

= Wrecking Ball (Miley Cyrus song) =

" Wrecking Ball " is a song recorded by American singer Miley Cyrus for her fourth studio album *Bangerz* (2013) . It was released on August 25 , 2013 , by RCA Records as the album 's second single . The song was written by MoZella , Stephan Moccio , Sacha Skarbek , Kiyanu Kim , Lukasz Gottwald , and Henry Russell Walter ; production was helmed by the last two . " Wrecking Ball " is a pop ballad which lyrically discusses the deterioration of a relationship .

" Wrecking Ball " received generally favorable reviews from music critics , who appreciated its lyrical content and overall production . However , some critics questioned if Cyrus ' emotional delivery was genuine , since she had recently generated controversy for her increasingly sexual image . It debuted on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 at number fifty , and later became Cyrus ' first number @-@ one single in the United States after the release of its controversial music video ; it retained the peak position during the following week . Nine weeks later , the track returned to number one , and consequently had the largest gap between number @-@ one sittings in Billboard Hot 100 history . As of January 2014 , " Wrecking Ball " has sold three million copies in the United States . Internationally , the song charted strongly ; it topped the charts in Canada , Spain and the United Kingdom , and charted in the top ten throughout much of Europe and Oceania .

An accompanying music video for " Wrecking Ball " was released on September 9 , 2013 . It featured close @-@ up scenes of Cyrus tearfully singing , reminiscent of the clip for " Nothing Compares 2 U " by Sinéad O 'Connor , interspersed with footage of a nude Cyrus swinging on a wrecking ball . Critics were divided in their opinions of the music video , feeling that it was more provocative than the clip for her previous single " We Can 't Stop " . " Wrecking Ball " previously held the Vevo record for the most views in the first 24 hours after its release with 19 @.@ 3 million views . At the 2013 MTV Europe Music Awards , Cyrus took home the award for Best Video and the award for Video of the Year at the 2014 MTV Video Music Awards . Adding to the video 's success , Cyrus won the award for World 's Best Video at the 2014 World Music Awards in Monte Carlo . Cyrus has performed " Wrecking Ball " during several live performances , including the iHeartRadio Music Festival and an episode of Saturday Night Live .

= = Background = =

In 2012 , Cyrus announced plans to focus on her film career , effectively putting her musical endeavors on hiatus . That year , she appeared in the films *LOL* and *So Undercover* . She was also confirmed as a primary voice actress in the feature film *Hotel Transylvania* , but dropped out of the project to coordinate a musical comeback . In January 2013 , Cyrus ended her recording contract with Hollywood Records , under which she released the studio albums *Meet Miley Cyrus* (2007) , *Breakout* (2008) , *Can 't Be Tamed* (2010) , and the extended play (EP) *The Time of Our Lives* (2009) . Later that month , she signed a recording contract with RCA Records . In March , she confirmed that her fourth studio album would be released by the end of 2013 .

Before directly stating that " Wrecking Ball " was originally written with Beyoncé in mind , songwriter Sacha Skarbek tweeted " Beyonce song now becoming a Miley Cyrus song ? !! Good / bad ? I don 't know ? ? ! ! ! ! [sic] " in December 2012 . His representative commented that " " Originally , the [songwriting session between Dr. Luke and Sacha] was booked to write a song for Beyoncé . But as the song [' Wrecking Ball '] progressed , the songwriters realized the song would not work for her . "

The song , and the cover of its parent album *Bangerz* (2013) , were unveiled on August 25 , 2013 , before Cyrus ' performance at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards . She released the cover artwork for " Wrecking Ball " on September 6 , which shows Cyrus dressed in a sleeveless white shirt and underwear while swinging on a wrecking ball . The song was serviced to contemporary hit radio stations in the United States on September 17 . It serves as the second single from *Bangerz* , following the lead single " We Can 't Stop " , which was released in June .

= = Composition = =

" Wrecking Ball " is a pop ballad ; According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Kobalt Music Publishing America , it is set in common time with a tempo of 60 beats per minute . The track is written in the key of D minor and follows the chord progression Dm ? F ? C ? Gm . Miriam Coleman of Rolling Stone noted that it begins with a minimalist keyboard instrumentation , which puts emphasis on Cyrus " anguished vocals " , and also described it as a " heartbroken counterpoint " to " We Can 't Stop " . Its lyrics discuss the deterioration of a relationship , as mentioned in the lines " Don 't you ever say I just walked away / I will always want you / I can 't live a lie / running for my life / I will always want you . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Wrecking Ball " gained mostly positive reviews from contemporary music critics . Writing for The A.V. Club , Marah Eakin provided a favorable review , calling it a " solid ballad " and describing it as " a modern day " My Heart Will Go On " that discussed a deteriorated , shortlived young romance . Kitty Empire from The Observer opined that " the heartbreak section of Bangerz mostly repays your attention " and mentioned " Wrecking Ball " to be a part of it . Although he found the song " predictable , " Evan Sawdey of PopMatters gave it an overall positive review and complimented its production and the build up to its chorus , calling it " the kind of broad mainstream song that shows how you how to properly build up to a chorus before hitting us over the head with it . Jon Dolan of Rolling Stone felt that it " [rides] the hunger and confusion that make great coming @-@ of @-@ age pop . " Writing for AllMusic , Heather Phares considered the track to be a standout from Bangerz .

Writing for Digital Spy , Robert Copsey questioned Cyrus ' decision to premiere a ballad in the midst of controversies regarding her " salacious exploits " , but enjoyed the song itself and opined that it " proves that there 's method behind the madness . " In a more mixed review , Joseph Atilano from the Philippine Daily Inquirer appreciated the lyrics for seeming heartfelt , but felt that its production was " comparatively weaker " by comparison to her earlier projects . Mikael Wood of Los Angeles Times felt that the track proved that Cyrus " isn 't just a twerk @-@ bot programmed to titillate " , but suggested that her " singing throbs with what feels like an embarrassment of emotion " and found it peculiar that the song discussed the singer 's relationship with Hemsworth when her public behavior seemingly suggested that she " couldn 't care less about " it .

After a month of voting , on March 31 , 2014 , Billboard declared the song to be the winner of the 2014 Hot 100 March Madness and their favorite Top 5 single from the past year . It defeated songs like " Holy Grail " by Jay @-@ Z & Justin Timberlake , " Best Song Ever " by One Direction , " Applause " by Lady Gaga , " Timber " by Pitbull & Kesha and finally " Just Give Me a Reason " by Pink and Nate Ruess .

= = Commercial performance = =

Before officially being serviced as a single , " Wrecking Ball " made a " hot shot debut " at number 50 on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 for the week issued on September 7 , 2013 , with 90 @,@ 000 downloads in two days . It reached number 14 the following week with 201 @,@ 000 downloads . After its official premiere as the second single from Bangerz , the track peaked at number one in the United States in its fourth week , heavily assisted by online streaming credits from its recently released music video ; this gave Cyrus her first number @-@ one single in the country . It sold 477 @,@ 000 copies that week , becoming the third @-@ highest single sales week of 2013 , behind the 582 @,@ 000 units moved by " I Knew You Were Trouble " by Taylor Swift and the 557 @,@ 000 units moved by " Roar " by Katy Perry . In December , " Wrecking Ball " returned to the peak position after being stuck at number one or two or three the previous nine weeks as Lorde 's " Royals " topped the Hot 100 , with assistance from a viral parody video and consequently became the largest gap between number @-@ one sittings in Billboard history . The next week it tumbled to number 5 as Eminem 's " The Monster " featuring Rihanna topped the chart . As of December 2014 , "

Wrecking Ball " has sold 3 @, @ 640 @, @ 000 copies in the United States . The track peaked at number one on the Canadian Hot 100 , and was later certified triple @-@ platinum in the country . It reached the peak position on the Mexico Ingles Airplay .

" Wrecking Ball " charted strongly throughout Europe . In the United Kingdom , the song and Bangerz both debuted at number one on their respective charts in the same week , making Cyrus the first artist of 2013 to achieve a " chart double " in the country . It was later certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry . Additionally , the song marked Cyrus ' second chart @-@ topping single in the country after " We Can 't Stop " . In Belgium , it respectively reached numbers four and five on the Belgian Ultratop in the Flanders and Wallonia regions , and was eventually awarded a gold certification . The track peaked at number six on the Official German Charts , and was later certified platinum . It charted at number three on the Italian FIMI chart , and earned a double @-@ platinum certification . In Oceania , " Wrecking Ball " charted at number two on both the Australian ARIA Charts and the Official New Zealand Music Chart . It was certified quadruple @-@ platinum in the former country , and was given a platinum certification in the latter .

= = Music video = =

= = = Synopsis = = =

An accompanying music video for " Wrecking Ball " was directed by Terry Richardson , and was premiered through Vevo on September 9 , 2013 . The clip features close @-@ up footage of Cyrus emotionally singing to the camera against a white backdrop , having been inspired by the music video for " Nothing Compares 2 U " by Sinéad O 'Connor . Interspersed throughout are scenes of Cyrus licking a sledgehammer and swinging on a wrecking ball . At first , she is shown dressed in a sleeveless shirt , panties and Doc Martens boots ; as the video progresses , she is then shown wearing only the boots .

= = = Reception = = =

The music video received generally mixed reviews from critics , who were divided in their opinions regarding Cyrus ' increasingly provocative image . Writing for Billboard , Jason Lipshutz stated that the " nude Cyrus shown straddling a swinging wrecking ball " was the most surprising piece of the clip . Amelia Proud from Daily Mail provided a mixed review , commenting that Cyrus delivered a visual that was more provocative than its " boisterous " predecessor " We Can 't Stop " and questioned if she has " finally gone too far this time " . The staff from Entertainment Weekly joked that viewers would be " scandalized / titillated / disappointed in Billy Ray Cyrus ' parenting skills " after seeing his daughter nude and " fellating a sledgehammer . [sic] " Writing for The Guardian , Michael Hann criticized Cyrus ' attempts to distance herself from her innocent Hannah Montana image , a former television series in which Cyrus portrayed the primary character Miley Stewart , a middle school student who led a secret double life as pop star Hannah Montana . He disapproved of the manner in which she transitioned into a career beyond her childhood success , specifically panning her for " exploring the iconography of porn . " As of January 2015 , Billboard named the video as the fourth best music video of the 2010s (so far) .

James Montgomery from MTV News noted that the controversy surrounding Cyrus ' nude performance in the video was " to be expected " given her recent controversies , and complimented Richardson " for toning down the salacious scenes (if only for an instant) , and allowing the softer , more genuine sides to shine through . " Mikael Wood of Los Angeles Times opined that the music video tried to paint Cyrus in a more serious light with its scenes of her emotionally singing and crying .

Billboard editor Jason Lipshutz opined " Wrecking Ball " is Cyrus ' " Cry Me a River " , for their controversial music videos and the artists ' music evolution . " A decade ago , Justin Timberlake was in " My music will shut everyone up " mode , too , as he railed against a teenybopper image " . He

concluded " Cyrus is breathtaking and talented , and , now that she has our attention with her own version of " Cry Me a River , " can dial down the shock tactics and present her artistic vision in the form of a new full @-@ length . "

With 19 @.@ 3 million views in the first twenty @-@ four hours of its release , the clip held the record for having the most views in that time @-@ frame across Vevo platforms . The first @-@ day viewing record was surpassed by the video for " Anaconda " by Nicki Minaj in August 2014 , which received 19 @.@ 6 million views upon its premiere . The video has now received over 840 million views on YouTube . A director 's cut of the music video was released on September 24 , which features only the close @-@ up footage of Cyrus singing against the white backdrop . Vanessa White Wolf from MTV News noted that " the only time Richardson cuts away is at the very end , where , after a quick director 's credit page , we see Terry and Miley laughing and mugging for the camera . "

The 2014 Australian art prize the Bald Archy was awarded to Judy Nadin for Wrecking Balls Ashes to Ashes , parodying cricketer Mitchell Johnson as Cyrus .

= = Live performances = =

On September 21 , 2013 , Cyrus performed " Wrecking Ball " for the first time during the iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas ; she performed twice , first in the afternoon at Festival Village , and later in the evening at the MGM Grand Garden Arena . Despite generating media attention for a provocative wardrobe , the performance was considered to be " fairly tame considering the VMAs " , where she touched recording artist Robin Thicke 's crotch area with a giant foam finger and twerked against his crotch . On October 5 , Cyrus served as the host and musical guest during an episode of Saturday Night Live , which gained favorable reviews from music critics . The following Monday , Cyrus performed the track on Today as part of their Toyota Concert Series . She also performed the song during appearances on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon and The Ellen DeGeneres Show later that month .

In November , Cyrus traveled to Europe to sing " Wrecking Ball " at the 2013 MTV Europe Music Awards in Amsterdam on November 10 , 2013 ; she garnered media attention for smoking a joint of marijuana on @-@ stage while accepting the Best Video Award for the track . On November 17 , 2013 , she performed the song on The X Factor in the United Kingdom . After being criticized for delivering a lackluster vocal performance , Cyrus was placed under " vocal rest " by her doctors in preparation of the Bangerz Tour . During her trip , she also performed on Wetten , dass .. ? in Germany (November 9) , BBC Radio 1 's Live Lounge in London (November 12) , and the 2013 Bambi Awards in Germany (November 14) . On November 24 , Cyrus performed " Wrecking Ball " at the 2013 American Music Awards ; a digitally animated cat projected on the screen behind her lip @-@ synced the lyrics alongside her . In December , she performed at Jingle Ball concerts in Los Angeles (KIIS @-@ FM Jingle Ball) , Saint Paul , Atlanta , New York City , Washington , D.C. , Tampa and Sunrise . Cyrus also performed " Wrecking Ball " on Dick Clark 's New Year 's Rockin ' Eve with Ryan Seacrest in Times Square on December 31 .

An episode of MTV Unplugged starring Cyrus premiered through MTV on January 29 , 2014 ; she performed an acoustic version of " Wrecking Ball " , among several additional tracks from Bangerz . On May 27 , 2014 Cyrus performed the song during the World Music Awards held in Monte Carlo , Monaco ; where she also won four World Music Awards . She wore a gown with a scenic theme based on flowers during the performance . It received positive reviews for its understated simplicity and strong vocal delivery . Cyrus returned to perform the song during the musical festival on June 21 , 2014 , Summertime Ball at Wembley Stadium of London , in front of 80 @,@ 000 people . Cyrus has performed the song during her ongoing Bangerz Tour . A critic from the Nashville Scene praised the performance , writing , " Wrecking Ball was sung by Miley and earnestly shouted in unison by the arena , some of the audience tearing up . " Blake Hannon praised Cyrus ' vocal delivery , writing , " The crowd kept going when things slowed down for Wrecking Ball . It was the highlight of the night , and not because of anything visual . The costumed characters vanished and the screen was black , with Cyrus belting out one of the best pop power ballads in recent memory

with only a smattering of lights . It 's a reminder that beneath it all , Cyrus has a voice ? and a pretty big one , at that . "

= = Cover versions and media usage = =

In September 2013 , British singer @-@ songwriter James Arthur covered " Wrecking Ball " on Radio Hamburg in Germany . Later that month , The Gregory Brothers released a country version , which Laura Vitto from Mashable felt " trades in Miley 's pop @-@ ballad sound for a twangier feel . " American singer @-@ songwriter Alonzo Holt released his own rendition in October , which featured vocals from Arthur ; it peaked at number 97 on the UK Singles Chart and number 71 on the Irish Singles Chart . American group Haim covered " Wrecking Ball " during their performance on BBC Radio 1 's Live Lounge , while the trio London Grammar sang it for the same session in December . Rumer Willis later sang the track during a performance which Chiderah Monde from Daily News felt " captured more of the emotion behind the song " than Cyrus ' version . American singer Rebecca Black uploaded an acoustic version to her YouTube channel in November . Canadian singer Sarah Blackwood of Walk Off the Earth also released an acoustic version Youtuber Patty Walters broke out to internet acclaim with his pop punk cover , gaining recognition and a contract with Fearless Records for his band As It Is .

Danie Geimer , a contestant on the third season of The X Factor USA , performed the track during the first live show on October 29 , while Dami Im from the fifth series of The X Factor Australia sang it in the semi @-@ final round . Marley Rose (Melissa Benoist) covered the song and parodied elements of the music video for the Glee episode " The End of Twerk " . Christina Grimmie sang the song during the Blind Auditions of sixth season of The Voice USA . Australian artist Kat Jade auditioned with a stripped @-@ back / single @-@ piano version in the third season of The Voice Australia after posting a popular acapella version of the song to her Youtube channel . " Weird Al " Yankovic covered the song as the first in his polka medley " NOW That 's What I Call Polka ! " for his 2014 album Mandatory Fun . Metal band August Burns Red covered the song for the compilation album Punk Goes Pop 6 . Melisa Cantiveros impersonated Miley Cyrus in Your Face Sounds Familiar (Philippines season 1) and performed this song , which she won the season .

50 Cent told NME that the song was the one he would perform at karaoke : " Just a big pop song that no one would suspect , just to fuck with them . Make them go , What ? " The song was featured in the film The Night Before

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Bangerz .

Recording

Engineered at Conway Recording Studios (Hollywood , California) ; Luke 's In the Boo (Malibu , California) ; Monster Island Studio (New York City , New York) ; Maison de Musique (Toronto , Canada) ; Harmony Studios (West Hollywood , California) ; Capitol Studios (Hollywood , California)

Mixed at MixStar Studios (Virginia Beach , Virginia)

Personnel

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =