entertainer in the world. Despite earnings this honor, he went bankrupt nearly a decade later in 1992. Newton had \$20 million in debt.

- **Meat Loaf:** during the 1980's, Meat Loaf got some help from his pal Jim Steinman for writing his songs. Steinman filed a lawsuit against Meat Loaf for not getting enough royalties on the songs, which caused Meat Loaf to go broke.

- **Courtney Love:** Love got a big stake in the Nirvana catalog of songs. After Cobain's death, Love ended up spending way too much money and developed a big drug habit that sent her into bankruptcy. As a result, Love had to sell her house and give up a piece of her stake in Nirvana's song catalog.

- **Leif Garrett:** in 2001, Garrett was forced to file for bankruptcy because he didn't have enough money in his account. It was discovered that he only had \$350 to his name and couldn't find work.

- **George Clinton:** a convoluted series of legal disputes revealed the funk legend was earning relatively little money from royalties paid in connection to his music. He ended up in bankrupt during 1985.

- **Andy Gibb:** the pop singer (the younger brother of the Bee Gees) also declared himself bankrupt with a Chapter 7 filing, months before he died, aged 30, in 1987.

2. A list of artists who have had tax issues that were publicized

- **Method Man:** he plead guilty to tax evasion in 2010. He reportedly paid over \$100,000 in fines.

- **Beanie Sigel:** was found guilty of tax evasion in 2010, filing to report over \$1 million in earnings.

- **Richard "Fazer" Rawson:** in 2013 Richard was declared bankrupt after failing to pay back debts to the taxman.

- **Miquita Oliver:** Miquita owed 174,514.47 in taxes.

- **MC Hammer (Stanley Kirk Burrell):** SKB forgot to pay his taxes for a few

years back in the late nineties and had to declare himself bankrupt. He owed 8.8 million.

- **Willie Nelson:** for a three-year span between 1990 and 1993, Nelson was in deep trouble financially. The notorious pot smoking country star owed \$16 million to the IRS and went completely bankrupt.
- **Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne:** after the reality stars racked up a \$1.7 million tax bill in 2011, the couple originally pinned the blame on their accountant. Sharon then took full blame for the family's financial troubles.
- **Lionel Richie:** even one of the top-selling recording artists of all time with more than 25 gold and platinum records to his name can't escape the taxman. In 2012, the IRS filed a tax lien of \$1.1 million against the superstar for failing to pay income taxes.
- **Ja Rule,** the rapper, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, pleaded guilty in 2011 to charges of failing to file tax returns for two years. He was sentenced to 28 months in prison for attempted illegal gun possession and tax evasion and agreed repay \$1.1 million in unpaid taxes.
- **Lauryn Hill:** after pleading guilty to tax evasion charges in June 2012, the eight time Grammy-winning singer served 3 months in prison. Lauryn had failed to pay income taxes on about \$1.8 million in earnings over a decade.
- **Marc Anthony:** within the span of 3 months in 2010, the singer was slammed with bills of \$1.8 and \$1.6 million for unpaid taxes on his Long Island property. But this wasn't the first time he tried to evade the IRS. In 2007, he was hit with \$2.5 million in back taxes, interest and penalties for his failure to file income taxes for the years between 2000 and 2004.
- **Kelly Osbourne:** the State of California filed a tax lien against her for \$34,000 in back taxes in 2011.
- **R. Kelly:** the IRS filed documents in 2012 that claimed the R&B singer owed

the taxman almost \$5 million in unpaid taxes dating back nearly eight years. Kelly also took another huge financial hit in 2013 when his Chicago home was auctioned off for less than a million dollars after he failed to pay his \$3.5 million mortgage.

3. Artist that have been known to have been "screwed" by the record labels, promoters...

- **Kesha:** during the 2014, the singer filed a lawsuit seeking to end her recording and music publishing contracts with Dr.Luke, one of the industry's most successful producers. She claimed that throughout the partnership, Dr. Luke had "sexually, physically, verbally, and emotionally abused" her. In the two years since her initial civil filing, most of Kesha's claims have been rejected by the court or withdrawn. She expressed the desire to get back to work, though her situation remains precarious as she tries to regain a professional foothold after years without new music.
- **Tom Petty:** filed in 1979 in a bid to wriggle out of a restrictive record label contract.
- **Toni Braxton:** the 1996 weepy single "Unbreak My Heart" went platinum in the UK, US and four other countries, but when she first went bankrupt in 1998, she said that she'd earned only \$1,972 in royalties for more than \$170m in album sales. She had signed a contract with LA Reid's LaFace records that bound her to pay her label back for expenses – video shoots, clothes, travel and 1,000-thread count sheets.
- **TLC:** in 1996, TLC had settled a year-long dispute with LaFace and management firm Pebbitone. A low-paying royalties agreement made it possible for the band to be topping charts in the US while making just thousands of dollars from millions of albums sold. At the time, LaFace and its mother label Artista responded with statements that classed TLC's contract as a "fair, industry-standard agreement". Via their deal with LaFace Records, they were only to receive 7% in revenue from their album sales and, after paying managers, producers, expenses, and taxes, they were only taking

home about \$35,000 but had embossed debts closer to \$3.5 million.

- **Sam & Dave:** they are remembered as stars from the legendary Memphis-based Stax Records, but they were actually never signed to Stax. Jerry Wexler of Atlantic Records “loaned” the duo to the hit-making label, unbeknownst to both Stax and the duo themselves. Once they became a chart-topping act, Atlantic snatched them back and revealed that they still owned all the rights to their music. The legal wrangling permanently disrupted Sam & Dave’s run of hits and began the slow disintegration of Stax.
- **John Fogerty:** at the early 80s John wanted to pursue a solo career and to get out of his Creedence contract, he had to sign over the rights to their music to Fantasy Records. After he released his solo album, he was sued by Fantasy Records because a single from the album sounded too much like an old Creedence single. He was accused of plagiarizing himself.
- **Frankie Lymon & the Teenagers:** they were swindled out of songwriting royalties. Their music manager, Morris Levy, issued the single with himself listed as songwriter, reaping the benefits for decades after the song became a doo-wop classic.
- **New Edition:** after their first major tour, they were shocked to discover “paychecks” that only amounted to \$1.87. they sued to get out of their contract and succeeded; and moved to a major label, MCA. Only they weren’t actually signed to MCA, they were signed to a production company that signed a deal with MCA. To free themselves from the production company, they had to borrow money from MCA and buy their way out of that contract.
- **The Beach Boys:** the band was managed by Murry Wilson, father of 3 members. Murry had a tense relationship with his sons, and by the late 60s the band was looking to replace him as their manager. Murry sold the publishing rights to their catalog behind their backs for \$750,000. The catalog would later be worth an estimated \$40 million.
- **The Rolling Stones:** the band had a publishing company called Nanker

Phelge, and their manager, Allen Klein, started a company called “Nanker Phelge USA”, and conned the Stones into believing they were the same company, when in reality, he was the sole owner of the latter. They unknowingly signed over the rights to their catalog to his company and Klein would own the rights to everything they released before 1971.

- **The Jackson 5:** Berry Gordy’s was the producer from Motown machine. By 1973, the tensions were heightened by the fact that Gordy refused to update their image, give them creative control or a take in the publishing rights to their catalog. Additionally, they were only receiving a 2.8% royalty rate. When they left Motown they lost the rights to the name “Jackson 5” and the “J5” trademark.
- **Prince:** he spent much of 1993 entangled in a massive legal battle with Warner Brothers over his musical output, largely because Prince refused to release albums in accordance with the label’s promotion cycle. While his legal team battled for control of his master tapes and image, Prince did things his own way, first by deciding to only appear in public with the word SLAVE written on his face, then by famously changing his name to “the symbol of Love” or possibly “the symbol of Venusian Seahorse Trumpet” (supposedly this was to prevent Warner from cashing in on the Prince name and image) and finally by swearing to fill out the rest of his contract with a series of “best of” albums full of back-catalog songs.
- **Van Morrison:** during his initial recording sessions with Bang Records, Van believed that he was going to have his eight songs released as four singles, and was surprised and annoyed to find that what he had written and performed as stand-alone pieces were now squished together on one album with legendarily horrible psychedelic cover art and the doofy name Blowin’ Your Mind! This was just the beginning of a business relationship between Morrison and Bang Records that could be charitably described as “problematic.” Complications of the deal largely prevented Van Morrison from doing live performances during his stay in America, a situation that was both artistically frustrating and financially painful for the young singer. Morrison eventually started recording with Warner Brothers, who liked him

enough to buy him out of his Bang contract and sever his ties with the obnoxious Berns forever... except he was still required to cut them one more album. Enormously pissed off, Morrison traveled to an NYC studio to cut a half-hour-long, 31-track album of completely improvised nonsense songs. Bang sat on the recordings until a mid-nineties compilation of early NYC-based Van Morrison demos and curiosities, when it released the entire collection (popularly known as "The Contractual Obligation Album" or simply "Revenge") as a CD.

4. List of artists who have had some kind of nervous breakdown, had to cancel tours cause of getting sick or any other health issues related to exhaustion

- **Adele:** She was at the beginning of what could be a fantastic career, until her voice just "went" while she was singing live on French radio on November 2012. "Like someone put a curtain over my throat...and I could feel it. It felt like something popped in my throat," says Adele. She found out she had a polyp on her vocal cord that had hemorrhaged. "I had laser surgery. [They] put lasers down your throat, cut off the polyp, and kind of laser your hemorrhage back together and fix it," says the singer. She realizes now her voice has its limits and she could re-injure her vocal cords again through overuse. "If I decide to go on a 200-date world tour, it would happen again," Adele says.
- **Sam Smith:** on early July 2015 Sam Smith announced that he will undergo vocal surgery that will render him unable to sing for 6-8 weeks. It was some days after he canceled his Australian tour dates on account of a vocal hemorrhage, for which his doctors prescribed complete vocal rest in hopes of an expedited recovery. He also canceled shows in Japan, Philippines, France, and Monaco.
- **Lily Allen:** on April 2007 the artist scrapped part of her North American tour, citing tiredness as the cause. "I have been on tour with this album for a year now, and I have fulfilled every commitment up to this point. I am tired, but more than that I don't think I have been giving my best performances recently."

5. Artists with drug addictions, overdose deaths, suicides...

- **Amy Winehouse:** Winehouse died of alcohol poisoning on 23 July 2011, aged 27. By 2008, her continued drug problems threatened her career. Post-Grammys, some questioned whether Winehouse should have been honoured with the awards given her recent personal and drug problems. the alleged drug habits of Winehouse and other celebrities sent a bad message "to others who are vulnerable to addiction" and undermine the efforts of other celebrities trying to raise awareness of problems in Africa, now that more cocaine used in Europe passes through that continent.
- **Michael Jackson:** Jackson was said to have used propofol, as well as alprazolam (an antianxiety agent), and sertraline (an antidepressant).^[38] Other drugs named in connection with him included omeprazole, hydrocodone, paroxetine, carisoprodol, and hydromorphone.^[39] After his death, police found several drugs in his home, which included propofol.
- **Prince:** After weeks of speculation, law enforcement officials confirmed that Prince died of an opioid overdose, according to the *Associated Press*. In a report released by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office, the singer died of an accidental Fentanyl overdose.
- **Marvin Gaye:** filed for bankruptcy after the costs of his cocaine habit and mounting alimony payments had dwarfed his profits.
- **David Crosby:** he was arrested on drugs and weapon possession charges in 1983, before filing for bankruptcy in 1985.
- **Kurt Cobain:** On Friday, April 8, 1994, Kurt Cobain was discovered in the living quarters above his garage at his Lake Washington house. Advocates of the verdict of death by self-inflicted gunshot wound cite Cobain's persistent drug addiction, clinical depression, and handwritten suicide note as conclusive proof. Members of Cobain's family also noted patterns of depression and instability in Cobain before he achieved fame.

- **Whitney Houston:** the Singer Whitney Houston drowned in a hotel bathtub after taking cocaine in February 2012. Four years later, her daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown died from a combination of alcohol, drugs and drowning.

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