

= Poison (Nicole Scherzinger song) =

" Poison " is a song recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Nicole Scherzinger for her debut solo studio album , Killer Love (2011) . Released on October 25 , 2010 , it is the first single from the album . It was produced by RedOne , BeatGeek and Jimmy Joker , and is distinctively different from Scherzinger 's previous attempts at releasing solo material . " Poison " is backed with powerful synthesizers and a pulsing dance @-@ pop beat . The single was released as a two @-@ track digital download and as a seven @-@ track remixes extended play (EP) .

" Poison " has received mostly positive reviews from most music critics who praised her new sound and the energy on the record but some criticized the song for being too generic . Scherzinger performed " Poison " live for the first time on seventh series of The X Factor on November 28 , 2010 , to coincide with the song 's UK release . Both the show 's judges and studio audiences gave her a standing ovation , with the media later praising her energy , choreography and live vocals .

An accompanying music video , directed by Joseph Kahn , sees Scherzinger take on the role of a female superhero and switches between a good @-@ girl and bad @-@ girl persona . It was noted for its similarities to another Kahn @-@ directed video , " Toxic " by Britney Spears . " Poison " peaked at number three on the UK Singles Chart becoming Scherzinger 's second most successful single as a solo artist , in addition to peaking at number seven in Ireland , where it also became one of her highest charting releases . The single reached number one in Scotland , which was Scherzinger 's first solo number one worldwide .

= = Background = =

In 2007 , Scherzinger was planning to launch her debut album under the title Her Name is Nicole , however the release of four singles , including " Whatever U Like " (featuring T.I.) and " Baby Love " (featuring will.i.am) all failed to significantly impact on US charts . " Baby Love " was moderately successful reaching top @-@ twenty in Europe . After a number of pushbacks the entire project was scrapped at the request of Scherzinger . In May 2010 , Rap @-@ Up reported that Scherzinger was relaunching her solo career with an " empowering " ballad called " Nobody Can Change Me " . The song was recorded in a nighttime studio session while she was competing on season 10 of the U.S. reality competition , Dancing with the Stars , and was mastered on May 23 , 2010 , ready for its premiere on Ryan Seacrest 's KIIS FM radio show the following day . Idolator was unimpressed with the " treacly pop tune " saying that the lack of sexiness , " uninspiring message " and " squeaky vocals " did Scherzinger no favors . However , Amos Barshad of New York magazine actually liked the song , stating that " there ? s none of the Pussycat Doll ? s forced sexiness here ; instead , it sounds like something that could have just missed the final cut on a Kelly Clarkson album (that is sort of supposed to be a compliment , yeah) . "

Then in August 2010 , Moroccan producer RedOne was interviewed by the BBC . In the interview he revealed he had been working on Scherzinger 's album . " I just finished her album . Her last one never came out because it was collecting hamburgers , like fast food . One from McDonalds , one from Burger King , and so on . It tasted good , but it wasn 't consistent . Her new record ? people are really going to go crazy about it because it 's the real her . " Scherzinger 's boyfriend Lewis Hamilton selected " Poison " as the album 's first single . It debuted on her official YouTube account on October 14 , 2010 .

= = Composition = =

" Poison " is an up @-@ tempo electropop and dance @-@ pop song produced by RedOne , BeatGeek and Jimmy Joker . It was written by Scherzinger , Bilal Hajji , Kinda Hamid , Novel Jannusi , Achraf Jannusi , RedOne in the musical key of A @-@ minor . With a guitar @-@ driven melody , " Poison " uses a pulsating and toxic beat throughout , which is similar to that used in the Britney Spears song , " Toxic " . The lyrics were also compared to " Toxic " and said to have similar themes , according to BBC Music blogger , Fraser McAlpine . A reviewer from Rap @-@ Up spoke

of the song 's overall theme . " The lead Pussycat Doll has thoughts of using a deadly elixir on the dance floor , singing through a fuzzy filter over bombastic synthesizers . " They described the song as a " toxic pop gem " . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , the song has a time signature set in common time , with a tempo of 124 beats per minute . The melody is mainly composed with piano and guitar instruments .

= = Critical reception = =

Bridget Daley of Hollyscoop was impressed with the song saying , " It ' s super beat , and now we understand what RedOne meant when he told Hollyscoop how much we were going to love Nicole ' s ' new ' sound ! " However , Becky Bain of Idolator thought the " pulsating dance song " was underwhelming . " We have to admit , we ' re not bowled over by this one , which pretty much follows a standard , predictable dance @-@ pop formula from the double shout @-@ out at the start to the ' woosh 'ing fade @-@ out finish " . However Bain also pointed out that current trends on the US Billboard Hot 100 were unpredictable , " then again , since when has the Hot 100 shyed away from generic pop tunes we ' ve heard over and over again ? This one could go either way , folks . "

Fraser McAlpine of BBC Music stated that he thought the song was not as good as " Toxic " by Britney Spears , but was incredibly similar . After dubbing it a weaker version of " Toxic " , he said , " And that just leaves us here with a song [' Poison '] which is all stomp and huff , a dramatic bang of a thing , which seeks to drag all the bad girls to the dancefloor so they can holler their evil intentions to into the faces of nervous men . It ' s a song which makes the most of Nicole ' s unwholesome sexiness ? as opposed to wholesome , you understand , I 'm not saying there 's anything gross about her ? and has drama and fury on its side . " Nick Levine of Digital Spy agreed saying that " Scherzinger has managed to bag herself a banger of an (ahem) debut single " . He described the song 's busy production as " having a whiff of the Berline " teknoclub " that is a " racket in the best possible way " . Levine also praised Scherzinger for her conviction on the song , awarding it five out of five stars . He gave " Poison " a better reception than he awarded Scherzinger 's previous attempt , " Baby Love " (2007) , which he only awarded three out of five stars , stating that it was the wrong single to launch the career of a world @-@ class superstar .

= = Chart performance = =

Following Scherzinger 's performance on series seven of The X Factor , The Official Charts Company tipped " Poison " as a contender for number one on the UK Singles Chart . Then on December 11 , 2010 , the single debuted at number one on the Scottish Singles Chart . Additionally " Poison " made its UK chart debut at number three with first @-@ week sales of 67 @, @ 425 , thus becoming her first top ten single in the UK , as a solo artist . It also peaked at number two on the UK Digital Singles chart . The song has been certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) for shipments of 200 @, @ 000 copies of the single . In Ireland , the single debuted at number seven . " Poison " also charted at number nineteen on the Slovakian Airplay Chart .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Poison " was filmed over one day in an empty warehouse in Los Angeles , with Joseph Khan serving as the director and Rich & Tone as the choreographers. the music video for " Poison " features Scherzinger " sporting a skintight ninja outfit as she dance @-@ fights with baddies . " The video 's superhero theme has been compared to Kahn 's " Toxic " music video for Britney Spears .

The video begins on a city sidewalk where Scherzinger walks into a telephone booth as several men in black suits pass by the booth . As Scherzinger begins to undress , the men stop to stare as she begins taking of her glasses and shaking her hair back . The video then moves to Scherzinger in a dress walking past four men mopping the floor to a supply closet where she enters and reappears moments later , dressed in a black body suit with a cape . As the chorus begins , the

situation rapidly switches back @-@ and @-@ forth from Scherzinger in her good @-@ girl persona shown fighting escaped jail prisoners dressed in striped suits (and Beagle Boys masks) to Scherzinger in her bad @-@ girl persona fighting with police . As the song progresses , Scherzinger is shown in a classic looking automobile and riding a BMW motorcycle , with a streaking white and black background . Several shots of her bad @-@ girl persona alone in a room with two prisoners are then shown . As the bridge begins , she is shown in her good @-@ girl ego standing by a podium , talking to a group of reporters while waving her hands in the air . As the bridge ends , she brings her hands down , blowing back all of the reporters , who then begin dancing and pumping their arms to the song . The video moves to Scherzinger dancing with the police and prisoners before ending with her blowing away the two men who were in the room with her and walking away .

MTV 's Gil Kaufman called the video " slinky " . Robbie Daw from Idolator , said that " [we were] unsure about [...] ' Poison ' when it first surfaced . But now that it ? s been fitted with a somewhat stylish Joseph Kahn video , it ? s all sort of starting to fall into place . ' Poison ' video is super hot trash on a budget . .. But giving people with this much guilty pleasure in four minutes is just plain priceless . " French magazine Musique Mag , said that " [...] varying scenes , and fighting against thugs become [a] frenzied choreography . "

= = Live performances = =

Scherzinger performed " Poison " , live for the first time , on November 28 , 2010 , during the week eight results show on series seven of The X Factor UK . She wore a red catsuit and long black trenchcoat for the performance . The Sun said " Scherzinger stole the show last night " with her display of " live vocals " . The judges gave the performance a standing ovation . On The Xtra Factor following the live performances , Louis Walsh and Simon Cowell praised Scherzinger 's performance , respectively calling it " one of the best live guest performances we 've ever had " and " if you want an example of how you do it right ... its Nicole . It was focus , performance , vocals ... " . The Daily Mail followed suit , saying " Scherzinger put on a spectacle for her first live performance , complete with pyrotechnic lighting , full size cage and a stage full of scantily @-@ clad dancers ... The former guest judge brought the house down with her energetic routine " . Elena Gorgan of Softpedia agreed saying that Scherzinger wowed the " explosive " performance , earning her a standing ovation from the judges and audience . The following day , she reprised the performance on ITV 's breakfast show , Daybreak before heading to London 's Westfield Shopping Centre where she appeared on live screens to promote sports brand Reebok . She stayed in the UK until December 5 , 2010 , promoting the single .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from Killer Love booklet liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =