

= Live Forever =

" Live Forever " is a song by the English rock band Oasis . Written by Noel Gallagher , the song was released as the third single from their debut album Definitely Maybe (1994) on 8 August 1994 , just prior to that album 's release .

Gallagher wrote the song in 1991 , before he joined Oasis . Inspired by the Rolling Stones ' " Shine a Light " , " Live Forever " features a basic song structure and lyrics with an optimistic outlook that contrasted with the attitude of the grunge bands popular at the time . The song was the first Oasis single to enter the top ten in the United Kingdom , and garnered critical acclaim .

= = Background and recording = =

Noel Gallagher began working on " Live Forever " in 1991 , while working for a building company in his hometown of Manchester . After his foot was crushed by a pipe in an accident , he was given a less @-@ strenuous job working in the storeroom , allowing him more time to write songs . One night , he was listening to the Rolling Stones ' album Exile on Main St ; while playing one of his own chord progressions , Gallagher noted that it sounded good against one of the vocal melodies from the album : " It was the bit from " Shine a Light " that goes [sings] , " May the good Lord shine a light on you " " , Gallagher recalled . Gallagher incorporated the melody , changing the line to " Maybe I don 't really want to know " . For a period afterwards , that was the only part of the song Gallagher had completed .

Noel Gallagher presented a fully composed " Live Forever " to the band for the first time in early 1993 during rehearsals . According to drummer Tony McCarroll , the band were admittedly awed by it . The song was later instrumental in helping the band secure their record deal with Creation Records . Reflecting on when he first heard the song , Creation boss Alan McGee recalled , " It was probably the single greatest moment I 've ever experienced with them " .

The demo version of " Live Forever " begins with an acoustic guitar intro . While recording the album version , the record 's producer Owen Morris cut out this intro and replaced it with a drumbeat played by McCarroll . Morris further cut a second section in Gallagher 's guitar solo . Although Gallagher was upset , Morris felt the part had sounded " a bit like fucking Slash from Guns N ' Roses " .

= = Composition = =

" Live Forever " is in the key of G major (varispeeded up by less than half a semitone during mixing) and is based on a G ? D ? Am7 ? C ? D chord progression , with the G chord becoming an Em during the pre @-@ chorus , though the key changes to A minor following the last chorus . The song has no proper distinction between the verses or chorus section (with only a falsetto refrain of " You and I are gonna live forever " marking off sections) , and the vocal melody only consists of a few notes . The simplistic arrangement of the song " meant the song never resolved " . Guitarist Paul Arthurs said , " for me that song could keep going . "

The song begins with a voice whistling briefly and saying " Oh yeah " , followed by a drum beat that plays unaccompanied for a few measures . An intermingling of the main guitar line , piano notes , and Liam Gallagher 's vocals then enter . Each verse begins with Liam singing the phrase " Maybe / I don 't really wanna know / How your garden grows / ' Cause I just wanna fly " , and each verse ends with the falsetto refrain . A guitar solo appears after the second refrain of " You and I are gonna live forever " . After the third verse and refrain section , Liam Gallagher repeats the line " Gonna live forever ! " four times with ' ache in his voice ' , followed by one final guitar solo .

The song is interpreted to be an ode to Noel and Liam Gallagher 's mother Peggy . In general the lyrics of the song stress an optimistic outlook . Noel Gallagher explained that " At the time . . . it was written in the middle of grunge and all that , and I remember Nirvana had a tune called ' I Hate Myself and Want to Die ' , and I was like . . . ' Well , I 'm not fucking having that . ' As much as I fucking like him [Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain] and all that shit , I 'm not having that . I can 't have

people like that coming over here , on smack , fucking saying that they hate themselves and they wanna die . That 's fucking rubbish . Kids don 't need to be hearing that nonsense . " While Gallagher has stated he did not intend " Live Forever " as a direct retort to Nirvana or their music (being a professed fan of the band) , he contrasted the lives of Cobain and his band at that point , saying , " Seems to me that here was a guy who had everything , and was miserable about it . And we had fuck @-@ all , and I still thought that getting up in the morning was the greatest fuckin ' thing ever , ' cause you didn 't know where you 'd end up at night . And we didn 't have a pot to piss in , but it was fucking great , man " . Gallagher considers the line " We see things they 'll never see " the most important line of the song , explaining that old friends tend to laugh at jokes and stories that " no one else gets " .

= = Reception = =

" Live Forever " was released on 8 August 1994 as the band 's third single , a month before the release of their debut album Definitely Maybe . The song had been part of the band 's set for longer than a year at that point , and had amassed so many mentions in reviews of the group that " its release [as a single] had long seemed inevitable . " In its review of the single , NME found " Live Forever " to be an improvement over Oasis ' previous singles , concluding , " Basically , what thus far looked like obnoxious Manc arrogance suddenly looks like sheer effortlessness . A terrific record . "

While Oasis ' first two singles , " Supersonic " and " Shakermaker " , were modestly received , it was " Live Forever " that " got the world 's attention " . " Live Forever " became Oasis ' first top ten hit , reaching number ten on the British singles charts in 1994 . In 1995 , the song became the band 's first chart success in the United States , reaching number two and ten on Billboard 's Modern Rock Tracks and Mainstream Rock Tracks charts , respectively . Noel Gallagher commented on the praise given to the song : " People said to me after ' Live Forever ' , ' Where are you gonna go after that ? ' And I was like , I don 't think it 's that good . I think it 's a fucking good song , but I think I can do better . "

" Live Forever " has garnered additional acclaim years after its release . In 2006 , " Live Forever " was named the greatest song of all @-@ time in a poll released by Q ; the song had ranked ninth in a similar Q poll three years prior . In 2007 , " Live Forever " placed number one in the NME and XFM poll of the 50 " Greatest Indie Anthems Ever " . Pitchfork labeled the song as Oasis ' best ever track and said of the song ; " It 's an honest , aspirational sentiment just as the photo of John Lennon 's childhood home on the single 's sleeve is an honest , tasteful exhibition of fandom . " The music site went on to praise the song for its ' fearless optimism ' .

= = Music videos = =

Two music videos were made for " Live Forever " for British and American airplay . The original video , shot on 8 May 1994 , was directed by Carlos Grasso and features unusual imagery such as Liam Gallagher sitting on a chair affixed to a wall , and a number of scenes are devoted to the band burying drummer Tony McCarroll alive . Some of the UK version of the promotional video was filmed at the Strawberry Fields memorial , the area of New York City 's Central Park dedicated to John Lennon ? the single cover features 251 Menlove Avenue , the childhood home of Lennon . The American video , directed by Nick Egan features the band playing in an office with pictures of Sid Vicious , Kurt Cobain , Jim Morrison , John Lennon , Brian Jones , Jimi Hendrix , Marc Bolan , and Bobby Moore on the wall . Both videos are included on the 2004 Definitely Maybe DVD .

= = Live performances = =

" Live Forever " is a crowd favorite to play at concerts . In some concerts , most notably Manchester in 1996 , a slideshow of famous deceased musicians Oasis admired - such as Elvis Presley , Bob Marley , and Sid Vicious - would be displayed behind the band , with a picture of John Lennon

always at the end of the slideshow . During the early years , Liam Gallagher would personally sing the falsetto part , " You and I , we 're gonna live forever . " Noel Gallagher eventually picked up the role of singing the falsetto , as " Liam thought it was a bit gay . "

= = Track listings = =

= = = UK track listing = = =

CD CRESCD 185

" Live Forever " ? 4 : 38

" Up in the Sky " (acoustic) ? 3 : 32

" Cloudburst " ? 5 : 21

" Supersonic " (live) ? 5 : 12

7 " CRE 185

" Live Forever " ? 4 : 38

" Up in the Sky " (acoustic) ? 3 : 32

12 " CRE 185T

" Live Forever " ? 4 : 38

" Up in the Sky " (acoustic) ? 3 : 32

" Cloudburst " ? 5 : 21

Cassette CRECS 185

" Live Forever " ? 4 : 38

" Up in the Sky " (Acoustic) ? 3 : 32

= = = European track listing = = =

CD HES 660689 2

" Live Forever " (radio edit) ? 3 : 43

" Live Forever " ? 4 : 37

" Up in the Sky " (acoustic) ? 3 : 32

" Cloudburst " ? 5 : 21

" Supersonic " (live) ? 5 : 10

= = Chart positions = =