

# New Kids on the Block Hangin' Tough 33: The Ultimate Tribute to a Classic Album



## New Kids on the Block's Hangin' Tough (33 1/3)

by ROBERTO GALLI

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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In the annals of pop music history, few albums have captured the hearts and imaginations of teenagers like New Kids on the Block's "Hangin' Tough." Released on September 12, 1988, the album propelled NKOTB to superstardom, solidifying their place as one of the most successful boy bands of all time.

Thirty-three years later, "Hangin' Tough" remains an enduring classic, its infectious melodies and relatable lyrics continuing to resonate with fans across generations. To commemorate this remarkable milestone, this article delves into the album's creation, impact, and legacy, paying homage to its timeless appeal.

## **The Genesis of a Masterpiece**

The seeds of "Hangin' Tough" were sown in the late 1980s, when New Kids on the Block, consisting of brothers Jordan and Jonathan Knight, Joey McIntyre, Donnie Wahlberg, and Danny Wood, were struggling to break into the mainstream music scene. After releasing their debut album in 1986,

the group longed for a breakthrough that would catapult them to greater heights.

Enter Maurice Starr, a seasoned music producer known for his work with New Edition. Recognizing the potential in NKOTB, Starr took the band under his wing and began crafting an album that would showcase their youthful energy and infectious harmonies. The result was "Hangin' Tough," a polished and sophisticated production that perfectly captured the essence of the group.

### **An Explosive Breakthrough**

Upon its release, "Hangin' Tough" exploded onto the music charts, becoming an instant sensation. The lead single, "Hangin' Tough," became the group's signature anthem, reaching the top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 and establishing NKOTB as a global phenomenon.

The album's other singles, including "I'll Be Loving You (Forever)" and "Cover Girl," further solidified the group's dominance in the pop music landscape. "Hangin' Tough" sold millions of copies worldwide, earning multiple platinum certifications and propelling New Kids on the Block to the forefront of popular culture.

### **The Power of Storytelling**

Beyond its musical brilliance, "Hangin' Tough" was also notable for its relatable and emotionally resonant lyrics. Songs like "If You Go Away" and "Baby, I Believe in You" explored themes of love, loss, and teenage angst, capturing the hearts of countless young listeners.

The group's members, with their charming personalities and wholesome image, became role models for a generation of teenagers. Their music provided a soundtrack for the highs and lows of adolescence, offering comfort, inspiration, and a sense of belonging.

## **A Cultural Phenomenon**

The success of "Hangin' Tough" transcended the music industry. The album spawned a hit television show, "The New Kids on the Block," and a series of blockbuster concerts that drew record-breaking crowds. NKOTB merchandise, from T-shirts to dolls, became ubiquitous, further cementing the group's status as cultural icons.

The group's popularity extended beyond their native United States, captivating fans across Europe, Asia, and South America. "Hangin' Tough" became an international sensation, proving that pop music had the power to unite people of all ages and backgrounds.

## **An Enduring Classic**

Thirty-three years after its release, "Hangin' Tough" remains a beloved album that continues to inspire and entertain. The songs have been covered by countless artists, and the album's influence can be heard in the music of numerous contemporary pop acts.

New Kids on the Block have reunited several times over the years, releasing new music and embarking on sold-out tours. Their legacy as one of the most successful boy bands of all time remains secure, and "Hangin' Tough" stands as a timeless testament to their enduring appeal.

"Hangin' Tough" by New Kids on the Block is not just an album—it's a cultural touchstone that has shaped the lives of generations of music lovers. Its infectious melodies, relatable lyrics, and enduring popularity have left an indelible mark on the world of pop music.

As we celebrate the 33rd anniversary of this iconic album, let us appreciate its timeless appeal and the profound impact it has had on music and popular culture. "Hangin' Tough" is a testament to the power of music to unite, inspire, and create lasting memories.



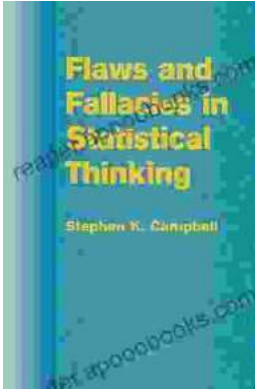
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