

= Asking 4 It =

" Asking 4 It " is a song by American singer and songwriter Gwen Stefani from her third studio album , This Is What the Truth Feels Like (2016) . The song features guest vocals from American rapper Fetty Wap . It was released on March 18 , 2016 , as the ninth track on This Is What the Truth Feels Like by Interscope Records . The track was written by Stefani , Justin Tranter , Julia Michaels , Tor Hermansen , Mikkel Eriksen , and Fetty Wap . The track 's production was handled by Stargate , while additional production was made by Tim Blacksmith and Danny D.

Musically , " Asking 4 It " is a hip hop and trap influenced track , made clear especially in Fetty Wap 's rap verse . Lyrically , the song discusses someone 's doubts while in a relationship , presumably Stefani referring to her recent divorce from husband Gavin Rossdale . Upon release , " Asking 4 It " received mixed reviews from music critics . Some critics labeled the song as " trippy " and a " club stomper " , while others called it " dated " and questioned its " awkward " placement on the album .

= = Background and release = =

Shortly after the lukewarm response to singles " Baby Don 't Lie " and " Spark the Fire " , Stefani scrapped any material worked on for her then upcoming third studio album . Stefani 's record label , Interscope Records , approached her to consider the idea of working with new songwriters and producers , such as Julia Michaels and Justin Tranter , to which she agreed . During her recording sessions with Michaels and Tranter , Stefani became interested in working with new collaborators . In an interview with Entertainment Weekly , Stefani felt that Fetty Wap had " a voice with so much character " , so she subsequently told her team that she wanted to collaborate with him . In the same interview , Stefani stated she was surprised the collaboration even happened due to scheduling conflicts concerning Fetty Wap :

It was tough getting him into the studio , though . They got me [studio] dates , and then I was like , ' I 'm working with Fetty this week ! ' Then I went in , and nope , he doesn 't show . Day Two and nope , he doesn 't show . Day Three and nope , he doesn 't show . I wrote a song for us while I was in the studio and I sent it to him , and nope , no response . It was a miracle it happened .

" Asking 4 It " was written by Stefani , Justin Tranter , Julia Michaels , Tor Hermansen , Mikkel Eriksen , and Fetty Wap . It was produced by Stargate , while additional production was handled by Tim Blacksmith and Danny D. The track was mixed by Mark " Spike " Stent , while Mike Anderson and Miles Walker handled recording and tracking . Fetty Wap is the only featured artist on the album . On February 12 , 2016 , This Is What the Truth Feels Like became available for pre @-@ order on iTunes Store . Nearly a month later , " Asking 4 It " became available for purchase on March 18 , along with the rest of the album .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Asking 4 It " has been described as a hip hop and trap song , backed by a rapped verse by Fetty Wap , with a length of three minutes and thirty seconds . A writer for Hitsync described " Asking 4 It " as a " bopping , hip hop tinged beat flecked with dancey synths . " Chris Mench of Complex described the inclusion of Fetty Wap as Stefani " call [ing] upon one modern @-@ day hit maker " , while Clara Hudson of The Daily Free Press called this move " gimmicky " . Lyrically , " Asking 4 It " discusses several topics , including a lover 's doubts while in a relationship ; Stefani sings " You 're giving me truth and it 's such an unfamiliar subject " , which ET Online described as " a sultry take on the uncertainty of a new romance . "

The song was inspired by her divorce from Bush lead singer , Gavin Rossdale ; Stefani wrote several songs during these recording sessions to start " a new chapter in her life " . In an interview with Today 's Matt Lauer , Stefani stated that the majority of her recent studio work would discuss her breakup with Rossdale . Billboard stated that the lyrics " Are you sure you wanna love me ? / I know that it 's a lot to handle me / But it is what it is / It 's all part of my broken history " were " ultra personal " . In his description of the track , Glenn Gamboa of Newsday stated that " ' Asking 4 It '

strikes at the heart of pop radio " while Jillian Mapes of Pitchfork Media described " Asking 4 It " as " the album 's sole feature atop an unconvincing beat . " Nicholas James Jodlowski of Reporter felt that the album 's " sound cools down a little " , but that the track " is still easy to dance to " .

= = Critical reception = =

Upon release , " Asking 4 It " received generally mixed reviews from contemporary music critics . In a highly positive review , Leonie Cooper of NME praised Stefani for her " nonchalant divorcée swagger " on the track , later calling " Asking 4 It " a standout track on the album . Similarly , Mesfin Fekadu of The Washington Post called the track a " high point " . Mikael Wood of the Los Angeles Times favored the track , labeling it as " trippy " . Writing for Entertainment Weekly , Leah Greenblatt dubbed " Asking 4 It " as a " come @-@ on disguised as [a] caution " ; Greenblatt further praised the song for being a " stomper " .

In a negative review of " Asking 4 It " , Sal Cinquemani of Slant called the track " dated " and " no more worthy of Stefani 's emotional exorcism than 2014 's stale ' Spark the Fire ' " . Emily Blake of Mashable thought that " Asking 4 It " was " an out @-@ of @-@ place hip @-@ hop track " , while Jordan Miller of BreatheHeavy felt that the song was " vulnerable " and unfavorably predicted that it will " probably become a single " in the future . Daniel Bromfield of Pretty Much Amazing panned " Asking 4 It " but enjoyed Fetty Wap 's contribution to the track ; Bromfield thought " it 's tragic how completely [Fetty Wap] upstages Stefani " and how Fetty Wap showed emotion during his verse while Stefani did not .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Westlake Recording Studios , Los Angeles ; and The Hide Out Studios , London
Management

Songs of Break Out My Cocoon LLC (ASCAP) and Emi April Music Inc . (ASCAP)

Songs of Warner @-@ Tamerlane Publishing Corp. on behalf of itself and Justin 's School For Girls
(BMI) / Thanks For The Songs Richard (BMI)

Fetty Wap appears courtesy of 300 Records

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of This Is What the Truth Feels Like