

= Blown Away (song) =

" Blown Away " is a song by American recording artist Carrie Underwood , taken from her fourth studio album of the same name (2012) . The song served as the album 's second single on July 9 , 2012 through Arista Nashville . Written by Chris Tompkins and Josh Kear , who previously wrote Underwood 's single " Before He Cheats " (2007) , " Blown Away " is a country pop song with lyrics addressing the story of a daughter locking herself in a storm cellar while her alcoholic father is passed out on the couch in the path of a tornado . Producer Mark Bright drew inspiration from 1980s music .

Upon its release , " Blown Away " was met with positive reviews from music critics , who considered it to be the musical highlight of the album . The song 's content and production received particular praise , as critics felt it confirmed the album 's darker mood which Underwood had mentioned prior to its release . Commercially , " Blown Away " was successful . In the United States , it became her 13th number one hit on the Billboard Country Airplay chart , and also reached number 20 on the Hot 100 . It also charted in Canada and the United Kingdom . It won several awards , including two Grammy Awards , for Best Country Song and Best Country Solo Performance .

The accompanying music video was directed by Randee St Nicholas . Underwood said that when she heard first the song , she already had ideas of a possible video for it . She wanted it to be a dark Wizard of Oz in 2012 . It earned her an award for Video of the Year at the 2013 CMT Music Awards . The video was nominated for Music Video of the Year at the 2013 Country Music Association Awards . Underwood has performed " Blown Away " in a number of live appearances , including at the 2012 Billboard Music Awards , the 55th Annual Grammy Awards , and two years in a row at the Country Music Association Awards . It was also performed as the encore of the Blown Away Tour (2012 ? 13) .

= = Writing and composition = =

After Underwood 's Play On Tour wrapped in December 2010 , she started to work on her fourth studio album , which was then untitled . Sony Music Nashville chairman / CEO Gary Overton said that the singer " took nearly a year to compile and record the songs . " Songwriters Chris Tompkins and Josh Kear , who previously wrote " Before He Cheats " for Underwood 's debut album , Some Hearts (2005) , worked on " Blown Away " initially without a specific artist in mind . At first , they built the drums and the string parts that of the introduction and verses . Tompkins started playing his keyboard to find sound effects for the introduction , and ended up using one that was a thunderstorm . " I think that 's what kind of threw us into it . We just started writing it , " he said . The songwriters then came up with the first verse of the song : " Dry lighting cracks across the skies / Those storm clouds gather in her eyes / Her daddy was a mean old mister / Momma was an angel in the ground / The weatherman called for a twister / She prayed blow it down . " Kear commented that it was not the duo 's intent or goal to make it a dark , revenge @-@ themed song . As they wrote the pre @-@ chorus line " not enough rain in Oklahoma " , both knew that it was a Carrie Underwood song , as the singer is from that state . " We knew if we stuck with that lyric [" Oklahoma " ? which is Carrie 's home state] it was Carrie 's song or maybe no one would ever record it , " Kear commented . After the theme of the song had been established , the songwriters wanted to " dig up as much drama as [they] could . " Lyrically , " Blown Away " tells the story of a daughter locking herself in a storm cellar while her alcoholic father is passed out on the couch in the path of a tornado . Underwood revealed that " Blown Away " was the song that defined the direction of the album , and recalled the first time she heard the demo :

" I listened to it on my crappy computer speakers and then I had to go find my headphones because as soon as I listened to a few bars , I had to listen more closely and I got chills . I remember where I was when I heard it and called my manager , Ann , and I was like , ' Do not let anyone else have this song ! It ? s my song . ' In talking to Chris and Josh about it , they [told me] , ' We said we 're either writing a song for Carrie Underwood or this song is never going to see the light of day . ' It made me feel so good that they were thinking of me when they wrote it . "

As noted by interviewer Kurt Wolff , " the melody and overall sound of the song also stand out as something fresh and very different . " Tompkins explained to Wolff that " Blown Away " was an " attempt at ' melodic pop ' that was ' unique ' yet still ' country . ' " Tompkins also commented that " Blown Away " is " not even mine and Josh ? s song anymore ; it 's [Carrie 's] song now . She 's completely claimed it . The song is Carrie . It 's not even a song that had a chance of being pitched to anybody else . It 's a completely different type of song for Carrie . She 's got a lot of pop elements , and I listen to a lot of pop , but I listen to everything from Randy Newman to Mozart to Rihanna to Steely Dan . I think all that stuff shows up in my music , and I think it showed up in ' Blown Away . ' " The final version of the song was produced by Mark Bright , who drew inspiration from 1980s music . Underwood recalled Bright adding an effect to her vocals similar to the ones used in Def Leppard songs : " That was a big thing with [the band] , all of that hollow vocal sound . And I liked it . " Bright used a similar effect on " See You Again " , another song from Blown Away . Melodically , " Blown Away " is written in the key of A minor , and is set in the common time with a tempo of 134 beats per minute . The song follows the sequence of Am - C - G as its chord progression , and Underwood 's voice spans from the low note of G3 to the high note of E5 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" Blown Away " received generally positive reviews from music critics . A reviewer for Billboard thought that Mark Bright 's " brooding , atmospheric " production and Underwood 's vocal performance " elevate this cinematic tune to an instant classic . " They further commented , " When the girl shuts herself in the storm cellar , leaving her alcoholic father passed out on the couch in the path of a twister , you can almost feel the wind . " Writing for the Los Angeles Times , Mikael Wood thought that the song confirmed the description of the album as " a turn toward darkness from a singer who first topped the country chart with ' Jesus , Take the Wheel ' . " USA Today columnist Brian Mansfield thought the song 's " synthesizers , strings sounds , vocal overdubs and echoing guitars " combined dramatically , creating a " neo @-@ 80s feel - think an Oklahoma version of the Eurythmics . " " Blown Away " received a five @-@ star rating from Billy Dukes of Taste of Country , who called it " dangerous , but irresistible . " He also praised Underwood for recording darker material than her previous singles . Also giving it five stars , Bobby Peacock of Roughstock called it " more grandiose " than Underwood 's previous efforts , also saying that it " makes itself known by sounding like absolutely nothing else on radio . " Chris Richards of The Washington Post gave the song a mixed review , deeming the lyrics as " gripping " , but negatively comparing the instrumentation to the work of Taylor Swift .

= = = Chart performance = = =

Following the release of the album , " Blown Away " debuted at number 22 on Billboard 's Hot Digital Songs chart , with 66 @,@ 000 units sold . It eventually peaked at number 15 , staying at the chart for a total of 35 weeks . On the main Hot 100 chart , " Blown Away " peaked at number 20 and spent 22 weeks on the chart ; it was ranked the 70th biggest song of 2012 there overall . On the week of September 6 , 2012 , the song became Underwood 's 16th top ten single on the Country Airplay component chart , a record among women in the tally 's 68 @-@ year history according to Billboard . The following month , on the week of October 15 , it reached the top spot , becoming the singer 's 13th number one . It stayed there for a second week , making Underwood the only female vocalist of 2012 to achieve three weeks at number one on the chart , as previous single " Good Girl " had peaked at the same position . The song was certified three @-@ times Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on August 10 , 2015 . As of February 2016 , " Blown Away " has sold 2 @,@ 819 @,@ 000 digital units in the United States .

" Blown Away " also peaked at number one in Canada Country chart , number 27 in Canadian Hot

100 , and is Underwood 's first song to chart in the United Kingdom , reaching number 155 , despite not having a proper release in the country .

= = = Accolades = = =

= = Music video = =

The accompanying music video for " Blown Away " was directed by Randee St. Nicholas and produced by Brandon Bonfiglio for Randee St. Nicholas Photography . Underwood said that when she heard first the song , she already had ideas of a possible video for it , and wanted it to be a dark Wizard of Oz in 2012 . The singer deemed it " a visual song . You listen to it and you can see everything that is happening . It 's so dramatic . I 'm not a drama person , but when you can make a movie in song form in three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half minutes , it 's surreal . " A sneak peek of the video was released on June 11 , 2012 . The music video premiered worldwide on July 30 , during a 24 @-@ hour exclusive window domestically and internationally on E ! News at 7 and 11 : 30 p.m. ET / PT and on the homepage of E ! Online . Prior to the E ! premiere , Underwood held a private screening of the video with country radio station KJ97 for over 200 of their listeners in San Antonio , Texas .

The video begins with a girl (a young Underwood) studying at home . Her abusive father arrives and asks her if she needs help . She declines his offer and starts gathering her things to leave the room , however ; as she stands up , he grabs her arm . She manages to pull away and leave . Underwood stated that this scene had no script . She and the actor acted it out the way they thought it might have happened . Underwood revealed that she left the filming location with bruises on her arm- " I had finger marks on my arm when I left at the end of the day , so I was like , ' Wow . ' ... It was intense . I wasn 't just imagining it , it was really intense . " As the video continues , the girl is seen standing in the middle of a cemetery , walking around and staring at the clouds as a thunderstorm forms in the sky . She runs back to her house through an old , destroyed yellow @-@ brick road , similar to the one of Wizard of Oz . She enters the house to see her father sleeping on the couch , holding a bottle of alcohol . She sits next to him , recalling the times he let his drunkenness and anger get out of hand . She tries to wake him up but fails . She realizes that he has passed out . She looks through the window and notices the thunderstorm getting worse , so she leaves her father and runs to the cellar alone to protect herself . She 's seen lying in an old bed and crying , as she hears the tornado coming closer , with her father still passed out . The next day , there are no traces of the house , and she calmly walks away .

Regarding the Wizard of Oz references , Underwood commented that " it was all about having subtle references , " such as the plaid shirt and red shoes she wore on the video . When asked if her aim was to generate controversy with the storyline , the singer said that it was not what she were aiming for at all , adding : " I try to stay away from controversy in any form or fashion . It was just such a great story and such a mini @-@ movie , listening to the song , and we really wanted to do it justice in the video . "

= = Live performances = =

Underwood performed " Blown Away " on American Idol on May 3 , 2012 , the week of the album 's release . Amy Sciarretto of Taste of Country summarized the performance , writing , " Underwood was elevated on steps as she performed , with storm clouds roaring on the screens behind her . She was bathed in light as smoke billowed at feet . " The same month , she performed the song at the 2012 Billboard Music Awards , dressed in a long , red gown . The singer also performed it at the 2012 Country Music Association Awards . Throughout the performance , wind machines were used while confetti flew through the air . In 2013 , Underwood performed " Blown Away " again at the same award show , this time in a medley with " Good Girl " , " See You Again " and " Two Black Cadillacs " , representing the ending of the Blown Away era . The same year , she performed an

acoustic version of the song during the 55th Annual Grammy Awards . " Blown Away " was performed as the encore of Underwood 's Blown Away Tour (2012 ? 13) , along with " I Know You Won 't " .

== Charts and certifications ==