

= Si Una Vez =

" Si Una Vez " (English : If I Once) is a song recorded by American recording artist Selena for her fourth studio album , Amor Prohibido (1994) . It was written by Pete Astudillo and produced by Selena 's brother @-@ producer A.B. Quintanilla . " Si Una Vez " is a mariachi fusion song and draws influence from cumbia and Latin dance music . Lyrically , Selena questions why she ever fell in love with an abusive partner , saying she will never repeat her mistakes . The lyrics suggest unrequited love and female empowerment .

" Si Una Vez " received positive reviews from music critics who found the song to have showcase the singer 's vocal abilities . The Broadcast Music Inc. recognized it as the Single of the Year at the 1996 BMI Pop Awards . Many musicians have since recorded the song and released it on their respective albums including Mexican mariachi singer Alicia Villareal , American reggaeton performer Ivy Queen , American indie rock band Girl in a Coma , and American salsa singer Manny Manuel . The latter 's version peaked at number one on the United States Billboard Tropical Songs chart , and ended 1995 as the fourteenth most successful U.S. tropical song .

= = Background and composition = =

" Si Una Vez " was written by Selena y Los Dinos backup dancer and vocalist Pete Astudillo . The song was co @-@ written by Selena 's brother @-@ producer A.B. Quintanilla who , along with Argentine musician Bebu Silvetti , served as producers . Keyboardist of the group , Ricky Vela retold in a 2002 interview how the band hired a professional trumpeter to record parts of the song . " Si Una Vez " is a Spanish @-@ language mariachi fusion track with influences of cumbia and Latin dance music . Author Deborah Paredez called " Si Una Vez " as having punk music undertones . In 2002 , A.B. spoke on how Amor Prohibido was experimental music @-@ heavy and commented on how " Si Una Vez " was an example of his ideas of keeping the band 's image modern . The song makes use of the Guitarrón guitar under a cumbia beat .

" Si Una Vez " is written in the key of D minor and is played in a moderate groove of 84 beats per minute . It incorporates music from several musical instruments , including the piano and guitar . Lyrically , Selena reminisces her failed relationship and wonders why she ever fell in love with an abusive partner who betrayed and left her , vowing to never allow a man like that back into her life . The lyrics suggest unrequited love and female empowerment .

= = Critical reception and legacy = =

" Si Una Vez " was named by the Latin Times as one of the top @-@ ten best karaoke songs sung in Spanish . Writing for the Latin Times , Maria Valdez called the song " fun " especially when running into your former partner at a karaoke party and found the track to showcases a singer 's vocal abilities . Texas Public Radio 's Nathan Cone , said " the song " resonates best " with South Texas " . Entertainment Weekly contributor David Browne , commented on Selena 's vocals as being " full @-@ throated , warbling " and that it " recalls Lydia Mendoza , conjunto 's leading lady . " A New University writer found the recording to have " showcase [the singer 's] passion with her vocals . "

Selena performed the song on her final performance on March 19 , 1995 during the Calle Ocho Festival in Miami , which attracted over 100 @, @ 000 fans . Selena was shot and killed by Yolanda Saldívar , her friend and former manager of the singer 's Selena Etc. clothing boutiques , on March 31 , 1995 . Selena 's performance of the song during her Houston Astrodome concert on February 26 , 1995 , was emulated by Jennifer Lopez as her role as the singer for the 1997 biopic film about Selena . " Si Una Vez " is considered by Billboard magazine to be one of Selena 's signature songs . Terra named " Si Una Vez " as one of Selena 's " most famous works " along with her other songs " El Chico del Apartamento 512 " , " Amor Prohibido " and " Fotos y Recuerdos " . The Broadcast Music , Inc . (BMI) recognized " Si Una Vez " at the BMI Pop Music Awards as Single of the Year in 1996 .

= = Covers = =

Mexican singer Mary Boquitas recorded the song for the tribute album Mexico Recuerda a Selena (2005) . Mexican mariachi singer Alicia Villareal performed and recorded " Si Una Vez " for the live televised tribute concert Selena ¡ VIVE ! in April 2005 . American reggaeton singer Ivy Queen covered " Si Una Vez " for her fifth studio album Flashback (2005) . She said in an interview how she felt " honored to be able to cover one of Selena 's songs " . Ivy Queen chose to cover " Si Una Vez " finding it to be identifiable to her and because of the song 's message which the singer stood for . Jonathan Widran of AllMusic called her versions a " reggaetón @-@ ed up twist " . In 2010 , indie rock group Girl in a Coma recorded a punk cover of " Si Una Vez " . The group decided to record the song because it was their favorite recordings of Selena . Girl in a Coma performed the song live during the 2010 Tejano Music Awards as a homage to Selena . In April 2011 , A.B. ' s band Kumbia All @-@ Starz performed their version of the song during their tour for La Vida De Un Genio (2010) in Bolivia . Colombian singer Kali Uchis performed " Si Una Vez " at the 2015 SXSW festival . Vibe magazine found Uchis ' performance to have given them " shivers " .

= = = Manny Manuel version = = =

American merengue musician Manny Manuel covered the song on his debut album , El Rey de Corazones (1995) . Out of the five singles released from the album , " Si Una Vez " was Manuel 's most successful single off of the El Rey de Corazones album . The song debuted at number 29 on the United States Billboard Hot Latin Tracks and number three on the U.S. Tropical Songs chart . The following week , " Si Una Vez " rose to numbers 22 and two on the Hot Latin Songs and Tropical Songs chart , respectively . On October 14 , 1995 , the track climbed to number 21 on the Hot Latin Songs chart , while it fell to number four on the Tropical Songs chart . In its fourth week , " Si Una Vez " jumped to number 18 on the Hot Latin Songs chart , while over at the Tropical Songs chart the song rose to number three . Despite increased airplay spins , " Si Una Vez " fell to number 20 on the Hot Latin Songs chart . On November 11 , 1995 , " Si Una Vez " peaked at number one on the Tropical Songs chart for one week , receiving airplay honors that week .

= = = = Chart performance = = = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

All credits were taken from the album 's liner notes .