

= Trading Places (song) =

" Trading Places " is a song by American recording artist Usher . Released on October 17 , 2008 as the fifth and final single from his fifth studio album Here I Stand , Usher wrote the song with The @-@ Dream and Carlos " Los Da Mystro " McKinney . Produced by McKinney , it is a slow @-@ tempo R & B number with hip hop influences , and focuses on an idea of role reversal in a relationship .

The song received mixed reviews from critics ; its production drew differing opinions . It appeared on the US Billboard Hot 100 and Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , peaking at numbers forty @-@ five and four , respectively . A music video was filmed for the song , which demonstrated intimate sexual scenes , and promoted Usher 's lingerie line . Usher performed " Trading Places " on both his One Night Stand : Ladies Only Tour (2008) and OMG Tour (2010 ? 11) .

= = Background and composition = =

" Trading Places " was written by The @-@ Dream , Carlos " Los Da Mystro " McKinney and Usher , and produced by McKinney , while Jaycen Joshua mixed the record . The song was recorded at Music Line Studio , Triangle Sound Studios and Chalice Recording Studios , and was released on October 17 , 2008 .

" Trading Places " is a slow @-@ tempo R & B ballad , and contains influences of hip hop music . McKinney used the drums that appear in J. Holiday 's " Bed " ; " Trading Places " also uses guitar instrumentation . The theme of the song surrounds role reversal in a relationship , predominantly in sexual situations , with its hook consisting of the lyrics , " I 'm always on the top , tonight I 'm on the bottom / ' cause we trading places " . Usher described the song 's idea as " wishful thinking for all men to have a woman who takes control and compliments us the way we compliment them " , and Steve Jones of USA Today saw the song as a way for Usher to " satisfy his inner freak ... within the confines of marriage . " Angela Barrett of Rap @-@ Up noted " Trading Places " as a male version of " Cater 2 U " (2004) by Destiny 's Child .

= = Reception = =

Digital Spy 's David Balls gave " Trading Places " three out of five stars , and wrote that the song 's lyrics " may be verging on the sickly , but Usher just about gets away with it " . Mark Edward Nero of About.com called it " all @-@ around excellent : the vocals , production and (especially the) lyrics all excel " . Andy Kellman from Allmusic said that the song was the best of " the small handful of brow @-@ raising moments " on Here I Stand . IGN 's Chad Grischow criticized the song 's production , calling it " a muddled mess " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Trading Places " debuted on the United States Billboard Hot 100 at number one hundred on November 15 , 2008 . The next week it moved ten places to number ninety . The song peaked in its seventh charting week , when it reached number forty @-@ five on the final chart of 2008 . " Trading Places " fell off the Hot 100 after seventeen weeks . The song was more successful on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , where it entered at number ninety @-@ six . On January 3 , 2009 , it climbed to its high position of number four , and slipped off the chart in April 2009 after thirty @-@ three weeks .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Trading Places " was shot on September 9 , 2008 in Venice , Los Angeles , and was directed by Chris Robinson . Of the video 's concept Usher said , " We wanted to do something ... very hot and very forward @-@ thinking " . The video also serves as his media to

introduce his new line of lingerie , with his love interest in the video wearing some designs .

In the video Usher and his love interest simulate sexual intercourse , with the woman maintaining dominance , echoing the song 's theme . Interspersed are scenes of him playing the song on a transparent piano , sitting in a chair singing and dancing against a brick backdrop . In some of the sex scenes the camera is rotated 180 degrees , so that an illusion is given from Usher being " on the top " to being " on the bottom " .

= = Live performances = =

Usher performed " Trading Places " along with " Here I Stand " and " What 's Your Name " at the warmup concert for the 2008 National Football League Kickoff game on September 4 . Usher sang the song on his 2008 One Night Stand : Ladies Only tour . He began the song seated at a grand piano , while a female backup dancer removed Usher 's shirt and , while wearing the shirt herself , lay on top of the piano .

He also performed " Trading Places " on his international OMG Tour , which commenced in November 2010 , and concluded in June 2011 . During the performance , he calls a female fan from the audience and sings to her as they dance seductively . This resulted in a mishap during a December 2010 performance at the Madison Square Garden when a fan tried to swing her foot over Usher but accidentally kicked him in the head . At the Glendale , Arizona show , he called American Idol season six winner Jordin Sparks onto the stage to perform the number with him . At one of the London dates , English singer Alesha Dixon accompanied him onstage for the performance .

= = Track listings = =

= = Personnel = =

Source :

= = Charts = =