

= Nobody Knows Me =

" Nobody Knows Me " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Madonna . The song was written and produced by Madonna and Mirwais Ahmadzaï for her ninth studio album American Life ( 2003 ) . It was released as a promotional single in the United States on October 15 , 2003 , with a remixed version appearing on the remix compilation Remixed & Revisited ( 2003 ) . " Nobody Knows Me " carries on the main theme of American Life , with its usage of negative tones on the songs . It is an dance and electronic song , with vocoder effects , spacey synths and a bubbly bass , and lyrically , Madonna rejects tabloid culture 's " social disease " , denouncing both TV and magazines .

The song received generally favorable reviews from music critics , with many of whom calling it as a highlight from American Life . Four remixes were released in club stations around the United States , with one of them peaking at number four on the US Hot Dance Club Play chart . The song , along with " Nothing Fails " , topped the US Hot Dance Singles Sales chart and also charted on the ARIA Club Tracks in Australia . Madonna did a performance of the song alone on stage on her Re @-@ Invention World Tour in 2004 . It was also used as a video interlude on The MDNA Tour in 2012 , showing Madonna 's face morphed with a number of famous figures . French far right politician Marine Le Pen sued Madonna for superimposing a swastika and Adolf Hitler 's face with hers .

= = Background = =

American Life became Madonna 's final studio album with Maverick Records , and marked the end of an eleven @-@ year recording history with the label . In an interview with VH1 , Madonna discussed her motivations behind the record discussing her 20 years in the industry and stating that " material things " were unimportant , stating " I look back at the 20 years behind me and I realized that a lot of things that I 'd valued weren 't important " , in response to the non @-@ materialistic themes of the record . The album has been deemed by some as a concept album featuring political themes based around the United States . " [ The songs ] are examining things I valued and things I found myself worrying about , caring too much about , and realizing that those things aren 't important and wanting to get out from underneath that cloud , the world of illusion " , Madonna stated . According to Lucy O 'Brien , author of Madonna : Like an Icon , the main concept of American Life was about " nothing " . This was evident in the titles of the songs like " Nobody Knows Me " , usage of " no " in " Love Profusion " , as well as " Nothing Fails " . Usage of the negative tone led Madonna to be sarcastic on people 's assumptions about her and emphasize about her knowledge of romantic love . O 'Brien described the concept of the album and the song :

" If Like a Prayer was her divorce album , American Life is her psychoanalysis . She even name checks Sigmund Freud and throws out countless questions . Who am I ? Where am I going ? What does it all mean ? Much of the album is suffused with sarcasm : right from the disaffected ennui of the title track to the stropiness of ' Nobody Knows Me ' , Madonna is kicking against the claustrophobic effect of celebrity worship . "

A remix of the song was featured in Madonna 's 2003 compilation Remixed & Revisited . Other remixes by Peter Rauhofer , Mount Sims and Above & Beyond were serviced to dance clubs . In 2004 , Madonna released a book entitled Nobody Knows Me which was available exclusively for one month only via Madonna 's official website for \$ 24 each . It included 52 pages of rare and unseen shots " commented by an Icon and her angels " .

= = Recording and composition = =

" Nobody Knows Me " was written and produced by Madonna and Mirwais Ahmadzaï . The recording sessions for American Life started at late 2001 , then was put on hold as Madonna filmed Swept Away in Malta and starred in the West End play Up for Grabs . She returned to the Olympic Recording Studios in late 2002 and finished off the sessions . The mixing for the track was done by Mark " Spike " Stent at the Westlake Recording Studios in West Hollywood , California , while Tim

Young did the mastering of the song at Metropolis Studios in London . Ahmadzaï played the guitars , and also did the necessary programming . Two machines were used for the vocal editing in songs like " Hollywood " and " Nobody Knows Me " . Madonna preferred the Antares Auto @-@ Tune plug in , while Ahmadzaï chose an AMS pitch shifter . Madonna chose Auto @-@ Tune because she wanted " Nobody Knows Me " to have a more dance @-@ like feel to it , although Ahmadzaï was against it .

" Nobody Knows Me " has vocoder effects , spacey synths , bubbly bass . IGN Music 's Spencer D. described that the song blips , glurges , and shuffles with a Jetsons ' styled disco ebb and flow and sounds like as an outtake from Music ( 2000 ) . It begins with vocoder treated vocals over a bleeping synth , on a minor chord . Heavy drum hits stress the melody during the verse . " Nobody Knows Me " is written in common time with a moderately fast tempo of 120 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of C major with Madonna 's voice spanning from B3 to C5 . The song follows a basic sequence of C ? Am ? D ? Am ? A ? E as its chord progression . Lyrically , she rejects tabloid culture 's " social disease " , denouncing both TV and magazines . The chorus features repeated echo shifts of " nobody knows me " while she ponders thoughts like , " It 's no good when you 're misunderstood , but why should I care what the world thinks of me ? " . O 'Brien described it as a trancey track with a sense of childlike defiant lyrics , dismissing critics who have no knowledge of her " jealously guarded inner self " .

= = Critical reception = =

The song received generally favorable reviews from music critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic praised the song as one of the best tracks of the album , calling it " infectious " . Sean O 'Brien from The People praised " Nobody Knows Me " as " the best song of the album " and her " one of her best ever " . He also said that the song is one of the reasons why Madonna is queen of pop . Jon Pareles from The New York Times considered it as the album 's most danceable song . Lucy O 'Brien in her book Madonna : Like an Icon , called the song " dazed @-@ sounding " . Metro Times described Ahmadzai 's programming as " by far the best thing on the album " . James Hannaham from Spin compared " Nobody Knows Me " to Donna Summer 's " I Feel Love " , and deemed it as a highlight from the album . Alan Braidwood from BBC Music felt that the song was " insane " with its electronic , chaotic , fast and manic pounding synths . " There is so much going on here several it 'll take several plays to really get it , but it 's ace . " Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly described " Nobody Knows Me " as the " downright thrilling " and " deploys a shrewd little form @-@ versus @-@ content paradox " .

Spence D. from IGN Music commented that the song is the coolest song on the album up to this point . Paul Rees from Q magazine complemented the track as a " conventional rock song , filled with drama , darkness and surprises " . USA Today 's Edna Gunderson said that the " funkified " synth @-@ pop of " Nobody Knows Me " attests to Madonna 's " undiminished " skills as a shrewd pop composer . Yahoo ! Music 's Dan Genoe commented that Madonna has a personality crisis in the song . Jessica Winter from The Village Voice gave the song a mixed review , writing : " It mutes slightly the slaphappy beats of Mirwais 's own club hit " Disco Science " to make vague digs at the press and defensively vow self @-@ improvement . Madonna 's voice is mixed and diced into baby gurgles , which might have been cute if it weren 't so redundant . " John Payne from LA Weekly deduced that even within the synth sounds of the song , he could see " real feeling deeply ingrained in this particular icon . ' Why should I care what the world thinks of me ? ' That is , yes , she does care what the world thinks of her . She says she ? ll just withdraw from the public eye , ? cause who needs this , huh ? " Conversely , Rikky Rooksby , author of The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna , gave a negative review saying that " Nobody Knows Me " might be the silliest track that Madonna had ever recorded .

= = Chart performance = =

The song , along with " Nothing Fails " , topped the Hot Dance Singles Sales while the Peter

Rauhofer remix peaked at number four on the Hot Dance Club Play chart . According to Fred Bronson , the single release of the remixes of the song debuted at number @-@ one on the Hot Singles Sales and Hot Dance Single Sales chart , on the issue dated December 27 , 2003 , the same week it also moved up to the top @-@ twenty of the Dance Club Play chart . " Me Against the Music " by Britney Spears , on which Madonna was featured , and " Nobody Knows Me " , both were also present in the top @-@ twenty , making Madonna the only artist to have three songs within the top @-@ twenty on the chart simultaneously . At the year @-@ end Hot Dance Singles Sales recap , " Nothing Fails / Nobody Knows Me " was at number two position , while " Me Against the Music " and " Love Profusion " was at numbers one and three respectively . Billboard reported that Madonna was the first artist in its chart history to have the top three Dance Sales song . In Australia , the Peter Rauhofer / Above & Beyond Remix debuted at number 80 on the ARIA Club Tracks , peaking at number 49 the next week .

= = Live performances = =

Madonna performed the song during the 2004 Re @-@ Invention World Tour , as the second song on the opening segment of the show . " Nobody Knows Me " was rehearsed with the Peter Rauhofer 's Private Life remix . According to Dirk Timmerman , author of Madonna Live ! Secret Re @-@ inventions and Confessions on Tour , Madonna lip @-@ synched the performance . During this section , the singer wore a jewel encrusted corset , created by designer Christian Lacroix . After the opening number , " Vogue " , she started an energetic version of the song , on a conveyor belt with some laser light words appearing on the backdrop screens behind her . It also features a giant catwalk lowered from the ceiling . After this performance , she performed " Frozen " alone on stage . The performance of " Nobody Knows Me " was included in the I 'm Going to Tell You a Secret live album and documentary .

The song was later added as a video interlude on The MDNA Tour in 2012 , as a tribute to Tyler Clementi and other teens who had committed suicide due to bullying . The film , which was created by Swedish director Johan Söderberg , morphed Madonna 's face with a number of famous figures , including then @-@ Chinese President Hu Jintao , US Republican former presidential candidate Sarah Palin and Pope Benedict XVI . The face of French far right politician Marine Le Pen appeared on the screen with a swastika superimposed on her forehead , before it morphed into the face of Adolf Hitler . Le Pen was infuriated by the video , and threatened to sue Madonna should this happen during her concert in France on July 14 , 2012 , also known as Bastille Day , the French National Day . Socialist French government spokesperson Najat Vallaud @-@ Belkacem had also expressed her disappointment . However , Madonna kept the video unchanged on this date , prompting Le Pen to file a lawsuit against her . A spokesman for Le Pen said a lawsuit for " public insult " would be lodged with the Paris courts in the next few days . Madonna responded to the lawsuit saying " I know that I made a certain Marine Le Pen very angry with me . And it 's not my intention to make enemies . " She later explained in an interview with Brazilian network Rede Globo , Madonna explained that the sequence was about " intolerance that we human beings have for one another . And how much we judge people before knowing them . That 's why it 's done in the song ' Nobody Knows Me . ' " During her concert in Nice , France , the swastika was removed and was replaced by an interrogation mark .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Madonna ? lead vocals , background vocals , songwriter , producer  
Mirwais Ahmadzaï ? songwriter , producer , guitars , programming  
Tim Young ? audio mastering  
Mark " Spike " Stent ? audio mixing

Credits for " Nobody Knows Me " are adapted from American Life liner notes .

= = Charts = =