

= Sweet Sacrifice =

" Sweet Sacrifice " is a song by American rock band Evanescence . It was released on May 25 , 2007 , as the third single from their second studio album , The Open Door . It was written by Amy Lee and Terry Balsamo while the production was handled by Dave Fortman . " All That I 'm Living For " was initially planned to be the third single , as announced at live concerts and online . However , due to requests from the band and fan reaction , Wind @-@ up reconsidered its release and announced that " Sweet Sacrifice " would be the band 's third single from The Open Door . Evanescence 's lead singer Amy Lee wrote the song about the abusive relationship that inspired all of the songs on the group 's debut record Fallen ( 2003 ) .

" Sweet Sacrifice " is a rock song written in a moderate tempo . Several critics found a metaphor to Evanescence 's former guitarist Ben Moody in the song . Upon its release , " Sweet Sacrifice " received mostly positive reviews by critics ; many deemed the song as a highlight on the album and praised Lee 's vocals , which some described as " haunting " . Although the song failed to chart as highly as the band 's previous singles , it appeared on the charts in Turkey and Germany , as well as the Billboard Hot Mainstream Rock Tracks chart . " Sweet Sacrifice " was nominated in the category for Best Hard Rock Performance at the 50th Grammy Awards . A music video for the song , directed by Paul R. Brown , was filmed in California between March 9 and March 10 , 2007 ; It contained mostly live performances . " Sweet Sacrifice " was also added on the set @-@ list on Evanescence 's The Open Door Tour .

= = Background and release = =

" Sweet Sacrifice " was written by Amy Lee and Terry Balsamo while the production was handled by Dave Fortman . It was recorded in Record Plant Studios , Los Angeles , mixed by Dave Fortman at Ocean Way Studios , Los Angeles and mastered by Ted Jensen at Sterling Sound , New York . The programming was done by DJ Lethal . Talking about The Open Door , Lee said that lot of people expected the new songs on the album to be similar with " My Immortal " ( 2003 ) before adding that " ' Weight of the World ' , ' Sweet Sacrifice ' and ' All That I 'm Living For ' are so amazing to me because of the adrenaline . Especially when we play them live . " She further revealed the inspiration behind the song ,

It 's the one song on The Open Door that 's about the same abusive relationship which was the source of all the songs on Fallen . It was appropriate to put this song at the beginning , but it comes from a much stronger standpoint than Fallen . It 's not saying , " I 'm trapped in fear and somebody save me . " It 's saying , " Fear is only in our minds ... I 'm not afraid anymore . "

The band announced at live concerts and online that their upcoming third single from The Open Door would be " All That I 'm Living For , " however , due to requests from the band and fan reaction , Wind @-@ up announced that " Sweet Sacrifice " would be the band 's third single from The Open Door . The original single was released in Germany on May 25 , 2007 , featuring a basic and premium version . Elsewhere , it was scheduled for a release on May 8 , 2007 through Amazon.com but it was later canceled .

= = Composition = =

According to the sheet music published on the website Musicnotes.com by Alfred Music Publishing , " Sweet Sacrifice " is an alternative metal and gothic metal song , set in common time and performed in moderate tempo of 96 beats per minute . It is written in the key of F # minor and Lee 's vocals for the song range from the musical note of A # 3 to G5 . According to IGN 's Ed Thompson , Lee sings the lines " It 's true we 're all a little insane / But it 's so clear now that I 'm unchained " , with her " haunting vocals " . Some critics found dark lyrics like " I dream in darkness , I sleep to die , erase the silence , erase my life , our burning ashes darken the day , a world of nothingness , blow me away " accompanied with " rumbling guitars " and a string section . A writer for the website Sputnikmusic found similarities between the songs on Fallen and " Sweet Sacrifice " . The main

theme for the song is getting over from an abusive relationship . Jordan Reimer of The Daily Princetonian concluded that Lee sings the lines " You know you live to break me " and " Are you still too weak to survive your mistakes ? " to Evanescence 's past guitarist Ben Moody . That was somehow echoed by Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone who said that the lyrics " One day I 'm gonna forget your name / And one sweet day , you 're gonna drown in my lost pain " are aimed at Moody .

= = Critical reception = =

Bill Lamb of the website About.com , put the song on his list of Top Tracks on The Open Door alongside " Lacrymosa " , " Call Me When You 're Sober " , " Your Star " and " Good Enough " . In his review of The Open Door , Ed Thompson of IGN , highlighted the song as the " best track " on the album and put it on his list " Definitely Download " . The Washington Post 's Richard Harrington wrote that " There 's no shortage of soaring , dynamic rockers on ' The Open Door , ' including ' Sweet Sacrifice , ' " among others . Brendan Butler of Cinema Blend concluded that " Call Me When You 're Sober and " Sweet Sacrifice " were the only " radio @-@ friendly " songs on the album before adding that " those are the only songs that don 't excruciatingly wane after a minute . "

Sara Berry of St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch wrote " the CD 's opening track , ' Sweet Sacrifice , ' features disquieting lines like ' I dream in darkness / I sleep to die / Erase the silence / Erase my life . ' The lyrics are par for the course on this lineup of overwhelmingly melancholy compositions . Still , it 's well @-@ executed music , and it 's an ideal soundtrack for life 's moodier moments . " Jon Dolan of the magazine Entertainment Weekly found the song to be a " bruising breakup lament that turns into an anthem of freedom . " Giving the song a negative review , Alex Nun of musicOMH wrote that " Sweet Sacrifice " was " a turgid attempt to recapture past glories , the heard @-@ before riffs and shockingly average vocals act as a slap from the proverbial wet fish . " The song was nominated for Best Hard Rock Performance at the 50th Grammy Awards .

= = Promotion = =

= = = Music video = = =

A music video directed by Paul R. Brown was filmed in Burbank , California between March 9 and March 10 , 2007 . The music video leaked onto the Internet on April 4 , 2007 , after briefly being available for digital download on iTunes Store . It initially premiered on Yahoo ! Music on April 5 . The video was compared with the psychological thriller film directed by Tarsem Singh , The Cell ( 2000 ) . Lee said that the main inspiration is " like we 're in the walls of our minds , sort of " . During an interview with MTV News , she further revealed the concept of the video , " It 's mostly live performance . It 's not so much fluff and flying and tricks and wolves and stuff . It 's more really just about the song , and that is unique for us . We usually do crazy stuff . It 's gonna be sort of like a video within the video . Since the song is our heaviest single , we really wanted to focus on mostly performance but still have something about it that 's really unique . And I think [ Paul ] really hit the nail on the head . " The video starts with Lee laying on a couch and as the song progresses , she starts singing the lyrics " It 's true , we 're all a little insane , but it 's so clear now that I am unchained " while getting up from it . She wears a red dress and red make @-@ up on her face . Later another scenes , show her singing in a room similar to The Cell , while the band is performing in another room .

= = = Live performances and usage in media = = =

" Sweet Sacrifice " was part of the set list during the band 's second worldwide The Open Door Tour ( 2006 ) . Some of the performances included those in The Great Saltair in Saltair , Utah on October 25 , 2006 , and on April 4 , 2007 in Dunkin ' Donuts Center in Providence , Rhode Island . It was later played live at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in Sydney , Australia on March 29 , 2012 . The

song is used in the direct @-@ to @-@ video film Smokin ' Aces 2 : Assassins ' Ball .

= = Track listing = =

There are two versions of the single that have been released , they have different photos by Amy V. Cooper .

Basic Maxi CD ( Part 1 )

" Sweet Sacrifice " ( Album version ) - 3 : 05

" Weight of the World " ( Live from Tokyo ) - 3 : 44

Premium Maxi CD ( Part 2 )

" Sweet Sacrifice " ( Album version ) - 3 : 05

" Weight of the World " ( Live from Tokyo ) - 3 : 44

" Sweet Sacrifice " ( Radio mix ) - 3 : 03

Interview with Amy Lee and John LeCompt \* - 5 : 07

Note

( \* ) The interview was filmed for AOL Music at SonyBMG Studios in New York on August 3 , 2006 . It touches on the creative process of recording The Open Door as well as Lee and LeCompt 's musical opinions .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for " Sweet Sacrifice " are taken from The Open Door liner notes .

= = Chart performance = =

On the German Singles Chart , " Sweet Sacrifice " peaked at number 75 , where it stayed one week . However , the song fell out of the chart on July 8 , 2007 , spending a total of 4 weeks on the chart . It also peaked at number 11 on the Turkish Singles Chart , and number 24 on Billboard 's Hot Mainstream Rock Tracks .

= = Release history = =