

= I Will Possess Your Heart =

" I Will Possess Your Heart " is an alternative rock song recorded by the American band Death Cab for Cutie . The song depicts a one @-@ sided obsessive relationship , which led Paste to name it one of the 25 creepiest songs about love . It is notable for its five @-@ minute instrumental introduction as well as its music video which required location shooting across four continents . The song was the lead single from their sixth studio album , *Narrow Stairs* (2008) .

The music is dominated by a repetitive bass guitar riff interspersed with piano chords and Ben Gibbard 's vocals . It was released on March 18 , 2008 in two versions : a full eight @-@ minute album version , and a four @-@ minute radio edit that omitted most of the instrumental introduction . The song was critically acclaimed and nominated for the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Rock Song .

The music video , released on April 11 , 2008 , features scenes of a young woman traveling alone to various places around the world , interspersed with the band performing in an industrial freezer room . The shoot involved the actress , director , and a crew of two traveling 27 @,@ 977 miles in 13 days , and was shot on consumer @-@ grade camcorders to achieve a sense of total realism and so that the film crew would blend in as tourists . The video won the 2008 MTV Video Music Award for Best Editing and was nominated for the Best Cinematography award .

= = Writing and composition = =

The song 's lyrics depict a one @-@ sided obsessive relationship from the point of view of the pursuer , who implores the object of his affection that she needs to " spend some time " with him so that he might " possess [her] heart . " Songwriter and lead vocalist Ben Gibbard noted that , although fictional , the song was inspired by the experiences of some of his friends . He added :

The song is basically about a stalker . It ? s about this nice guy who wants this girl he can ? t have , and he believes they ? ll be together once she realizes how great he is ? he just has to wait it out . That ? s the part that makes the song really creepy , the delusion of thinking that they were meant to be together . It ? s a really dark song . A lot of the material is about the inevitable disappointment people feel as they move through life , and things don ? t feel the way they expect . No experience will ever match up to the idealized version in your mind .

The song is written in the key of F major with a moderate tempo of 134 beats per minute . The music is dominated by a distinctive 4 @-@ bar bass guitar riff that is repeated through nearly all of the song . This is interspersed with piano chords that generally follow a D @-@ D / C @-@ F @-@ G progression . The lead vocals have a range of D3 ? G4 . The instrumentation also includes multiple guitar parts , drums , and backup vocals . Gibbard characterized the song as " five minutes of build and then a three @-@ minute song " , referring to the lengthy instrumental introduction that takes up more than half the song . Like the other songs on *Narrow Stairs* , it was recorded with all band members playing together in the studio , directly to tape without any overdubs .

Gibbard credited Nick Harmer 's bass line with being integral to the song , noting inspiration from bassists Eric Avery and Simon Gallup . Harmer said of the bass line , " I immediately gravitated to the creepy , stalker @-@ ish theme that Ben created with the lyrics and the piano chords I liked the idea that once a stalker gets obsessed with an idea , it just keeps repeating in his head , so I wanted the bass line to have a repetitive , incessant theme . "

The song was released on March 18 , 2008 , initially as a " surprise stream " on the band 's website , and soon after was picked up by radio stations . It was released in two versions : the album version of the song is over eight minutes long , while the radio edit largely removes the instrumental introduction , shortening the song to four minutes .

= = Reception = =

The song received acclaim from critics . James Montgomery of MTV News said of the song , " there are moments on *Stairs* that stop you dead in your tracks , send shivers up your spine and make you go ' Whoa ' ... like the first four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half minutes of ' I Will Possess Your Heart , '

a propulsive whirl of stalking bass line , spindly guitars and stabbing piano . " Will Hermes noted in Rolling Stone that the sense of menace in the song was " playing against type for a guy with one of rock 's purest voices ? a vibrato @-@ less , bell @-@ clear high tenor whose choirboy quality only throws the darkness here into relief . " Blender 's Jonah Weiner concurred , stating " it 's a pleasant surprise to hear Gibbard inhabit such a self @-@ consciously creepy role , rather than play the occasionally errant , essentially good @-@ hearted boyfriend who soft @-@ shoes through so many of his tales . " In 2011 , Tyler Kane of Paste included the song in a list of " the 25 creepiest songs about love " .

" I Will Possess Your Heart " was named the iTunes UK song of the year 2008 and was ranked # 36 on the Triple J Hottest 100 of 2008 in Australia . The song was nominated for the 2009 Grammy Award for Best Rock Song , but lost to " Girls in Their Summer Clothes " by Bruce Springsteen .

= = Music video = =

= = = Synopsis = = =

The music video features scenes of a young woman traveling alone to various places around the world , interspersed with the band performing in an industrial freezer room . Throughout her journey , the woman keeps a neutral expression and barely reacts to the sights around her . The video was shot in New York City , London , Paris , Frankfurt , Tokyo , Hokkaido , Tunis , Carthage , Bangkok , Siem Reap , and Phnom Penh .

= = = Filming = = =

Aaron Stewart @-@ Ahn was selected to direct the video based on his previous work directing the video for Death Cab For Cutie 's " Stable Song " , as well as work documenting the band 's live performances . Stewart @-@ Ahn said that the theme of travel had been inspired by Death Cab for Cutie 's earlier song " Transatlanticism " , as well as his own extensive experience traveling solo , adding that " I ? ve always felt that travel is a defining human experience that changes you forever , and hope that this depiction of wanderlust , obsessiveness , repetition , and loneliness conveys some of that . ? He also said " The idea is that the band is performing in an incredibly cold environment while this woman is traveling around the world , moving toward progressively warmer climes . The farther she gets from the song 's obsessive protagonist , the more her world opens up , and the less reliable his memories of her become . "

The shoot involved the actress , director , and a crew of two traveling 27 @,@ 977 miles in 13 days . The young woman was portrayed by Lindsay Burdge , who would years later become known for lead roles in several independent films such as A Teacher and The Sideways Light . On his directing , Stewart @-@ Ahn said " The goal was absolute realism ; nothing was staged . " Much of the film was shot on camcorder , including a Panasonic AG @-@ HVX200 and a consumer @-@ grade Canon HV30 , so as to blend in by looking like tourists . He noted that the trip to Hokkaido was taken on a whim , and during the trip the team realized that daylight would be gone by the time they would reach their intended destination , so they exited the train at Asari and took what would become the final shot of the video there .

Stewart @-@ Ahn selected Shawn Kim to direct the shots of the band , and although they never met in person they established visual motifs to unite their respective parts of the video . The scenes of the band were shot in a food storage facility in Los Angeles at temperatures below 12 ° F. Unlike Stewart @-@ Ahn 's section of the video , Kim used a professional Arriflex 435 camera and Panavision E @-@ Series lenses , which he felt added to the coldness of the image . The two sets used were at different temperatures , and since bringing the large anamorphic lenses from a colder to a warmer temperature would result in condensation , a separate set of lenses needed to be used for each set .

== Release and reception ==

The music video for " I Will Possess Your Heart " was released on MTV.com and VH1.com on April 11 , 2008 , and immediately added to those channels ' rotations . Two versions of the video were released , a full length version running 8 : 31 which features the album version of the song , and a shorter 4 : 22 version which features the radio edit , omitting most of the instrumental introduction . The video won the 2008 MTV Video Music Award for Best Editing for editors Aaron Stewart @-@ Ahn and Jeff Buchanan . It was also nominated for the Best Cinematography award , but lost to Wyatt Troll for The White Stripes ? " Conquest " .

== Track listing ==

US CD :

" I Will Possess Your Heart " (7 " edit)

" I Will Possess Your Heart " (10 " edit)

" I Will Possess Your Heart " (album version)

US 7 " vinyl :

" I Will Possess Your Heart " (radio edit)

" The Ice Is Getting Thinner " (demo)

== Credits and personnel ==

Words by Benjamin Gibbard

Song by Benjamin Gibbard , Nicholas Harmer , Jason McGerr , and Christopher Walla

Produced by Christopher Walla

Recorded by Christopher Walla and Will Markwell at Two Sticks Audio , Seattle , Washington

Mixed by Christopher Walla at The Alberta Court , Portland , Oregon

Mastered by Roger Seibel at SAE Mastering , Phoenix , Arizona

Artwork and layout by EE Storey

== Charts ==