

## = Confessions Part II =

" Confessions Part II " is a song by R & B singer Usher , produced by Jermaine Dupri and Bryan @-@ Michael Cox for Usher 's fourth album Confessions . Written by Usher , Dupri and Cox , the song is a confession of a man to his woman about his impregnated mistress , a continuation of " Confessions Part I " which relates to a man 's infidelity . Its personal content evoked rumors and early responses from the public even before its release , believing that Usher was asserting the truth ; however , Dupri divulged that the story behind the album is his and Usher explained that he only took inspiration from his friends ' similar experiences .

" Confessions Part II " received mixed reviews from critics . The song was released as the third single from the album , following the success of " Burn " . The single reached number one on Billboard Hot 100 for two weeks , becoming the album 's third consecutive number @-@ one single . Internationally , the single had lesser success than the album 's previous releases .

## = = Background and release = =

When he started working on his fourth studio album Confessions after the release of his 2001 album 8701 , Usher chose not to branch out much with musical collaborators ; instead , he chose to continue creating music with his previous producers . He again enlisted producer @-@ songwriter Jermaine Dupri , who had produced songs for Usher 's two previous albums . Dupri approached Bryan @-@ Michael Cox , asking him to become a collaborator . Cox has been a frequent partner of Dupri who had produced hits for Usher as well . Like " Burn " , the second single from the album , Dupri and Cox conversed about a situation , creating the idea of the prospective song . However , they were concerned because they needed somebody to write such a song and they never thought Usher would do it . The concept became " Confessions " .

Usher started recording the song on July 2003 in New York City . One day , before the night was over , Usher was singing about impregnating a mistress and becoming displeased , having found that she is three months pregnant . The theme of cheating inspired him and Dupri , and they then decided to produce two parts of " Confessions " : Part I and Part II . Usher said that the former is a " dramatization where a guy confesses all the stuff he 's been doing " against his woman . The latter speaks of impregnating a mistress .

While Confessions was still in production , Usher promised " real talk " in it . He decided " to let it all hang out by singing about some of his own little secrets , as well as a few bones from his homies ' skeleton @-@ filled closets . " He explained : " All of us have our Pandora 's boxes or skeletons in our closets . I let a few of them out , you know . I 've got a lot to say . I 've got a lot of things and stuff built in me that I just want to let go of . " He further noted that , for the most part , the album 's subject matter is " very personal " . Dupri expected people to question some of the personal lyrics they associated in the song .

" Confessions Part II " was released as the third single from the album , following " Burn " . The single was released in the United States as a 12 " single on August 24 , 2004 . It was released in Germany on October 18 , and Australia on October 26 , 2004 , featuring the album and remix version of the track and a song called " Whatever I Want " . In the United Kingdom , it was a double A @-@ side with " My Boo " , the fourth single from the album . It was released in the country on December 28 , 2004 , and re @-@ released on January 18 , 2005 .

## = = Lyrical interpretation = =

Usher held few listening parties for the album prior to its release . Shortly after , people came up with different interpretations of " Confessions Part II " , among other personal songs in the album . In 2003 , Usher 's two @-@ year relationship with TLC 's Chilli was going to " flame @-@ out " , which partly contributed to the concept of " Burn " . They finally broke up early in 2004 because of " irreconcilable differences and because the two found it almost impossible to make compromises " which partly triggered public speculation that some of the songs in the album are in reference to his

personal struggle . They referred to the song speaking about Usher 's " infidelity " to Chilli .

Alongside the " cheating " rumors , the public inferred from the lyrics that Usher had impregnated a mistress in real life . Usher , however , emphasized that he was not in a relationship and " got another girl pregnant " and he was singing a " character " . The similarity of situations he faced before and experiences of his friends collectively inspired him to write the song . In the middle of rumors , Dupri admitted that the stories behind the songs in the album are his . He stated , " me cheating on my steady girlfriend , having a baby with that other woman and having to confess to everything that happened to my main girl . " Behind rumors , Usher refuted in an interview with MTV News :

People assume things , because as I said , I pull from my personal experiences to make my music ... I never experienced [ fathering a child outside of a relationship ] firsthand , but it 's something I wanted to talk about ... and it 's something that has happened to me in the past ... As I said , I have a few deep , dark ones that I 've kept stowed away in a closet for a minute ... That 's why I take this time to speak to you guys and let you know really what it is ... I will tell you that I loved [ Chilli ] a lot and she obviously loved me ; it just didn 't work out . But cheating is not what caused the relationship to collide and crash . That ain 't what broke it up .

= = Composition = =

" Confessions Part II " is an R & B song composed in the key of F minor . Set in common time , the song is performed with a moderate groove . The song follows the chord progression of D ? maj7 @-@ E ? -Fm7 , and Usher 's voice spans from the low note of E ? 4 to the high note of f6 . The lyrics are constructed in the inverted chorus @-@ verse form . There are four choruses and two verses , and then a break between the third and final chorus which Usher speaks the lyrics .

The lyrics of " Confessions Part II " centers on a confession about impregnating a mistress . For the prelude , Usher tells his significant other that he impregnated his mistress . " Confessions Part II " apologizes what he had done in part one . Usher said of the song that right after he confessed with his real woman , he hoped she would still give him a chance . Dupri said that " Confessions Part II " is one of the songs which speak about breakups in relationships .

= = Reception = =

Many critics found the song intriguing and came up with interpretations of it as well . Andrew McGregor of the BBC questioned if " Confessions Part II " , as well as " Truth Hurts " , are only " mere theatre " or telling the truth . Laura Sinagra of Rolling Stone focuses on how Usher admits in the song about impregnating a mistress . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine commented that Usher was at an age when " getting his ' chick on the side ' " seemed appropriate . Outside of rumors , Jem Aswad of Entertainment Weekly said that the best songs from the album were " Confessions Part II " and " Burn " , which he described as having smooth melodies . Matt Cibula of Popmatters said of the flow of the concept does not work . He pointed out that in the second part , Usher claims he " barely knows the other lady " , while in the first part , he already said that she was his ex @-@ girlfriend . He furthered called it the " wimpiest " song on the theme of the album . Kelefa Sanneh of The New York Times called it a " tricky infidelity narrative " .

" Confessions Part II " was nominated for Best R & B / Soul , Male at the 2005 Soul Train Music Awards . At the 2005 American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers Pop Music Awards , Dupri received the ASCAP Golden Note Award for co @-@ writing the song , alongside his many achievements and contributions to American popular music . British record company EMI was recognized as Publisher of the Year for the song , including " Burn " and songs by Alicia Keys , Beyoncé Knowles , Britney Spears .

= = Chart performance = =

" Confessions Part II " lived up to the success of its predecessors in the United States , though not

as overwhelmingly . The single debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 48 , a higher entry than those of " Yeah ! " and " Burn " did , while " Yeah ! " was still at the top of the chart and " Burn " at number three . It peaked at number one on July 27 , 2004 , replacing " Burn " ' s eighth non @-@ consecutive chart run , and stayed there for two weeks . It failed to match the number of days at top spot of the previous two releases , and remained on the top ten for 13 weeks . The single left the chart after 25 weeks . The single was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America on for reaching half a million shipments .

Internationally , " Confessions Part II " had lesser success . The single debuted at number five in Australia , becoming its highest entry , and failed to reach a higher position . The single reached number five in the United Kingdom , peaked at number seven in Ireland , and below top ten in the Netherlands and France , where it reached # 43

= = Music video = =

The music video of " Confessions Part II " was co @-@ directed by Usher and music video director Chris Robinson , who also directed the video for the album 's fourth single , " My Boo " . " Confessions ( Interlude ) " serves as the opening of the video . Set in a studio , Usher receives a phone message and finds out that he impregnated his mistress . After he speaks the spoken section of the interlude and gets in a car , " Confessions Part II " proceeds . Usher is set in a dark lit room , with only one chair . He occasionally shows a large ring on his ring finger . In the middle of the video , he lies on a piano and in his imagination , his woman and mistress are beside him . The next scene shows Usher in a brown car singing , goes out and kneels before his woman to confess . She refuses to listen and slaps Usher , then leaves and he becomes shirtless . Alone , Usher stands in front of a wide mirror , which breaks into pieces accompanied by a roaring sound , ending the same way " Confessions Part II " started , with him sitting on a chair .

The music video successfully charted on video programs . It debuted on MTV 's Total Request Live on June 28 , 2004 , the same entry as " Burn " . The music video reached number one on the countdown , and retired on September 15 , 2004 at number seven . Like " Yeah ! " , " Confessions Part II " video remained on TRL for 50 days .

The official remix of " Confessions Part II " was included on the re @-@ release of Confessions , and features additional verses by Usher , Shyne ( rapped his verse on the phone while in prison ) , Kanye West , Twista and Jermaine Dupri . The song is also parodied by " Weird Al " Yankovic on his album Straight Outta Lynwood ( 2006 ) as " Confessions Part III " .

= = Track Listings = =

UK CD 1

" Confessions Part II "

" My Boo " ( Duet with Alicia Keys )

UK CD 2

" Confessions Part II "

" My Boo " ( Duet with Alicia Keys )

" Confessions Part II " ( Remix ) ( featuring Shyne , Kanye West & Twista )

" Confessions Part II " ( Music Video )

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =

= = = Certifications = = =

