

= Don 't Say You Love Me (M2M song) =

" Don 't Say You Love Me " is the debut single by M2M , a Norwegian pop duo composed of singers Marion Raven and Marit Larsen . The song first appeared on Radio Disney before its official US radio and single release in October 1999 . It was released on the soundtrack to the film Pokémon : The First Movie in November 1999 and appears in the film 's closing credits . The song was featured on M2M 's debut album , Shades of Purple (2000) , and also appeared on their compilation album The Day You Went Away : The Best of M2M (2003) .

The song received positive reviews : Robert Christgau said it was one of the " impossibly touching " songs on Shades of Purple ; Chuck Taylor said it was " absolutely enchanting " and would appeal to both young and mature listeners . It reached number 2 in Norway , number 4 in both Australia and New Zealand , number 16 in the UK and number 21 on the US Billboard Hot 100 . It was certified gold in the US and Australia and remained M2M 's biggest hit . M2M performed the song on episodes of the TV series One World , Top of the Pops and Disney Channel in Concert . Two similar music videos were released for the song , with one showing clips from Pokémon : The First Movie .

= = Background and composition = =

Marion Raven and Marit Larsen were 14 and 15 @-@ years @-@ old respectively when the tracks from their debut album Shades of Purple , including " Don 't Say You Love Me " , were recorded . They had previously released a children 's album , Synger Kjente Barnesanger , under the band name Marit & Marion . That album was nominated for a Spellemannprisen award when they were both 12 years old . After taking some time off from recording music , the two began recording under the name M2M , which reflected the initials of both their first names . Atlantic Records received one of their demo recordings and signed them to a worldwide contract in 1998 . " Don 't Say You Love Me " was M2M 's debut single .

The song was written by Raven , Larsen , Peter Zizzo and Jimmy Bralower . It was produced by Zizzo and Bralower and was mixed by Tom Lord @-@ Alge . Lyrically , the song is about getting " the rules straight on a budding relationship . Slow down and don 't say you love me until you give me some time and get to know me . " There is a slight difference in lyrics between the version used in Pokémon : The First Movie version and the version released on Shades of Purple . The Shades of Purple version includes the line " then you start kissing me , what 's that about ? " In the Pokémon version , the lyric is " then you said you love me , what 's that about ? " When asked about the lyric change in an interview , M2M replied " the Pokémon people didn 't find it appropriate to have kissing in the lyrics , because it was for younger kids . We think [the lyric change] was stupid . The original version is on [Shades of Purple] , and that 's the one we wanted to go with . " M2M had not heard of Pokémon until the song was chosen for the soundtrack , as the franchise was not yet popular in Norway .

= = Release and appearances = =

" Don 't Say You Love Me " appeared in " The List " , an episode in the TV series Felicity that aired in the US on 3 October 1999 and reached an audience of 5 million people , helping to generate interest in the song . On October 10 it appeared in the Jack & Jill episode " Moving On " . The song was already being played on Radio Disney before it made its official US debut on 26 October 1999 . The single was released on both CD and Compact Cassette . Within a month , more than 100 US top @-@ 40 radio stations were playing the song ; by 10 November it was the sixth @-@ most requested song on New York radio stations . The song appeared during the closing credits of the film Pokémon : The First Movie and on the film 's soundtrack ; both the film and soundtrack were released in the US on 10 November 1999 . " Don 't Say You Love Me " was the debut single from the album . The single first entered the charts in the US on 20 November , by which time more than 400 @, @ 000 units had already been shipped to record stores .

Despite the success in the US , in November 1999 it was reported that the single would not be

released in the duo 's home country of Norway until the following year , as Warner Music Norway wanted to wait until both the Pokémon film and soundtrack were released in Europe to capitalise on the exposure . The single was released in Norway on radio on 24 November , and by 11 January the single was on sale in Norway and 25 other countries in Europe , the Americas , Asia and Oceania . It was expected to be released in the remaining European countries by the end of the month , though European countries where the single had not yet been released were already playing the song on the radio . The song was popular in Southeast Asia , receiving heavy airplay in Korea , Indonesia , the Philippines , Thailand and Singapore . On 12 January it was featured in the episode of Beverly Hills , 90210 , " Tainted Love " . The song was released in Japan on 25 January , in Spain on 22 February , and in the UK on 20 March on East West Records . It appeared on Shades of Purple , which was released in Europe in mid @-@ February and the US on 7 March , and in 2003 it appeared on M2M 's ' best of ' album , The Day You Went Away : The Best of M2M .

= = Reception = =

Robert Christgau gave a positive review , calling the song one of the " impossibly touching " tracks on Shades of Purple that " sets the standard " for the rest of the album . Chuck Taylor from Billboard said the song would appeal to both the young and mature listeners as it " neatly walks the line between pure pop and the cusp of the adult top 40 " . He added the song was " Absolutely enchanting in its youthful vocal and meaty series of hooks " . Michael Paoletta , also from Billboard , called the song an " infectious pop rocker " adding " what 's most dazzling about the track is the vocal verve of the girls ' harmonizing . " Heather Phares from AllMusic referred to the song as " sweet yet down @-@ to @-@ earth pop " . Marius Lillelien , the director of the Norwegian radio station NRK Petre , said " It 's a very well @-@ written , well @-@ produced pop song , they 're young and potentially the largest Norwegian pop success ever . The song is best suited to an audience aged 10 ? 16 , but in my opinion it won 't scare away older listeners " . " Don 't Say You Love Me " was nominated for the year 's best song at the 2000 Spellemannprisen awards , though it lost to Propaganda by Briskeby .

In the US , " Don 't Say You Love Me " entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number 72 , later peaking at number 21 . It also reached number 40 on both the Latin Pop Airplay and Tropical Songs charts . The single sold 39 @,@ 000 copies in the week preceding November 27 , and had sold 580 @,@ 000 units by May 2000 . It reached number 1 in Thailand , number 2 in Norway and number 4 in both Australia and New Zealand . It made the top 10 in Finland and Indonesia , the top 20 in Canada , the UK , Sweden and the Netherlands , the top 40 in Italy and Belgium and the top 80 in Germany , France and Switzerland . It was certified gold in the US on 6 December 1999 and in Australia in 2000 .

" Don 't Say You Love Me " was M2M 's biggest hit and is their most recognisable song . While their next single , " Mirror Mirror " , was a top 40 single in Australia and Canada , and reached number 62 on the Billboard Hot 100 , " Don 't Say You Love Me " would remain M2M 's only top @-@ 40 hit in the US , and their only hit at all in many other countries . The song has been called a one @-@ hit wonder . While speaking favourably of the duo , in 2014 Abby Devora from MTV ranked M2M and the song at number 2 on her list " 9 Girl Group One @-@ Hit Wonders You Need To Remember Right Now " . Jessica Booth from Gurl.com included the duo and song in her 2012 list " Flashback : 15 Old @-@ School Girl Singers We Miss " , calling the song " ridiculously catchy " . Kaitlin Cubria from Teen.com listed the duo and song in her 2014 list of " 12 forgotten girl groups from the ' 90s / ' 00s that are worth your time . " In 2014 Nathan Jolly from MAX said it was " one of those few pop songs that is happiness incarnate despite being a ' back the fuck off , dude ' anthem " .

= = Music video = =

The video was directed by Nigel Dick and was filmed from 4 to 6 October 1999 at the Mission Tiki drive @-@ in theatre in Montclair , California . In the video , Raven sings the song while she is in a car with a boy , while Larsen sings and plays the guitar in front of another car . This footage is mixed

with M2M singing together at the drive @-@ in , people dancing , the projectionist struggling with his malfunctioning equipment , and the concession stand worker who has an overflowing popcorn maker . When the popcorn stand explodes , M2M continue to perform surrounded by people as popcorn rains down . Air cannons were used to fire 200 garbage bin @-@ sized bags of popcorn into the air to create the raining popcorn effect . In the US the music video made its premiere on 24 October on The WB following that nights screening of 7th Heaven . It began airing on The Box and MuchMusic in early November 1999 and began airing on MTV on November 15 .

Two similar versions of the video were released . In one , clips from Pokémon : The First Movie are played on the screen at the drive in theatre . In the other version , fewer images of the screen are shown ; when they are seen the Pokémon images are replaced with either clips of Raven and Larsen singing the song or words such as " M2M " and " Intermission " . The Pokémon version of the video uses the censored lyrics , while the other one uses the album version of the song . The Pokémon version was included on the DVD of the film , while the other version was included on the bonus disc in The Day You Went Away : The Best of M2M .

= = Live performances and covers = =

To promote the single Raven and Larsen made a six @-@ stop tour of shopping malls in the Northeastern US between 21 August and 2 October ; it was their first tour under the name M2M . On 9 November 1999 , the day before Pokémon : The First Movie was released , M2M performed the song live at the Warner Bros. Studio Store on Fifth Avenue , Manhattan , in front of fans and a large media presence . To promote the single M2M also toured Singapore , Hong Kong and Japan before returning to Norway on 24 November . They performed the song on the episode " Band on the Run " of the TV series One World , which aired on 27 November , and on 31 March 2000 they performed it on Top of the Pops . M2M performed the song live at Walt Disney Worlds Epcot park on 12 February 2000 . This performance was recorded and appeared on an episode of Disney Channel in Concert on 29 April , which focused on both M2M and BBMak . As it was their biggest hit , " Don 't Say You Love Me " was a popular song during live performances . In December 2001 the song was performed as an encore , along with " Everything You Do " , in front of a crowd of 4 @,@ 000 at an M2M concert in Kuala Lumpur .

M2M disbanded in 2002 , after which Raven and Larsen both pursued solo careers ; Larsen is known for performing a country music version of the song during solo performances . The Fillipino acoustic pop duo Krissy & Ericka covered the song on their 2009 self @-@ titled album .

= = Track listings = =

The European version of the single contained the B @-@ side track The Feeling is Gone , one of three tracks recorded for Shades of Purple which were left off the album . The standard US version featured the Pokémon : The First Movie instrumental score " Mewtwo Strikes Back Suite " as the B @-@ side .

= = Charts and certifications = =