

= Toxic (song) =

" Toxic " is a song recorded by American singer Britney Spears for her fourth studio album , In the Zone (2003) . It was written and produced by Christian Karlsson and Pontus Winnberg (known collectively as Bloodshy & Avant) , with additional writing from Cathy Dennis and Henrik Jonback . The song released on January 13 , 2004 , by Jive Records , as the second single from the album . After trying to choose between " (I Got That) Boom Boom " and " Outrageous " to be the second single from In the Zone , Spears selected " Toxic " instead . A dance song with elements of bhangra music , " Toxic " features varied instrumentation , such as drums , synthesizers and surf guitar . It is accompanied by high @-@ pitched Bollywood strings and breathy vocals . Its lyrics draw an extended metaphor of a lover as a dangerous yet addictive drug . The song has received critical acclaim by music critics , who deemed it as the strongest track of In the Zone and praised its hook and chorus .

" Toxic " attained worldwide success , reaching the top @-@ five in 15 countries , while topping the charts in Australia , Canada , Hungary , Ireland , Norway and the United Kingdom . In the United States , it became her fourth Top 10 single . The accompanying music video for the song was directed by Joseph Kahn and features references to Blade Runner , The Seven Year Itch and the films of John Woo . It portrays Spears as a secret agent in the search of a vial of green liquid . After she steals it , she enters an apartment and poisons her unfaithful boyfriend . The video also includes interspersed scenes of Spears naked with diamonds on her body . After Janet Jackson 's Super Bowl incident , the video was considered too racy for MTV and was moved to late @-@ night programming .

Spears has performed " Toxic " in a number of live appearances , including the 2004 NRJ Music Awards and in three of her concert tours . It was the opening number of The Onyx Hotel Tour (2004) , where she sang atop of a bus wearing a black catsuit ; Spears also performed remixed versions of the song at The Circus Starring Britney Spears (2009) , the Femme Fatale Tour (2011) and Britney : Piece of Me (2013) . " Toxic " has been covered by artists such as Mark Ronson , A Static Lullaby , Reece Mastin and Ingrid Michaelson , and in television series Glee . The song has also appeared in feature films such as Knocked Up , You Again and television series Doctor Who . " Toxic " won Spears her first Grammy at the 2005 ceremony in the category of Best Dance Recording , while gaining her credibility amongst critics . The song has been included in lists by Pitchfork , NME and Rolling Stone as one of the best songs of the decade .

= = Background = =

" Toxic " was written by Cathy Dennis , Henrik Jonback , Christian Karlsson and Pontus Winnberg from production team Bloodshy & Avant , while produced by the latter two . The song was originally offered to Kylie Minogue for her ninth studio album Body Language (2003) , but she rejected it . Minogue later commented , " I wasn 't at all angry when it worked for her . It 's like the fish that got away . You just have to accept it . " " Toxic " was recorded at Murlyn Studios in Stockholm , Sweden and Record Plant in Hollywood , California . The song was later mixed by Niklas Flyckt at Khabang Studios in Stockholm . In December 2003 , it was announced by MTV News that after trying to choose between " (I Got That) Boom Boom " and " Outrageous " to be second single from In the Zone , Spears had selected " Toxic " instead . She described it as " an upbeat song . It 's really different , that 's why I like it so much . "

= = Composition = =

" Toxic " is a dance song with elements of bhangra music . It features varied instrumentation , such as drums , synthesizers , violins and high @-@ pitched strings . It also contains surf guitar , that according to Caryn Ganz of Spin , " warps and struts like it 's been fed into the Matrix . " The music was also compared to the soundtracks of the James Bond film series . The hook of " Toxic " samples a portion of " Tere Mere Beech Mein " , from the soundtrack of the 1981 Hindi film Ek Duuje

Ke Liye . This music was composed by Lata Mangeshkar and S. P. Balasubrahmanyam . However , it is not lifted verbatim from the score and mixes two different sections of the piece . Spears sings the song with breathy vocals .

According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by EMI Music Publishing , " Toxic " is composed in the key of C minor , with a tempo of 143 beats per minute . Spears 's vocal range spans from the low note of F3 to the high note of G5 . Lyrically , " Toxic " talks about being addicted to a lover . Spears refers to her addiction in the lyrics , and sings lines such as " Too high / Can 't come down / Losing my head / Spinning round and round " in a falsetto . A reviewer from Popdust called the verse " The most representative lyric of the song 's delirious , disorienting charm . " " Toxic " ends with an outro in which Spears sings the lines , " Intoxicate me now / With your lovin ' now / I think I 'm ready now . " Nick Southall of Stylus Magazine said the lyrics made Spears sound afraid of sex .

= = Critical reception = =

The song received general acclaim upon release . Heather Richels of The Paly Voice complimented its hook and catchiness , while deeming it the most appealing song of the album . While reviewing The Onyx Hotel Tour , Pamela Sitt of The Seattle Times called it the album 's strongest single . Eric Olsen of msnbc.com said the song could be the biggest hit of In the Zone , while calling it " powerfully addicting . " Caryn Ganz of Spin commented that , " Spears hits pay dirt on ' Toxic ' " . Christy Lemire of Associated Press said it was one of Spears ' greatest hits and deemed it as " insanely catchy " , saying that the chorus alone " makes you want to forgive the Alias wannabe video that accompanies the song . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic called it along with " Showdown " , " irresistible ear candy in what is surely Britney 's most ambitious , adventurous album to date " . In a separate review of Spears ' greatest hits album Greatest Hits : My Prerogative (2004) , Erlewine selected it as one of the " track picks " and described it as " a delirious , intoxicating rush " . Jeffrey Epstein of Out compared the innovative sound of " Toxic " to Madonna 's " Vogue " .

Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine said that " Toxic " and " (I Got That) Boom Boom " , " find Britney dabbling in hip @-@ hop , but it 's clear her heart lies in the clubs . " Jamie Gill of Yahoo ! Music Radio commented that , " In the name of fairness , it will be noted that ' Toxic ' and ' Showdown ' could well have been good pop songs in the hands of any other singer than Spears . " Joan Anderman of The Boston Globe named it " a well @-@ titled cascade of frantic , mechanized glissandos and dreadful canned strings that buries the album 's coolest (only ?) chorus under a joyless mass " . The song was ranked at number five in the 2004 Pazz & Jop poll by The Village Voice . " Toxic " was nominated for Best Song at the 2004 MTV Europe Music Awards , but lost to Outkast 's " Hey Ya ! " . It won Best Single at the 2004 Teen Choice Awards . Pitchfork listed the song at number three on their Top 50 Singles of 2004 list . Rob Mitchum commented that Spears " finally , she just acted like an adult , rather than constantly reminding us she wasn 't a girl anymore . "

= = Chart performance = =

" Toxic " entered at number 53 on the Billboard Hot 100 , on the issue dated January 31 , 2004 . It became the week 's " Highest Debut " . On March 27 , 2004 , it peaked at number nine ; it was her fourth single to reach the top @-@ ten and became her first single to reach the top ten since " Oops ! ... I Did It Again " in 2000 . " Toxic " also topped both the Pop Songs and Hot Dance Club Songs charts . On October 25 , 2004 , the song was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , for sales of 100 @,@ 000 copies . As of March 2015 , " Toxic " has sold 2 @.@ 2 million digital downloads in the United States according to Nielsen SoundScan . It is her fifth best @-@ selling digital single in the country . The song also topped the Canadian Singles Chart . " Toxic " debuted at the top of the Australian charts on March 15 , 2004 , and stayed in the position for two weeks . The song received a gold certification by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for shipments over 35 @,@ 000 units .

In New Zealand , " Toxic " debuted at number 38 on the issue dated February 16 , 2004 , and peaked at number two on March 29 , 2004 . It stayed at the position the following week , held off from the top spot by Eamon 's " Fuck It (I Don 't Want You Back) " . On March 7 , 2004 , " Toxic " debuted at number one on the UK Singles Chart for the week ending date March 13 , 2004 , becoming her fourth number @-@ one hit in the United Kingdom . In April 2004 , it was certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) , with sales over 200 @,@ 000 copies . According to The Official Charts Company , the song has sold 426 @,@ 000 copies there . " Toxic " also peaked inside the top @-@ ten in every country it charted . The song topped the charts in Hungary and Norway ; reached the top five in Austria , Czech Republic , Denmark , Germany , Italy , France , Sweden and Switzerland ; and the top ten in Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia) , Finland and the Netherlands .

= = Music video = =

= = = Development and release = = =

The music video for " Toxic " was filmed over three days in December 2003 , on a sound @-@ stage in Los Angeles , California . It was directed by Joseph Kahn , who previously worked with Spears on the music video for her 2000 single " Stronger " . The editor of the video was David Blackburn , who also edit " Womanizer " and " Do Somethin ' " . Spears first approached Kahn with a story sketch of a secret agent out for revenge against an ex @-@ lover , to which Kahn created a treatment for . Her concept was almost fully formed and detailed , exemplifying the scene in which she drops water on the passenger 's lap . Kahn said , " That 's part of her brilliance [...] She totally understands that she 's naughty and nice , that she 's the girl @-@ next @-@ door gone bad who is constantly titillating you " . Spears said she wanted to join the mile high club and be a stewardess that kissed a man in the bathroom . Kahn suggested making him a fat man , so the " common man " would feel represented . Spears also told him about a scene in which she would be naked and covered in diamonds . Kahn stated he was " not sure what I was thinking about when she told me about that scene , maybe those intros to James Bond movies , but every video needs an iconic image to remember , and that 's it " .

The choreography was a collaboration between Brian Friedman and Spears , and every scene had a completely different strictly structured routine . After the treatment was finished , Kahn proceeded to cast his friends and acquaintances , as in most of his projects . The plane passenger in which Spears drops water on was played by his long @-@ time casting director , while the fat man in the bathroom was played by the casting director 's assistant . Spears 's boyfriend is played by Martin Henderson , who starred in Kahn 's directorial debut Torque .

For the naked scenes , Spears made clear the set , leaving only Kahn and Blackburn with her to shoot the sequence . Spears also shot scenes in which she had to dance through a hallway of imaginary lasers in front of a green screen , something that Kahn deemed as " incredible to watch " . The last few scenes of the video in which Spears murders her boyfriend , concerned Kahn , who thought they would be censored . He explained " the trick was to make it look pop at the same time " and told Henderson " ' Would you like to be kissed by Britney Spears ? ' " . According to Kahn , the hint of a smile that appears on Henderson 's face before Spears pours the poison into his mouth was what managed to get the shot past censors . Although Spears was at first going to be involved in the editing process with Blackburn , she did not contact Kahn after the media scandal over her wedding in Las Vegas . " Toxic " is Spears 's most expensive music video to date , at a cost of \$ 1 million . The music video premiered exclusively on MTV 's Making the Video on January 13 , 2004 . The following day , Spears appeared on TRL to premiere it on regular rotation . The video was first released on the In the Zone DVD . An alternate karaoke version featuring the diamonds scene was released on the Greatest Hits : My Prerogative DVD . The video got a certified in the digital platform Vevo on YouTube .

== Synopsis ==

The music video begins with an open shot of an airplane flying surrounded by many doves , referencing the works of Hong Kong director John Woo . Spears appears with blond hair dressed as a flight attendant , receiving a phone call . After serving some of the passengers , she leads a middle aged overweight man to the bathroom and seduces him . She takes off the man 's mask to reveal an attractive man (Matthew Felker) and steals a black pass from his pocket . Spears is then dropped into the back of a Ducati 999 , driven by a shirtless male (Tyson Beckford) in a futuristic Paris , that was compared to the 1982 film Blade Runner . She wears a tight black catsuit and sports red hair , inspired by the character of Sydney Bristow from television series Alias . They pass a woman and lift up her dress , a homage to the iconic Marilyn Monroe scene in the 1955 film The Seven Year Itch . They also pass two women frolicking in a store window .

Throughout the video , there are scenes of Spears nude covered in diamonds . The look was compared to that of Kate Bush in the music video for her 1978 single , " The Man with the Child in His Eyes " . Spears then enters Toxic Industries , and gains access to a vault from which she steals a vial of green poison . She accidentally triggers a laser trap when she leaves that she evades with elaborate dance moves , including a back handspring . This is followed by scenes of Spears wearing a black superheroine outfit and black hair . She scales a building and enters an apartment , where her unfaithful boyfriend (Henderson) is waiting . She kisses him just before pouring the poison into his mouth , killing him . Spears kisses him again and jumps out of the window . She lands back on the plane sporting her flight attendant outfit , and winks at the camera . The video closes with a shot of the airplane flying surrounded by doves like the beginning .

== Reception and impact ==

Jennifer Vineyard of MTV compared the video to Justin Timberlake 's " Cry Me a River " , saying that " Where her real @-@ life ex just stalked his cheating lover in his clip , [...] Spears takes a more lethal approach . " On February 10 , 2004 , MTV announced that due to the Super Bowl XXXVIII halftime show controversy in which Janet Jackson 's breast was exposed on live television , " Toxic " along with other five music videos would be moved from daytime to late @-@ night programming from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. A spokeswoman for MTV announced that " given the particular sensitivity in the culture right now , we 're erring on the side of caution for the immediate future . " The video was nominated at the 2004 MuchMusic Video Awards in the category of Best International Artist Video , but lost to Beyoncé 's " Crazy in Love " . It was also nominated for four VMAs at the 2004 awards in the categories of Best Female Video , Best Dance Video , Best Pop Video and Video of the Year , but lost all of them . Corey Moss of MTV said that Spears " remains the Susan Lucci of the VMAs . " Visual effects supervisors Chris Watts and Bert Yukich won the category of Outstanding Visual Effects in a Music Video at the 3rd Annual Visual Effects Society Awards .

In September 2009 , the music video for " Toxic " was voted by users of the music video website MUZU TV as the sexiest music video of all time . The video was also used on Life is Pornography , a 2005 video art by Jubal Brown . Amy Schrieffer of NPR noted that in the video , Spears was no longer trying to break away from her 90s teen pop image and style ; she was comfortable and having fun , not trying to generate any type of calculated controversy . The anime music video for Spears 's single " Break the Ice " (2008) was based on the secret agent character of " Toxic " . The video for " Womanizer " (2008) was created by Spears as a sequel to " Toxic " . The diamond encrusted look of Lady Gaga in the music video for " LoveGame " (2009) was compared to that of " Toxic " . In the 2010 Glee episode " Britney / Brittany " , the character of Brittany Pierce danced in a diamond suit during a cover of " I 'm a Slave 4 U " . In a 2011 poll by Billboard , the song 's music video was voted the second best music video of the 2000s , behind only Lady Gaga 's " Bad Romance " (2009) . Jillian Mapes of Billboard wrote that Spears " proved that she comes in every flavor [...] But the one role that stays constant through the dance @-@ heavy clip : Sultry maneater . " Taylor Swift 's " Bad Blood " music video pays homage to the red @-@ haired look Spears sports

in the " Toxic " music video . Many comparisons were made about the similarities .

= = Live performances = =

" Toxic " was performed by Spears at Britney Spears : In the Zone , a concert special that aired in ABC on November 17 , 2003 . She also performed " Toxic " as the headliner of the Jingle Ball on December 8 , 2003 , at Staples Center . It was the opening number of her set , and Spears appeared wearing a black top and a white fur cape . While the choreography was deemed as " erotic " , Corey Moss of MTV commented that some of the effect was lost due to Spears 's lip synching and a stagehand fixing a prop during the song . On January 24 , 2004 , Spears opened the 2004 NRJ Music Awards with a performance of " Toxic " . During the ceremony , she also presented the NRJ Award of Honor for the Career to Madonna . Spears performed " Toxic " as the opening number of 2004 's The Onyx Hotel Tour . Previous to the beginning of the tour , she deemed it as the song she was most excited to perform , along with " Everytime " . After an introduction in which she briefly appeared on a large video screen , Spears took the stage standing on top of a hotel bus , wearing a tight black catsuit . She was surrounded by dancers dressed as employees and columns of LED lighting , suggesting the façade of a glitzy hotel on the Vegas Strip . MTV UK commented , " OK , so she doesn 't so much sing than mime along with Toxic , [...] But what do you expect when she 's simultaneously performing a vigorous dance routine , ascending moving staircases and descending fireman poles ? " .

" Toxic " was also performed as the last song of the concert during The M + M 's Tour . After " Do Somethin ' " , in which Spears wore a hot pink bra , a white fur coat and a jean skirt , she ended the set with " Toxic " , with four female dancers in a Shakira @-@ like style . Following the performance , she thanked the audience and introduced her dancers . " Toxic " was also performed at 2009 's The Circus Starring Britney Spears . Following an interlude in which the dancers showcased their individual moves , the stage was lit with green sci @-@ fi effects and Spears appeared over moving jungle gyms . Jerry Shriver of USA Today said that " fan @-@ favorite Toxic [...] succeeded because the focus was solely on the star . " Jane Stevenson of the Toronto Sun named it one of the standout performances of the show , along with " ... Baby One More Time " and " Womanizer " . Screen commented , " The high point of the show was the back to back performance of two of Britney 's biggest hits , ' Toxic ' and ' Baby One More Time ' [sic] , which had the crowd break out in wild applause . "

The song was performed at 2011 's Femme Fatale Tour . After a video intermission in which Spears finds and captures the stalker that follows her , the show continues with a martial arts @-@ inspired remix of " Toxic " , in which Spears wears a kimono and battles dancing ninjas . Keith Caufield of Billboard felt the performance was comparable to Madonna 's " Sky Fits Heaven " at 2001 's Drowned World Tour . Shirley Halperin of The Hollywood Reporter stated that " [the] mid @-@ tempo numbers [...] seemed to stall out quickly , where faster offerings like ' Womanizer , ' ' I Wanna Go ' and ' Toxic ' had the sold out crowd jumping in place and pumping their number twos in the air . " August Brown of the Los Angeles Times said " The set 's only weak spots were sonic revisions of catalog staples ? the Bollywood spy @-@ flick vamp of ' Toxic ' remains utterly groundbreaking and didn 't need an Ibiza @-@ inspired revision . " . Spears performed the song during the last act from her 2013 @-@ 15 Las Vegas residency Britney : Piece of Me . The number begins with a ballad version of " Toxic " and Spears is seen over a giant tree . Before the chorus begins Spears jumps from the tree in a kind of bungee jump under a water curtain . As Spears lands in the stage , the first chords from the song starts and the performance keeps going on .

In the 2016 Billboard Music Awards , it was performed as the closing song of a medley , with brand new choreography .

= = Cover versions = =

= = = Glee version = = =

The song was covered on the 2010 American series Glee episode " Britney / Brittany " by New Directions , in a Bob Fosse @-@ inspired performance led by the character of Will Schuester . In the United States , their version debuted at number sixteen on the Hot 100 and sold 109 @,@ 000 copies on its first week , according to Nielsen SoundScan . It also charted at number thirty @-@ seven in Australia , fifteen in Canada and seventeen in Ireland .

The song was covered again in Glee episode " 100 " by Dianna Agron , Heather Morris and Naya Rivera .

= = = Other recorded covers = = =

Northern Irish singer @-@ songwriter Juliet Turner covered " Toxic " for the 2004 covers compilation , Even Better Than the Real Thing Vol . 2 . In 2005 , American folk group Chapin Sisters recorded an acoustic cover of " Toxic " , which was featured on PerezHilton.com and became one of the most requested songs of the year in KCRW . German country @-@ rock band The BossHoss recorded a cover of " Toxic " for their debut album , Internashville Urban Hymns (2005) . American rock duo Local H covered the song for their first live album , Alive ' 05 (2005) . An instrumental rendition of the song was released by American surf rock band Monsters from Mars . Norwegian alternative rock band Hurra Torpedo covered " Toxic " in their fourth release , Kollossus of Makedonia (2006) . English producer Mark Ronson recorded a hip hop cover of the song , featuring American singer @-@ songwriter Tiggers and a verse from American rapper Ol ' Dirty Bastard . It was included in his second studio album , Version (2007) .

English indie rock band Hard @-@ Fi covered the song for the compilation album Radio 1 Established 1967 (2007) . The song was fused with The Clash 's cover of " Brand New Cadillac " . American musician Shawn Lee covered the song in the album Shawn Lee 's Ping Pong Orchestra (2007) . French singer @-@ songwriter Yael Naïm released a piano @-@ driven version of the song in her eponymous debut album (2007) . British electronic music group Metronomy 's cover was described as " something out of a " Weird Al " Yankovic polka medley , only not kidding " . Israeli pop singer Shiri Maimon recorded a version of " Toxic " in Hebrew . American comedy singer Richard Cheese recorded a cover for his eight album , Viva la Vodka (2009) . American post @-@ hardcore band A Static Lullaby released a cover in the compilation album , Punk Goes Pop 2 (2009) . A music video was released , which featured different Spears look @-@ alike wearing iconic outfits from various music videos , such as " ... Baby One More Time " and " Womanizer " .

A cover of the song by American singer @-@ songwriter Christopher Dallman was included in an EP titled Sad Britney , released on November 9 , 2009 , along with covers of " ... Baby One More Time " , " Gimme More " and " Radar " .

= = = Live covers = = =

American acoustic trio Nickel Creek covered " Toxic " at the 2006 Bonnaroo Music Festival .

Australian singer @-@ songwriter Kate Miller @-@ Heidke did an opera @-@ pop version of " Toxic " during a mobile phone launch in Sydney in August 2007 . She dedicated it to Spears , adding , " She 's going through a bit of a hard time at the moment . [...] This one 's for you , mate . " American singer @-@ songwriter Ingrid Michaelson covered " Toxic " regularly on her 2010 Everybody Tour . Michaelson 's version ends with her and the band doing a dance break set to Spears 's original song .

American pop band Selena Gomez & the Scene performed a tribute to Spears during their 2011 We Own the Night Tour . The medley of hits included " ... Baby One More Time " , " (You Drive Me) Crazy " , " Oops ! ... I Did It Again " , " I 'm a Slave 4 U " and " Toxic " , mixed similar to the Chris Cox Megamix included in Greatest Hits : My Prerogative . They also performed a cover of " Hold It Against Me " .

= = Samples = =

" Toxic " was sampled in American rapper Tony Yayo 's " Love My Style " (2005) and British rapper Example 's " Toxic Breath " (2006) . A cover version of the song by French / Israeli Singer Yael Naim was also sampled by the Chicago rapper Mick Jenkins on the song " Jazz " , produced by OnGaud .

= = Soundtrack appearances = =

In the 2005 episode " The End of the World " of the TV show Doctor Who , the character of Cassandra unveils an ancient jukebox that reproduced " Toxic " as an example of " a traditional ballad " from 5 billion years prior . NME stated that the inclusion of the song marked its cultural impact .

In the 2007 film Knocked Up , the song is played when Seth Rogen and Paul Rudd are driving to Las Vegas . Director Judd Apatow explained that he originally tried to use " Toxic " in the 2005 film The 40 @-@ Year @-@ Old Virgin in the scene where Leslie Mann is drunk driving .

" Toxic " was also featured in the 2010 film You Again .

= = Accolades = =

" Toxic " earned Spears her first Grammy at the 2005 ceremony in the category of Best Dance Recording and gained her credibility amongst critics . The song also won Most Performed Work at the 2004 Ivor Novello Awards .

" Toxic " was ranked at number fourteen on Stylus Magazine 's Top 50 Singles between 2000 and 2005 . In a 2005 poll conducted by Sony Ericsson , " Toxic " was ranked as the world 's second favorite song , only behind " We Are the Champions " by Queen . Over 700 @,@ 000 people in 60 different countries cast their votes . The song was also included on The 500 Greatest Songs Since You Were Born list by Blender . Pitchfork listed the song on The Top 500 Tracks of the 2000s . Jess Harvell commented that Spears had great pop instincts and that " Toxic " showed how " Britney always had more individualist pep than her peers , important when you 're dealing with steamroller productions from the mind of Max Martin . "

In 2009 , NPR included " Toxic " on their Most Important Recordings of the Decade list . Amy Schriefer noted that the song 's synths defined the sound of dance @-@ pop for the rest of the decade , while adding that it " still sound [s] fresh and futuristic . " " Toxic " was listed on several others end of the decade lists ; at number forty @-@ seven by NME , forty @-@ four by Rolling Stone and seventeen on The Daily Telegraph . NME called it the soundtrack to all of the fun of the decade , from " little girls at discos " to " gay clubs and hen nights " . In addition , the song was voted in Rolling Stone 's end of the decade readers poll as the fourth best single of the decade .

Bill Lamb of About.com listed the song at number twenty @-@ seven on the Top 40 Pop Songs of All Time . Evan Sawdey of PopMatters commented that " Toxic " is a rare kind of song that transcends genre boundaries , and added that Spears delivered the track that defined her legacy .

In May 2010 , Spears revealed through her Twitter account that " Toxic " is her favorite song from her catalogue .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =