

= I Don 't Remember =

" I Don 't Remember " is a song by Australian alternative rock band Powderfinger , from the album Dream Days at the Hotel Existence . It made its radio debut on 9 July 2007 on Australian radio stations , and was subsequently released as a single and digital download on 4 August 2007 in Australia , 3 September 2007 in New Zealand , and 13 August 2007 in the United States .

The song was written by Powderfinger lead singer Bernard Fanning , and influenced by bassist John Collins . The riff was then developed by guitarist Ian Haug . The song is about reconciling difficulties and arguments , rather than shifting the blame .

" I Don 't Remember " was lauded by some reviewers , who appreciated its energy , while other reviewers were more critical , dubbing it an " advertisement song " . The music video also received critical acclaim , especially for the parodies it contained . Despite the reviews , the single charted poorly , reaching number 42 on the ARIA Singles Chart .

= = Background , writing , and recording = =

The song was written by the band 's lead singer , Bernard Fanning , following a night he spent drinking with bassist John Collins towards the end of the recording phase of Dream Days at the Hotel Existence . The song was written by Fanning on guitar , but he later wrote the main riff on piano , which was then converted into a lead guitar riff performed by Ian Haug . The guitars for the song are all tuned down one step ; while the guitar finger positioning is played as though in the key of C major , the detuning brings the key of the song down to Bb , with the song leading off with Bb 's relative minor , G minor . During the recording phase , Fanning suggested " softening " the main riff by returning it to the piano , and even recorded this concept ; however this piano version did not end up in the final album mix , nor was it included as a B @-@ side on the single .

" I Don 't Remember " was recorded in Los Angeles during pre @-@ production for Dream Days at the Hotel Existence . It contains a simple acoustic riff , similar to several songs on previous albums including Vulture Street . While recording the song in January 2007 , Fanning said in an interview that :

It 's a song about making mistakes and trying to reconcile what they were ? but then in the end , in the wash up ? it doesn 't really matter whose fault it was , as long as it gets reconciled .

This meaning was also evident in the song 's lyrics . In the second line , Fanning states that " I made a mistake that I 'll never surpass " , before explaining that it does not matter whose fault it is , in saying " I know you needed someone to take the fall / I know you needed someone to blame it on " . In the second verse , Fanning again reiterates that he feels pain in the mistake that was made , when he says " I found my heart and it broke like glass / I made that mistake that I 'll never surpass " .

John Collins said of the song :

I hope the song sounds exciting , without sounding ... big rock ? Without sounding country , and sound interesting , ' cause I think that the basis of the song if you play it on the acoustic is there , and it 's up to us [ Powderfinger ] to stuff it up now .

When Powderfinger first played the song to Benmont Tench , who would feature in a piano role throughout the album , he remarked that it reminded him of Buffalo Springfield , who was an inspiration of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers . Fanning replied that " we were thinking more of the Heartbreakers " , indicating the musical style intended in " I Don 't Remember " , but also paying homage to Tench , whom the band would work with extensively . Tench performed with the band on the album version of the song .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " I Don 't Remember " was made by Fifty Fifty Films , who had previously collaborated with the band on the videos for " Like a Dog " , " ( Baby I 've Got You ) On My Mind " , and " Lost and Running " , all nominated for ARIA Awards .

The music video starts on a school bus with children playing and throwing things , and features a young boy who then selects the track " I Don 't Remember " on his iPod and closes his eyes . He then dreams about a school concert for a band called " Littlefinger " , a parody of the band for which he is the lead singer " Bernie " , a parody of Bernard Fanning . The band and audience are composed of primary school students . Children are seen offering a chocolate milk called smilo , a take on Milo , and a camera crew for " Channel [ Z ] " and reporter " Su @-@ Mi " . This is a parody of Yumi Stynes , a presenter from Australian music station Channel V. The end of the clip shows that it was a dream being had by the student who played the lead singer for " Littlefinger " .

Many elements of " I Don 't Remember " ' s video received positive critical response for the usage of children in it . Kathy McCabe of The Daily Telegraph summarised critical feelings towards the video , by suggesting in her review that " [ maybe ] bands should get kids to play them in videos forever " .

= = = Parodies = = =

Powderfinger portrayed as " Littlefinger " .

Yumi Stynes portrayed as " Su @-@ Mi " .

Channel V portrayed as " Channel Z " .

News Ltd portrayed as " News Unlimited " on a T @-@ shirt .

Big Day Out portrayed as " Little Day Out " .

A sign posted says " Sshhh ! Jackson sleeping " , a parody of Australian band Sleepy Jackson .

Milo portrayed as " Smilo " .

Silverchair portrayed as " Hi Chair " on a T @-@ shirt .

Wolfmother portrayed as " Wolfmummy " on a T @-@ shirt .

Tony Mott , an Australian concert photographer is portrayed as " Tony Mop " on a T @-@ shirt with the actor also holding a SLR camera .

Cocaine and cigarettes portrayed as children 's candies Wizz Fizz and Fadds .

= = Response = =

In his review of Dream Days at the Hotel Existence , Herald Sun HiT journalist Cameron Adams claimed that " I Don 't Remember " was more of an advertisement style song , similar to " Lost and Running " , the first single released from the album . Adams stated that " ' I Don 't Remember ' is not the next single without reason ? it does everything you expect a Powderfinger single to , perhaps a more appropriate ' ad ' for this album . " Sputnikmusic contributor James Bishop described " I Don 't Remember " as unoriginal , but at the same time said that it proved Powderfinger " haven 't forgotten how to write a good song " .

Allmusic reviewer Clayton Bolger , however , described it positively as a " stadium anthem " and stating that it was a good example of the " trademarks of classic Powderfinger " showcased on the album . The review labeled the song a " pick " . Web Wombat 's review of the album also treated the song positively , dubbing it " classic Powderfinger . " Reviewer Andrew Tijs from CitySearch Brisbane stated that the song is " a smoothly emotive jangle @-@ rock tune with a purposeful chorus and Fanning 's inimitable vocal " , though provides mixed reviews when compared with other songs by the group , noting that " It 's no eerie ballad like ' The Day You Come ' , nor does it have ' Like a Dog ' ' s snarl , nor ' On My Mind ' ' s pub rock shudder . "

" I Don 't Remember " was performed regularly on the Across the Great Divide Tour , generally with positive responses . FasterLouder reviewer gumbouy stated that " The new songs are excellent live ; I Don 't Remember has more energy than its recorded counterpart ( Lost and Running ) " , following by praising the album and performance as a whole .

= = = Chart history = = =

" I Don 't Remember " entered the Australian Singles Chart at # 43 , then slid to # 47 in its second

week , but then reached its pinnacle position of # 42 in its third week . It then remained in the charts for the following three weeks in the upper forties , and then dropped off the chart . It was released as a single in New Zealand and the United States also , but failed to chart , despite moderate airplay in New Zealand . " I Don 't Remember " charted at # 66 on the Triple J Hottest 100 , 2007 .

= = Track listings = =

= = = CD single = = =

" I Don 't Remember " ? 3 : 41

" Who Really Cares ( Featuring the Sound of Insanity ) " ? ( live at Brisbane Powerhouse )

" My Kind of Scene " ? ( live at Brisbane Powerhouse )

= = = iTunes digital download = = =

" I Don 't Remember " ? 3 : 41

" Black Tears " ( Live ) ? ( early release exclusive )

= = Personnel = =

= = Release history = =