

= Stronger (What Doesn 't Kill You) =

" Stronger (What Doesn 't Kill You) " is a song by American recording artist Kelly Clarkson and the titular song from her fifth studio album , Stronger (2011) . Originally titled as " What Doesn 't Kill You (Stronger) " , the song served as the album 's second single on January 17 , 2012 through RCA Records . Written by Jörgen Elofsson , Ali Tamposi , and David Gamson , with additional writing and production by Greg Kurstin , " Stronger " is an uptempo song which draws from the genres of pop rock , dance @-@ pop and electropop . Its lyrical content mainly explores themes of empowerment and recovery following a heartbreak , with the chorus inspired by a Friedrich Nietzsche quotation : " That which does not kill us makes us stronger . "

In the United States , " Stronger " became her third song to top the Billboard Hot 100 chart for three non @-@ consecutive weeks , surpassing " A Moment Like This " (2002) and " My Life Would Suck Without You " (2009) as her longest @-@ running number one single on the chart . It also topped fifteen other Billboard charts , including Adult Pop Songs , Adult Contemporary , Hot Dance Club Songs , and Pop Songs charts , more than any other song Clarkson has ever released . Internationally , " Stronger " topped the national charts of Poland and Slovakia and attained a top @-@ ten position in over fifteen countries around the world , eventually selling over five million copies worldwide , becoming one of the best @-@ selling singles of all time . Its success helped its parent album to sustain commercial longevity for over a year . " Stronger " merited consideration for several industry awards ? including three Grammy Award nominations , and a World Music Award nomination .

The song 's accompanying music video was filmed by Shane Drake , which incorporates the theme of a global flash mob dance , featuring submitted videos of people dancing to the song . The music video garnered positive reception from critics who felt that its overall impact was exuberant . It earned Clarkson a nomination for a MuchMusic Video Award . With its continued success , she performed " Stronger " on several live award shows and television appearances around the world , debuting it during the first season of the The X Factor (U.S.) and performing it on the 37th season of Saturday Night Live , the 2012 MuchMusic Video Awards , and the 2012 American Music Awards . Clarkson also included the song in the set list of her Stronger Tour and on the encore set of her 2012 Summer Tour with The Fray .

= = Writing and production = =

Originally titled as " What Doesn 't Kill You " , " Stronger " was written by Jörgen Elofsson , Ali Tamposi , David Gamson , and Greg Kurstin in September 2010 . In an interview with American Songwriter , Tamposi revealed that the song was inspired by the Friedrich Nietzsche adage (" That which does not kill us makes us stronger ") that her mother told her as advice . Although Tamposi found the phrase as saccharine , she submitted it as an idea to Elofsson and Gamson during their writing sessions . Elofsson originally intended " Stronger " for Leona Lewis , who turned it down in the process . Tamposi 's manager , Tom Maffei , then had one of his producers , Matty Trump , to produce a demo track later to be pitched to RCA A & R executive Jeff Aldrich , who later gave the song to Clarkson . Tamposi revealed that Clarkson had also altered a lyric from the track . Aldrich had then commissioned Greg Kurstin , whom Clarkson wanted to collaborate with , to produce and add additional writing to the final version . Kurstin recalled , " I rethought the music part of it , I guess . It had a different tempo , beat , chords , and I kinda just came up with that guitar riff that goes into the verse , and that was the first thing that I kinda contributed just changed the feel of the song . " The song 's uplifting theme of empowerment led Clarkson to name her fifth studio album Stronger. saying that it is one of her favorite songs in the album , she said , " Everybody loves the message ' What doesn 't kill you makes you stronger . ' It 's a perfect representation of my life . "

= = Composition = =

" Stronger " is a pop rock song with a length of three minutes and 41 seconds . According to the

sheet music published by Hal Leonard Corporation , it is set in a common time and has a moderately fast tempo of 116 beats per minute . Written in the key of A minor , it follows the chord progression Am ? F ? C @-@ G / B. Clarkson 's vocals span two octaves , from G3 to G5 . The song begins with a " rumbling guitar " and a " shimmering synth " riff as Clarkson sings the opening line " You know the bed feels warmer / Sleeping here alone . " Jason Lipshutz of Billboard noted that the guitar riff in the verses is reminiscent of Clarkson 's " Since U Been Gone " which narrates an anthem of personal reinvention , and dancing . The bridges contain pulsating beats with synth and electric guitar that display some elements of electronic sound . During chorus , the song explodes into an upbeat dance @-@ pop number , complete with guitars and electronic drums as Clarkson sings " What doesn 't kill you makes you stronger / Stand a little taller / Doesn 't mean I 'm lonely when I 'm alone . " Jonathan Keefe of Slant felt nobody else could sell the song 's " ginormous chorus " better than Clarkson . Lyrically , " Stronger " explores the theme of moving on from an inimical relationship . In an interview , Clarkson remarked that the song doesn 't refer to a specific person , stating " I didn 't have a bad breakup or anything , I just think life is about relationships so I always write all about these different ones going on in my life . And I don 't have a filter , so it 's pretty verbatim . " Jason Scott of Blogcritics felt that out of all tracks in Stronger , Clarkson 's vocals are best and trendiest in " What Doesn 't Kill You (Stronger) " .

In an interview with MTV News prior to the song 's release , Clarkson compared " Stronger " as similar to " Since U Been Gone " (2004) . She commented , " We 've already rehearsed it , and it 's so much fun . It 's like this big dance anthem . That 'll be the one [that 's] kinda like " Since U Been Gone " , [with] people jumping up and down to [it] , and it 's just kind of really inspiring , so I can 't wait to perform that one . "

= = Release and reception = =

After returning from a vacation on Tahiti , Clarkson found out over 50 of her newly recorded demo material were leaked online , including " Stronger " . She commented that the leak felt worse than being physically robbed . In an attempt to counter @-@ attack the leakage , RCA finally debuted the song online on October 5 , 2011 , three weeks ahead of the album 's release . An acoustic version of the song appears in Clarkson 's second extended play , iTunes Session . " Stronger " was officially released as the album 's second single to mainstream radio on January 17 , 2012 . A dance remixes of the song were made available on February 3 , 2012 . On February 17 , 2012 , it was released as a CD single .

= = = Critical response = = =

Jenna Hally Rubenstein of MTV Buzzworthy compared it to " Since U Been Gone , " which has " a super radio @-@ friendly hook . " Elizabeth Lancaster of MTV Newsroom listed it as one of five key tracks in Stronger , writing " Upbeat yet soulful , the chorus will drag you up and onto the floor to dance the heartache away alongside her . " Grady Smith of Entertainment Weekly thought that the song 's " belty pop / rock wheelhouse " should please fans of the sound . He later added that " Clarkson might have been better off releasing " What Doesn 't Kill You " as the first track from Stronger . " Another positive reception came from Glenn Gamboa of Newsday , who praised Clarkson for " infusing her tales of empowerment after a breakup with her unique combo of vulnerability and sass . " Jonathan Keefe of Slant thought that the song is " tailor @-@ made for radio play " and that " the chilly electro @-@ pop that Greg Kurstin brings to the verses , suggests a top forty version of Robyn 's " Call Your Girlfriend " (2010) . On March 5 , 2013 Billboard ranked the song number 2 in its list of " Top 100 American Idol Hits of All Time " .

Chris Willman of Reuters criticized the lyrics , commenting that " Never mind how tired that tune 's titular phrase is . For a laugh , look up the YouTube video in which some wag mashed together a medley of 30 different songs that already borrowed " That which does not kill me makes me stronger " as a lyrical hook . " Kevin Ritchie from Now Magazine emphasized that the lyrics are " about as clichéd as a mission statement can get , but it also makes for a solid pop song . " Robert Copsey of

Digital Spy gave the song four stars out of five , writing " The message behind her song may already be a well @-@ worn , almost cliched lesson , but as she continues to prove , there 's little shame in coming out with the expected . "

= = = Commercial performance = = =

In the United States , " Stronger " topped sixteen Billboard charts , marking career highs for Clarkson . Boosted by digital sales following the release of Stronger , the song debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 chart as an album cut at number 64 on the week ending October 30 , 2011 . It dropped out following week before returning at number 99 on week ending November 20 , 2011 . Following its release as a single , " Stronger " re @-@ entered Billboard Hot 100 at number 58 after Clarkson performed it on Saturday Night Live on the week ending January 21 , 2012 . On the week ending January 28 , 2012 , the song climbed to number 21 , as well as debuting at number 38 on Adult Pop Songs . The following week , it became her tenth top ten song on the Hot 100 chart as it advanced to number 8 due to the strength of a number 11 to number 3 jump on Hot Digital Songs and vault on Hot 100 Airplay from number 71 to number 44 . With " Mr. Know It All " (2011) having peaked at number 10 on the Hot 100 , " Stronger " ' s ascent to number 8 marked the first time Clarkson has had a string of consecutive top ten hits since 2004 ? 2005 , when she had four consecutive top @-@ ten hits from her second studio album , Breakaway (2004) . That same week , it debuted at number 30 on Pop Songs and at number 40 on Hot Dance Club Songs . On the week ending February 11 , " Stronger " bounded from number 8 to number 2 on the Hot 100 as it topped the Hot Digital Songs chart fueled by 225 @,@ 000 downloads , becoming her second song to top the Hot Digital Songs after " My Life Would Suck Without You " (2009) . The following week , it ascended to the top of the Hot 100 , becoming her third number 1 single in the country after " A Moment Like This " and " My Life Would Suck Without You " . It held the top spot for another week , before descending to number 4 on the week ending March 3 , 2012 . That same week , it became her first song to top the Hot Dance Club Songs , making Clarkson only first artist ever to have topped the Hot 100 and each of the Hot Dance Club Songs , Hot Country Songs , Adult Contemporary , and Adult Pop Songs charts . The week after , It returned to number 1 on the Hot 100 for the third time , thus becoming her longest @-@ reigning number 1 single in the United States . On the week ending March 24 , 2012 , " Stronger " became Clarkson 's fourth song to top the Pop Songs chart and her first in six years . It also became her first song to top the Hot 100 Airplay on the week ending April 7 , 2012 , her fourth song to top the Adult Pop Songs on the week ending March 10 , 2012 , and her second song to top the Adult Contemporary chart on the week ending June 16 , 2012 . In its 2012 Year @-@ End issue , Billboard ranked " Stronger " number 7 on the Year @-@ End Hot 100 , marking the first time Clarkson has had a Year @-@ End top ten single on the chart in seven years since " Since U Been Gone " and " Behind These Hazel Eyes " (2005) . Billboard also ranked it as number 1 on Year @-@ End Adult Contemporary , number 2 on the Year @-@ End Adult Pop Songs , number 11 on the Year @-@ End Pop Songs , and number 35 on the Year @-@ End Hot Dance Club Songs charts .

" Stronger " also outpaced its predecessor " Mr. Know It All " in the international charts except in Australia , Germany , Japan , Scotland , and South Korea . It topped the national charts of Poland and Slovakia and became her biggest hit in over 18 other countries , including Austria , Denmark , Hungary , Luxembourg , Portugal , New Zealand , Spain , Sweden , and the United Kingdom . " Stronger " is also her first single to enter the national charts of Finland , Brazil , Iceland , Lebanon , Mexico , Portugal , and Romania . In Canada , it debuted on the Canadian Hot 100 chart at number 64 on the week ending November 12 , 2011 , eventually peaking at number 3 . In the United Kingdom , debuted on the Official UK Charts at number 21 on the week ending January 14 , 2012 , eventually peaking at number 8 for three non @-@ consecutive weeks as her eighth career top ten single . The song performed better in Scotland , where it attained a peak of number 5 . In Ireland , the song debuted at 40 on January 19 , 2012 and ascended to number four . In Denmark , after debuting at number 11 on the Danish Singles Chart on the week ending January 20 , 2012 , it attained a top ten position at number 8 after two weeks . In France , the song debuted at number

187 and peaked at number 26 , becoming her first song to chart in six years since " Because of You " (2006) . In the Netherlands , the song debuted on the Single Top 100 at number 96 on the week ending January 7 , 2012 , and peaked at number 59 . In Austria , it entered the Ö3 Austria Top 40 at number 27 and peaked at number 6 . In Belgium , it attained a position on Ultratop 50 in Flanders at number 25 , but failed to enter the Ultratop 50 in Wallonia by reaching only the top of the Walloon Ultratip chart . Elsewhere in Europe , it attained a top ten position in Czech Republic , Hungary , Luxembourg , and Finland ; and a top forty position in Norway , Switzerland , Germany , and Sweden . In Australia , it peaked in the Australian Singles Chart at number 18 . In New Zealand , it peaked on the New Zealand Singles Chart at number 4 .

" Stronger " also marked career @-@ highs in Clarkson 's commercial performance . It became her first song to cross the 3 and 4 million marks in digital downloads , becoming her best @-@ selling single in the United States and the United Kingdom . As of March 3 , 2013 , " Stronger " had sold over 4 @,@ 533 @,@ 000 copies in the United States , . In the United Kingdom is sold over 546 @,@ 000 copies as of April 24 , 2016 . The song sold over 5 million copies worldwide , becoming one of the best @-@ selling singles of all time .

= = = Award nominations = = =

" Stronger " has been recognized with accolades from the music press . Entertainment Weekly ranked the song as the tenth best single of 2011 . In December 2012 , Popjustice ranked " Stronger " at number 1 on their " Top 45 Singles of 2012 " list , stating that " this song is timeless in its amazingness " and claiming that no one " but Kelly Clarkson who could have pulled off this tune . " The song 's music video was nominated for Best International Artist Video at the 2012 MuchMusic Video Awards . At the 2012 Teen Choice Awards , the song received two nominations , Choice Single by a Female Artist and Choice Break @-@ Up Song . " Stronger " received three Grammy Award nominations for Record of the Year , Song of the Year , and Best Pop Solo Performance at the 55th ceremony .

= = Music video = =

= = = Concept and synopsis = = =

On November 21 , 2011 , Clarkson announced on her website that she wanted to incorporate a global flash mob into the accompanying music video of " Stronger " . She posted ,

I 'm shooting my video for " What Doesn 't Kill You " and I 'd like everyone to join me in my global flash mob ! Check out the routine in the video below . Learn it with me and get your cameras ready to record you and your friends rocking these moves in a unique location that shows where you are in the world . Submit your clip using the form below and maybe you 'll see it in my music video ! ! I can 't wait to see your submissions . Remember to be creative , but keep it safe and legal ! Thanks for participating !

The music video premiered on VEVO on December 14 , 2011 . Directed by Shane Drake , the video begins with Clarkson in a video control room , watching select flash mob videos submitted by various participants in different monitors . Throughout the video , scenes of Clarkson performing the song in three different settings (alone in a stage , with her band in a garden square , and in the control room) alternate with various flash mob videos . Towards the end of the video , Clarkson , along with the people in the garden square , forms a flash mob featuring a same choreography .

= = = Reception = = =

Critical reception towards the accompanying music video was positive . Prior to its release , Jenna Halley Rubenstein of MTV Buzzworthy predicted that the video would depict women who triumphed over broken relationships as a homage to self @-@ sufficiency . However , she praised the different

treatment of the video , complimenting the synchronized dancing and thought that Clarkson kept it classy . Leah Collins of The Vancouver Sun interpreted that the video depicts Clarkson developing a sense of strength and endurance as well as an ability to lead a large @-@ scale dance routine after surviving a trauma . Erin Strecker of Entertainment Weekly enjoyed Clarkson 's goofy expressions and perceived the video as " Since U Been Gone " round two . Rand Duren of The Dallas Morning News also reiterated that the music video is a reminiscent of " Since U Been Gone " and that it was great seeing more dancing and movement from Clarkson . Contessa Gayles of AOL.com described the song as " powerful " and " uplifting " and she believed that the music video did the song justice . Trent Maynard of 4Music had a positive response towards the video and deemed Clarkson 's look as properly fit in the video . He concluded his review writing , " Nobody has a sense of humor quite like the original American Idol . Oh Kelly , you 're the best . " The same opinion was echoed by Robbie Daw of Idolator who thought the video was fun especially " when Kelly herself joins the giant mob at the very end . " He also stated that his personal favorite clip in the video was " the girls who do the moves underwater with fish swimming all around them . " The video placed fourth for VH1 's Top 20 Videos of the Year for 2012 .

= = Live performances = =

Clarkson first performed " Stronger " in live concerts , she first performed it in a Sony @-@ sponsored concert held at The Troubador in Los Angeles on October 19 , 2011 . On November 9 , 2011 , she performed the song at Z100 's annual Jingle Ball concert at Madison Square Garden . She also performed an acoustic version the song on the VH1 Unplugged : Kelly Clarkson special which premiered on VH1 on November 18 , 2011 . " Stronger " has been performed prominently in her fourth headlining tour , the Stronger Tour .

Clarkson also promoted " Stronger " in live television events , the first live televised performance of the song was on November 23 , 2011 , during The X Factor (U.S.) results show . On December 18 , 2011 , she performed the song on VH1 Divas Celebrates Soul television special . On January 7 , 2012 , she performed it along with " Mr. Know It All " on the 37th season of Saturday Night Live . On June 6 , 2012 , Clarkson performed it on the British television series This Morning . Clarkson also performed a medley of the " Stronger " with the succeeding single " Dark Side " on various television events , such as at the season finale of the fourteenth season of Dancing with the Stars on May 22 , 2012 , and at the 2012 MuchMusic Video Awards on June 17 , 2012 .

= = Cultural impact = =

= = Usage in media = =

" Stronger " was also used in various forms of media . It was used in a 2011 Toyota Camry advertisement which stars Clarkson singing the song with her co @-@ stars Chris Berman , Andrew Zimmern , and James Lipton . Amber Riley , Naya Rivera , and Heather Morris performed the song on the season three episode of Glee titled " On My Way " , which aired on February 21 , 2012 . Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal described the trio 's performance as " fine , fierce and fabulous . " Their version of " Stronger " debuted on the Hot 100 at number 66 on the week ending March 3 , 2012 as " What Doesn 't Kill You (Stronger) " . The song was featured in Suburgatory and was used in advertisements promoting the second season of the USA Network series Fairly Legal . It was also featured in a playable piece in the Harmonix video game Rock Band Blitz , Rock Band 3 and Dance Central 3 . On May 6 , 2012 , a video of some of the patients and hospital staff of Seattle Children 's hematology oncology unit dancing to the song were uploaded in YouTube to represent their fight against cancer . The video became a viral hit and has been featured by Time and CBS News . On February 26 , 2012 , Chemmy Alcott and Sean Rice skated to the song on Dancing on Ice . [116] Maria Menounos and Derek Hough danced to the song in the fourteenth season of Dancing with the Stars . [117] . The instrumental version has been used as background

music to the promotion and the opening theme to the 2013 MDA Show of Strength telethon .

= = = Cover versions = = =

" Stronger " has also been performed by contestants of various televised competition programs . On February 21 , 2012 , It was covered on Glee by Amber Riley and Naya Rivera for the Regionals episode titled " On My Way " . On March 22 , 2012 , it was first performed by Diandra Flores on the sixth season of the Finnish television series Idols . On April 11 , 2012 , it was covered by Hollie Cavanagh , Joshua Ledet and Jessica Sanchez in the eleventh season of American Idol . On May 12 , 2012 , it was performed by Joelle Moses after will.i.am 's recommendation on the first series of The Voice UK .

Clarkson also performed the song with Jordan Meredith on the television series Duets , where she is also a mentor . On March 16 , 2012 , the song was performed by various participants during the season finale of the fifth season of the Danish television series X Factor . On November 8 , 2012 , the song was performed by Team Adam and Team Blake on the third season of The Voice . On November 28 , 2012 , the girl @-@ group Fifth Harmony performed the song on the second season of The X Factor . On October 28 , 2013 , Tessanne Chin covered the song on Season 5 of NBC 's singing competition , The Voice for her performance in the Knockout round vs. Ashley DuBose (who performed " Hey , Soul Sister " by Train) .

= = = Involvement in Kanye West 's copyright lawsuit = = =

In 2010 , musician Vincent Peters filed a copyright infringement suit against recording artist Kanye West over the similarities between West 's song " Stronger " (2007) , Peter 's demo song " Stronger " (2006) which he sent to John Monopoly , West 's associate . The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the case in West 's favor , citing both the epigram by Nietzsche from his book Twilight of the Idols (1889) and Clarkson 's song " Stronger (What Doesn 't Kill You) " .

= = Formats and track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from Stronger liner notes .

Recording

Recorded at Echo Recording Studio , Los Angeles , California

Personnel

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications and sales = =

= = Release and radio history = =