

= Papers (song) =

" Papers " is a song by American recording artist Usher . The song was a buzz single for his sixth studio album Raymond v. Raymond . It was written by Usher , Alonzo " Gorilla Zoe " Mathis , Sean Garrett and Zaytoven , and was produced by the latter two . Although it was never identified as a track from the album , or as the lead single , it was released to U.S. urban and rhythmic radio stations on October 12 , 2009 , and subsequently available for digital download on October 16 , 2009 .

The song received positive reviews from critics who compared the track to his previous work , and embraced the lyrical content of the song . The song peaked at number thirty @-@ one on the Billboard Hot 100 and topped the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , giving Usher his tenth number one song on the chart .

= = Background and composition = =

In June 2009 , co @-@ writer and producer of the song , Xavier " Zaytoven " Dotson revealed to MTV News that he worked with Usher on a song . Zaytoven divulged a few details , saying , " I can 't wait for something like that to come out , so people can see I do more than just hip @-@ hop . I can do R & B , pop , gospel ... whatever genre of music that 's out . If you listen to [this new Usher song] , you can 't say , ' Zaytoven did that . ' " According to Zaytoven in another interview with MTV News , the track was originally called " Filing Papers " . Zaytoven said , " This is before there were any reports about Usher 's marriage in the news . So I was thinking to myself , ' Is he trying to say something ? ' I don 't know what Usher is going through , but Sean Garrett made a song about filling out papers , divorce papers . The beat , it 's got a bounce to it . It 's outta here . " Sean Garrett later clarified , stating that the song was not necessarily called " Filing Papers " , Garret commented ,

" Let 's say I wrote a record for Usher three or four months ago where I really didn 't have any idea of what he was going through personally . I work really hard at creating records I feel that 's gonna fit like a glove to an artist . Me and Usher have a close relationship ; I tend to sort of assist certain artists in giving them a direction , where I think they need to go in their next move . I felt that was the direction we needed to go . I felt that was the question everyone wanted to know : Was [his relationship] good or was it bad ? Was it right ? Are you happy or you 're not ? "

Garrett continued to maintain that he had no idea of Usher 's state of marriage during the time of the song 's development , stating that the record could have meant anything , saying , " I 'm a heavy believer in God . I 'm a Pisces . My intuition is crazy . I think that 's healthy in the process for me writing and producing for people . Maybe it was a sign of what my man was going through and he needed to get out . Maybe it was something she needed to hear as a wake @-@ up call to her . " In October 2009 , the track was released as the album 's buzz single , not intended to be the first release of Raymond v. Raymond , but to generate reception and feedback . In March 2010 , Usher continued to support Garrett 's original claims , stating the song was recorded before his marriage ended . Usher said in an interview for MTV News for promoting Raymond v. Raymond :

" I think people would have immediately alluded to the fact I was talking about my wife when I made that record ? and now my ex @-@ wife , " he said . " When the song was recorded , I wasn 't divorced . It was some reality in the contrast of trying to make it all work , having to balance a career and having a normal life . Coming in at 6 in the morning and arguing was a reality when you have those type of relationships . I felt that in a way , the story did touch on certain things at the time . I didn 't know how realistic it would become . I didn 't know I would become divorced . I did know it spoke on the contrast between trying to balance this world of being married and having this responsibility that 's like a marriage at the same time . The song spoke to that place . Unfortunately , it did become a reality . "

Garrett said the song appeals to everyone , saying " Whether you 're a female in love , male in love , it 's a real record . Your mama has to feel this record , your daddy has to feel this record , everybody has to feel this record . That 's what good writers do . " Of its appeal Garrett said that it would have the effect of " Yeah ! " , and called the song an " explosive record " . Garrett went on to

say , " I definitely feel it 's what Usher 's been wanting to say . But at the same time , it 's what a lot of people wanted to say , they just didn 't know what to say . " Jayson Rodriguez of MTV News said that " Usher pulls back the curtain , revealing that a rumored rift between him and his mother was very real " , and the song could be heard as an " postmortem " on his marriage , through the lines , " For you I gave my heart and turned my back against the world / ' Cause you were my girl , girl , girl , I done damn near lost my mama , I done been through so much drama / I done turned into the man I never thought I 'd be / I 'm ready to sign them papers . "

= = Critical reception = =

Sarah MacRory of Billboard , compared the song to 2004 's " Burn " comparing " Papers " to the former number one hit 's " layered harmonies , mellow production and lyrics of heartache " . MacRory also said , " It 's the first time in a while that the singer sounds energized , as he unleashes deeply personal lyrics about the real @-@ life sacrifices he made for love . " Jayson Rodriguez of MTV News predicted that if " Papers " were any indication of his upcoming album , then " Raymond vs. Raymond may break some sales records " , as Confessions was the last time when " art was inspired by his life " . Andy Kellman of Allmusic said that Usher " pours himself " into the " Papers " and that the song " bears the closest relation to the turbulence he experienced . " Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune said that " It ? s the kind of lacerating perspective that adulthood brings , but Usher ? s too busy chasing his past to fully embrace it . " Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly said that the song was the album 's " last @-@ straw slow jam " and the only song other than " Foolin ' Around " that offers real revelation .

= = Chart performance = =

On the week ending October 31 , 2009 " Papers " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at ninety @-@ two . In its second week , it moved sixty @-@ one spots to thirty @-@ one , where it peaked . The song spent a total of sixteen weeks on the chart . " Papers " also reached number one on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs becoming Usher 's tenth number @-@ one song on that chart .

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Papers " ? 4 : 21

= = Credits and personnel = =

Songwriting - Usher Raymond , Sean Garrett , Zaytoven , Alonzo Mathis

Production - Sean Garrett , Zaytoven

Background vocals - Shelea Frazier , Romika Faniel , Tommy Parker , Solomon Dykes , Timothy Bloom

Vocal production - Rico Love

Recording - Miles Walker

Vocal recording - Ian Cross , assisted by Blake Harden and Brandon Parks

Mixing - Ian Cross and Matt Marrin , assisted by Alex Barajas

Source :

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =

