

= Swim Good =

" Swim Good " is a song by American recording artist Frank Ocean , released as the second single from his mixtape Nostalgia , Ultra (2011) . The song was written by Nick Cobey & Ocean and produced by Midi Mafia . It features additional vocals by fellow Odd Future member Tyler , The Creator . The song explores the topic of romantic baggage , guilt and utilizes several metaphors . Lyrically , the song expresses a narrative about a man who , burdened with many failed relationships , ends his life by driving into the ocean . The track explores tropes of the tragic love story and suicide . The song received positive reviews from music critics , who praised Ocean 's vocals and the song 's dark subject matter .

When Nostalgia , Ultra was expected to be released as an EP by Def Jam , " Swim Good " was released as the second single , though the EP release was later cancelled . The song peaked at number 70 on the US Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . The song received a music video directed by Australian director Nabil Elderkin . The anime @-@ inspired music video features Ocean driving down remote roads in a Samurai costume and eventually setting his car on fire . Ocean performed the track during his seven show tour through North America and Europe in November 2011 and other notable concerts such as Coachella . On July 31 , 2012 , the music video was nominated for three MTV Video Music Awards .

= = Background = =

" Swim Good " was written by Frank Ocean , Wayne Nugent and Kevin Risto of the duo Midi Mafia , who also produced the track . The song appears on his debut mixtape Nostalgia , Ultra , which was released on February 18 , 2011 . When asked by The Quietus about his own interpretation of the character in the song it was noted that Ocean " politely withdrew , saying he 'd enjoy that discussion but he doesn 't want to spoil his audience 's experience of his songs " . He further commented " but you have fun with the imagery , and for me the whole concept that everything has to be ... Like , nobody gets upset with a director when a director 's film isn 't about his life . People think that with a recording artist that shit has to be like a fucking play by play of their whole life , but it 's not . It 's imagery , and a little bit of satire . " The track was released as the second single from Nostalgia , Ultra digitally on October 18 , 2011 by Def Jam Recordings .

= = Composition = =

" Swim Good " tells the story of a murder suicide through extended metaphors and a first @-@ person debate about killing yourself " . The track has been called an " astonishing suicide song " and that " Ocean finds himself dressed in black (' Like I 'm ready for a funeral ') , tormented by heartbreak and on the verge of driving his car into the sea . " The song is a " grim escape fantasy " describing a murder suicide , which " has the singer driving his car to the shore , his trunk ? bleeding ? with ? broken hearts ? . The hook of the song ends with the refrain of " I feel like a ghost , no Swayze , ever since I lost my baby . " Pitchfork Media described the singing as " heart @-@ battered . " The Quietus states that the song " makes you realise the ocean means a lot more to this songwriter than the reference to Ocean 's Eleven that he 's cited in interviews , he is mysterious and tragic . " Yahoo ! Music stated that " in his calm , ultra controlled tone , Ocean sings about feeling like he 's on his way to a funeral as he drives around town in a black suit , and a body in the trunk . "

= = Reception = =

" Swim Good " received positive reviews from music critics and was widely considered to be one of the best tracks off Nostalgia Ultra . Sam Hockley @-@ Smith of The Fader commented that " Swim Good " was one of the " highs off of record " , as did Anthony Osei of Complex magazine . Pitchfork Media commented that the track was a " brooding highlight " off the record . In addition , Yahoo ! Music 's Billy Jounhson described it as a " breakout " song " . AbsolutePunk stated the song was "

hard @-@ hitting " and " proved that Ocean 's voice is as great as his knack for writing thoughtful pop songs . " NPR 's Andrew Noz commented that " in the standout " Swim Good , " he sings of putting broken hearts in the trunk of a Lincoln Town Car and driving to the ocean as they bleed through . " Several critics noted the song for its dark subject matter . On the week of September 10 , 2011 the song debuted at number eighty @-@ one on Billboard 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , and peaked at position number seventy .

On July 31 , 2012 , the music video was nominated for three MTV Video Music Awards : Best Direction and Best Male Video , with Ocean being nominated for Best New Artist for his work with the video .

= = Promotion = =

Ocean released a behind @-@ the @-@ scenes video promoting a music video for the track . It was filmed by his cousin , and released on Ocean 's tumblr on August 11 , 2011 . The video , directed by Nabil Elderkin , was officially released on September 16 , 2011 . The video was released on Frank Ocean 's Vevo on September 23 , 2011 and was available for purchase on iTunes September 24 , 2011 . The Fader commented that " Elderkin serves up a fairly literal interpretation of ? Swim Good , ? Nostalgia , Ultra ? s most heart @-@ wrenching metaphor . It does however feature an explosion , a panda mask and the second appearance of Ninja Frank Ocean . " The video features " Frank Ocean and his samurai sword star " and it " blends Asian and aquatic vibes with impressive cinematography . " Rap @-@ Up reported " tranquility turns traumatic in Frank Ocean ? s suspenseful video . "

The clip opens with a dazed Ocean " going through the motions of eating popcorn though he 's wearing an Odd Future mask that does not have a mouth opening . " It features a " ' 70s orange and black Lincoln limousine " and Ocean in an orange samurai robe " mysteriously driving along the coastline and deep into the forest . " He then whips out his sword and " draws blood from his unsuspecting female victim . He sets fire to the vehicle and watches it burn on the cliff during the explosive conclusion . " In the closing moments , " viewers are lead [sic] to believe that the mystery woman was also the passenger of the rear compartment " and the video ends when the " camera zooms in on Ocean 's blood @-@ stained sword . " The video " adds color to the already chilling , and unusual storyline for alternative R & B song " according to Yahoo .

Ocean embarked on a solo tour through North America and Europe to promote both the mixtape and his other musical projects . The set lists to the various shows varied , though " Swim Good " was performed at all shows . The track was included during Ocean 's setlist at the April 2012 Coachella Musical Festival . Complex magazine stated the audience " sang every word of ULTRA ? s suicidal serenade ? Swim Good , ? which closed with the same seagull chirps it does on the tape . "

= = Chart performance = =