

= Si j 'avais au moins ... =

" Si j 'avais au moins ... " ( English : " If I Had at Least ... " ) is a song recorded by French singer Mylène Farmer . This pop rock ballad was written by Farmer with music composed by Laurent Boutonnat . It was the third single released , from her seventh studio album Point de suture ( 2008 ) , on 16 February 2009 . Directed by Bruno Aveillan , the accompanying music video is the continuation of Farmer 's previous single " Dégénération " and is the last part of a short film called The Farmer Project , broadcast in January 2009 . In the video , the singer portrays a supernatural character who saves animals from testing and heals them . Although a survey showed that a minority of the voters wanted the song as the third single , " Si j 'avais au moins ... " received positive reviews and achieved some success on the French Singles Chart , debuting at number @-@ one . Farmer performed the song on television during the NRJ Music Awards show on 17 January 2009 and on the 2009 Mylène Farmer en tournée tour .

= = Background and release = =

On 15 December 2008 , recording company Polydor officially announced that " Si j 'avais au moins ... " as the next single from the album Point de suture ( 2008 ) while simultaneously a promotional format was released on radio stations . This format contained a radio edit version , in which the last refrain of the original song , before the musical bridge , was deleted . Many fans were disappointed by this choice , as demonstrated by the results of a survey published on the website Mylene.net which showed that only 1 @.@ 7 % of the voters wanted the song as the third single . Charles Decant of Ozap deemed this release a " surprising decision " which recalled the choice of the ballad " Redonne @-@ moi " as the third single from her previous album Avant que l 'ombre ... ( 2005 ) . As the song has a very slow tempo , author Erwan Chuberre deemed that Farmer made " an artistic rather than a commercial choice " when she decided to release the song as a single .

On 15 January 2009 , it was announced that the maxi vinyl , published in a limited edition , and the CD single would be released on 10 February , then delayed to 16 February . The cover art of the promotional single was entirely red , showing a close @-@ up , the head of the doll which had appeared on Point de suture . The cover of the single , which published on the internet on 27 January 2009 , displayed a photograph by Simon Hawk .

= = Lyrics = =

According to the author Benoît Cachin , " Si j 'avais au moins ... " deals with the absence of a loved being , which causes an unbearable but trainer pain . Like in " Redonne @-@ moi " , the lyrics use the lexical field of a " ghost which haunts the singer 's mind " , include some references to religion and the neologism enténébrement .

= = Music video = =

Directed by Bruno Aveillan , the music video was filmed in mid @-@ 2008 in an abandoned hospital in Prague . It premiered on the internet on 7 January 2009 , and was officially released on television on M6 , ten days later . The music video was shot just after " Dégénération " , the first single from Point de suture , as both music videos are parts of a short film named The Farmer Project .

The video starts with Farmer slowly walking in an laboratory in which many animals are captive to serve as experiments . Depicting a supernatural creature , the singer approaches every cage to look at all the animals ? pigeons , cats , bobcats , rabbits , mice , a snake , an owl , a monkey , a doe ? and heals them with her magic hands . Then she takes a wounded little cat out of its cage and puts it on her shoulders . During the second refrain , she remains standing with closed eyes in the middle of the room and uses her supernatural powers to explode all of the glass cages . She thus releases the animals and , with a monkey in her arms , leads them outside into the woods . Standing in the forest , she closes her eyes again and sends many rays of light from her hands . The last

scene shows the Earth being covered by that light .

According to Lionel Steketee , " Mylène [ was ] very professional , thorough , discreet and almost shy " when she participated in the shooting of the video . He said she had to be careful not to get scratched by the cat , and that the final scene was difficult to film because the cats were afraid of the water used in this scene , the rats remained hidden in a corner and the birds did not fly much . Given that the song deals with the pain caused by the absence of a dead person , the video is unrelated to the lyrics , as noted by author Alice Novak . In reviews , Yahoo ! Music said that , through the video , " [ Farmer ] invites us into her dark and magical universe " , and Premiere deemed it " mysterious , provocative " . Considering it a short film , Cachin praised the music video as being " perfectly done " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Si j 'avais au moins ... " , reviewed after the album 's release , was generally well received in the media . Swiss newspaper Le Matin said it was a " magnificent ballad " and one of the best songs of the album ; as for Jason Birchmeier of Allmusic , he qualified " Si j 'avais au moins ... " and " Point de suture " as " standout ballads made of uplifting string arrangements and delicate vocal melodies " . Novak deemed the song " sweet and sad " . La Meuse considered it a " ballad with a strong lachrymal connotation " .

In France , " Si j 'avais au moins ... " charted poorly on radio , peaking at number 60 on the airplay chart in its second week , on 19 December 2008 . In contrast , the music video was regularly broadcast on television , reaching number five on the TV airplay chart in its third week . On the singles chart , the song debuted at number one on the chart edition of 21 February 2009 , selling 12 @ , @ 375 units that week , and thus became the singer 's seventh number one single in France , which , at the time , was a record . The week after , the song ranked at number five , and weekly sales dropped to 3 @ , @ 072 ; thereafter , it continued to drop and remained 27 weeks in the top 50 and 38 weeks in the top 100 , which remains the third longest chart trajectory of Farmer 's single in France . In Belgium ( Wallonia ) , the single entered the Ultratop 50 at number 25 on 28 February 2009 , then dropped to number 38 . In Switzerland , it charted for one week , at number 72 , on 1 March 2009 . The song began at a peak of number six on the chart edition of 7 March 2009 on the European Hot 100 Singles , which was the highest debut then .

= = Promotion and live performances = =

Farmer performed the song during the NRJ Music Awards , broadcast on 17 January 2009 , on TF1 . She was dressed in white and was accompanied by many musicians . She lip @ - @ synced a recording of the song she had made the day before .

" Si j 'avais au moins ... " was performed as the last song during the 2009 tour , but only in the halls venues , and was cancelled for the concerts in stadiums . Farmer then wore a long white dress , and the stage was bathed in red and orange lights . During the refrain , many screens displayed images of lava expelled by a volcano during an eruption . The last musical bridge was extended while part of the staircase raised and showed a tunnel throughout which Farmer left the stage . In December 2009 , Farmer officially released the live video of the song on the Internet , video which was not featured on the DVD and Blu @ - @ ray for N ° 5 on Tour ; the instrumental version of the song , however , was used for the ending credits " Générique " .

= = Formats and track listings = =

The formats and track listings of single releases of " Si j 'avais au moins ... " :