

= Close My Eyes (Mariah Carey song) =

" Close My Eyes " is a song recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Mariah Carey for her sixth studio album *Butterfly* (1997) . It was co @-@ written and produced by Carey and Walter Afanasieff . While Carey solely wrote the lyrics to the song , both she and Afanasieff composed its music . They also produced and arranged the song together . A downtempo piano led song , the lyrics in " Close My Eyes " revolve around negative experiences in her life , including indirectly talking about the relationship between her and ex @-@ husband Tommy Mottola . In September 2012 , Carey revealed that it is one of her most favourite and revealing songs that she has written in her career thus far .

= = Background = =

Carey began working on *Butterfly* in January 1997 . During the album 's development in mid @-@ 1997 Carey separated from her husband , music executive Tommy Mottola , who had guided her career since 1988 . Carey 's increasing control over her own career had led to speculation in the press over the future of the couple , and they later divorced . Throughout the development of the album , in a departure from her previous style , Carey worked with various rappers and hip @-@ hop producers , including Sean " Puffy " Combs , Kamaal Fareed , Missy Elliott and Jean Claude Oliver and Samuel Barnes from Trackmasters . Critics saw Carey 's new production team as a form of revenge on Mottola and Sony Music . Carey denied taking a radically new direction , and insisted that the musical style of her new album was of her own choosing . Nevertheless , Carey resented the control that Sony , whose president was Mottola , exercised over her music , preventing her making music about which she was passionate . In contrast , Sony were concerned Carey , their best @-@ selling act , could jeopardize her future success through her actions . The pressure of the separation and constant press attention began to take its toll of Carey . Growing creative differences with producer Walter Afanasieff ended their working relationship , after collaborating on most of Carey 's previous output . The breaking point came after a heated argument during a long recording session , over the album 's musical direction . Carey also faced media criticism over her choice of producers and several newspapers linked Carey romantically to several rappers , suggesting these relationships influenced her decisions . However , Carey denied the allegations , stating she had only slept with her husband .

= = Production and recording = =

" Close My Eyes " was co @-@ written by Carey and Walter Afanasieff ; Carey solely wrote the lyrics , while both she and Afanasieff composed the musical structure . It was also produced and arranged by Carey and Afanasieff . The keyboards , synthesizers and programming were performed by Afanasieff . Additional keys , drum and rhythm programming , sound design and computer programming were carried out by Dan Shea . Dana Jon Chappelle and Mike Scott served as the engineers , while Ian Dalsemer was enlisted as the assistant engineer . " Close My Eyes " was recorded at Crave Studios and The Hit Factory , both situated in New York City . It was mixed by Mick Gzauski at both Crave Studios and The Hit Factory . It was mastered by Bob Ludwig at Gateway Mastering in Portland , ME .

= = Composition and lyrical interpretation = =

" Close My Eyes " is a downtempo piano led song , which runs for a duration of four minutes and 19 seconds . The lyrical content of the song speaks indirectly about Carey 's relationship with Mottola , and reflects on times in her life where she has had personal struggles and troubles . Her past is presented in the lyrics " I was a wayward child , with the weight of the world that I held deep inside " and " Life was a winding road , and I learned many things little ones shouldn 't know . " As described by David Browne for *Entertainment Weekly* , Carey " paints herself " in the lyrics as " A wayward

child , with the weight of the world " . He also noted that the singer seems concerned that she had to grow up quicker than was perhaps necessary , in order to live her life in a controlled environment , " Maybe I grew up a little too soon . " During the chorus , Carey lightens the mood of the song by singing about having courage to face times of adversity , " But I closed my eyes , steadied my feet on the ground , raised my head to the sky . And though times rolled by , still I feel like a child as I look at the moon . Maybe I grew up a little too soon . " Jon Pareles for The New York Times wrote that Carey " coos " the lyrics " Maybe I grew up a little too soon " and " That woman @-@ child inside was on the verge of fading / Thankfully I woke up in time . "

= = Critical reception = =

David Browne for Entertainment Weekly described how " Close My Eyes " , as well as another track from the album entitled " Butterfly " , were not difficult songs to interpret , writing " It isn 't a reach to interpret these songs as describing life with the reportedly controlling Mottola . " Jon Pareles for The New York Times wrote that with regard to the lyrics " Maybe I grew up a little too soon " and " That woman @-@ child inside was on the verge of fading / Thankfully I woke up in time , " " Carey isn 't about to turn into Alanis Morissette ; Butterfly proclaims dependence more humbly than ever . " In their guide to Carey 's albums , Rolling Stone stated that " Close My Eyes , " along with " Butterfly " and " Breakdown , " were songs which indirectly spoke about her " pending extraction from the tentacles " of Mottola , who exercised his power over her as the head of Sony , the label to which Carey was signed .

= = Live performances = =

Carey performed " Close My Eyes " for the first time live on The Rosie O 'Donnell Show in 1997 . The performance saw Carey perform the song sitting on a stool , wearing a white vest top and jeans . It was also included on the set list of her Butterfly World Tour of 1998 and Rainbow World Tour of 2000 .

= = Legacy = =

In an interview with CNN on September 7 , 2012 , where she was honored by Broadcast Music , Inc. for her songwriting , Carey declared " Close My Eyes " as one of her most favourite and revealing songs that she has written . She stated that it is not always her number one or signature songs which are her favourite , rather , they are " lesser @-@ known cuts from more obscure records . " When asked about how she felt about some of her number @-@ one singles , including " Hero " (Music Box , 1993) , " We Belong Together " (The Emancipation of Mimi , 2005) and " Touch My Body " (E = MC ² , 2008) , the singer revealed " I still love those songs , [but] I love the obscure songs because they 're very close to my heart . Especially a song called ' Close My Eyes , ' that 's like my life story . " In addition to " Close My Eyes , " Carey cited " Looking In , " " I Am Free , " and " Underneath the Stars " (Daydream , 1995) as some of her favourites .

The song is included on the U.S. release of The Essential Mariah Carey . On Carey 's official Facebook page on May 12 , 2012 , shortly after the release , she wrote , " I spent four years writing this song , only because after I performed in Schenectady , NY , I started hearing this melody and singing it over and over to myself as I was taking a bath , looking at the moon .. Four years later , as I was leaving a devastating part of my life behind , I wrote the second verse , the bridge and the outro . "

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Crave Studios , New York City ; The Hit Factory , New York City .

Mixed at Gateway Mastering , Portland , ME .

Personnel

Lyrics ? Mariah Carey

Music ? Mariah Carey , Walter Afanasieff

Production ? Mariah Carey , Walter Afanasieff

Arranging ? Mariah Carey , Walter Afanasieff

Mixing ? Bob Ludwig

Keys , synths , programming ? Walter Afanasieff

Additional keys , drum and rhythm programming , sound design and computer programming ? Dan Shea

Engineers ? Dana Jon Chappelle , Mike Scott

Assistant engineers ? Ian Dalsemer

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Butterfly .