

= Tennis Court ( song ) =

" Tennis Court " is a song by New Zealand singer Lorde , taken from her debut album Pure Heroine ( 2013 ) . On 7 June 2013 , the song was released as the album 's second single by Universal Music Group , following " Royals " . Tennis Court EP was also released , comprising three additional tracks . " Tennis Court " served as the fourth single from Pure Heroine in the United States . Written by Lorde and Joel Little and produced by Little , " Tennis Court " combines alternative pop , art pop and electropop genres with elements from downtempo , hip hop and EDM . It features synthesisers and electronic pulses in its composition . The lyrics address Lorde 's new @-@ found fame and criticise the " high life . "

" Tennis Court " was well received by critics , who complimented the song 's production and musical style . The single garnered success in Oceania , peaking at number one on the New Zealand singles chart and entering the top thirty chart in Australia . In Europe , it charted in Belgium ( in both Flanders and Wallonia ) , France , the UK and Germany ; the song also appeared on multiple US charts . " Tennis Court " was certified platinum by both the Australian Recording Industry Association and Recorded Music NZ . A music video for the song was directed by Joel Kefali and features Lorde staring into the camera during one continuous shot . To promote Pure Heroine and the song , Lorde performed " Tennis Court " several times , including on Live on Letterman .

= = Background and writing = =

Lorde was spotted by Universal Music Group ( UMG ) after performing at her school . She signed with UMG at age 13 , and was later paired up with Joel Little .

Lorde detailed the writing process for " Tennis Court " was different from that of her other tracks . By and large , Lorde would have a lyric forming before going into the studio to record . Nonetheless , Little and Lorde first wrote the music and the beat , and the lyrics were built on the instant music . According to Little , Lorde developed her songwriting skills on " Tennis Court " , for which she wrote the melody and the whole chorus :

" That song was one where we had everything except the chorus . She was sitting in the back of the room while I was working on the music and she was saying , " I think I 've got a chorus idea . " I asked , " Can I hear it ? " and she said , " No , no , no . " She wouldn 't sing it to me and then once she had it , she basically sang the entire chorus as you hear it now . I was like , " Holy shit , this is seriously good . " This was the first time she had this fully formed , amazing idea for a chorus . This is , I don 't know how long into the process , but it was when I was like , " This girl is going to be an amazing songwriter , or has turned into one in a really short amount of time . " Then I just added the " yeahs " and we tweaked a couple things here and there . "

= = Distribution = =

On 7 June 2013 , " Tennis Court " was released as Pure Heroine 's second single in Australia and New Zealand . On the same day , an extended play ? Tennis Court EP ? was released digitally in some European countries and physically ( as a 10 @-@ inch vinyl ) on 22 July . The single was released for digital download in Scandinavia on 12 August 2013 , and a 7 @-@ inch vinyl was released in the US on 27 August 2013 . Lava and Republic Records were going to send " Tennis Court " to US modern rock radio on 11 March 2014 and to US contemporary hit radio on 8 April 2014 as the third US radio single , following " Royals " and " Team " . However , its release was cancelled in favour of " Glory and Gore " . Nevertheless , the label later decided to cancel the contemporary hit radio ( CHR ) release of " Glory and Gore " and send " Tennis Court " as originally planned . " Tennis Court " impacted US hot adult contemporary radio and CHR on 21 and 22 April 2014 , respectively . " Tennis Court " was released in the United Kingdom on 12 May 2014 .

= = Production and composition = =

" Tennis Court " was produced by Joel Little , who recorded it at his Golden Age Studios in Morningside , Auckland . The song was produced using the software Pro Tools ; it is characterised as a downtempo hip hop and EDM @-@ influenced alternative pop , art pop and electropop song . It utilises synthesisers and electronic pulses in its arrangement . The track lasts for a duration of 3 : 18 ( three minutes and eighteen seconds ) . Written in the key of A minor , it has a moderate tempo of 92 beats per minute . Lorde 's vocal range spans one octave , from the low @-@ note of G3 to the high @-@ note of G4 . Billboard editor Jason Lipshutz commented that " Tennis Court " showcases Lorde 's " darker edges of pop music " style . Nick Messtite from Forbes wrote that the track is reminiscent of The Postal Service 's song " The District Sleeps Alone Tonight " , while Siân Rowe from NME compared it to works by Lana Del Rey . An editor from Clash , Joe Zadeh , noted the similarities between " Tennis Court " and The xx 's song " Together . "

The lyrics of " Tennis Court " address Lorde 's newly established fame and criticise the " high life . " Lorde said she wrote the song " after having had a glimpse into the music industry , and I was just thinking about how superficial people can be and how we put up all these fronts . " She found the idea of a tennis court " very visually beautiful " and " something I kept coming back to on Tumblr and all that sort of thing " , saying it was " kind of a symbol of nostalgia for me . It was something which was familiar and safe to me . " She also described the song as being " about the town where she grew up and the friends [ with whom ] she would ... hang out all summer . " Paul Lester , writing for The Guardian , compared the song 's lyrical theme to that of two other songs by Lorde : " Royals " and " Million Dollar Bills " ( from The Love Club EP ) .

" Tennis Court " opens with Lorde questioning " Don 't you think that is boring how people talk ? " featuring her , in the words of Lester , " sweet , sultry and sour " voice , which suggests " a frictional relationship with the high life . " A critic from Digital Spy , Robert Cospey , wrote that the track " finds [ Lorde ] caught between fame and a more innocent time " with the lines " My head 's filling up fast with wicked games / How can I fuck with fun again when I 'm known ? " The tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek word " Yeah ! " is repeated after each verse . Another lyric , " It 's a new art form showing people how little we care " is described as " perfectly damning the wave of banal hedonism most recently celebrated by the MTV Video Music Awards " , according to Kevin Liedel from Slant Magazine . At the bridge , Lorde sings " I fall apart , with all my heart / And you can watch from your window " , which was described as a " perfect " commentary on the breakdowns of teenage celebrities in an article published by The Huffington Post .

= = Reception = =

" Tennis Court " received critical acclaim from music critics and media outlets . Siân Rowe from NME ranked the EP a seven out of ten , complimenting the song for its " forward @-@ looking genres " and Lorde 's " strong pop vocals . " Emily Yoshida from Grantland labelled it a " murkily winsome , ever @-@ so @-@ slightly chopped ballad " , while writer Kyle Jaeger for The Hollywood Reporter praised the track 's lyrical content and its catchy melody . " Tennis Court " was picked as one of the standout tracks of Pure Heroine by Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic , Jon Hadusek from Consequence of Sound , and Time Out editor Nick Levine . In an interview with USA Today , English singer @-@ songwriter Elton John praised " Tennis Court " , describing it as " one of the most touching , beautiful things on earth . "

" Tennis Court " debuted at number one on the New Zealand Singles Chart during the week of 17 June 2013 , becoming Lorde 's second number one on the chart ; " Royals " was her first . Spending a total of 21 weeks on the chart , the single was certified double platinum by the Recorded Music NZ ( RMNZ ) for exceeding sales of 30 @,@ 000 copies there . " Tennis Court " became the 19th best selling single of 2013 in New Zealand . In Australia , the track peaked at number 20 on the ARIA Singles Chart , remaining to chart for 22 weeks . It was certified double platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) for 70 @,@ 000 copies shipped in the region . In the United States , it peaked at number 71 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and has sold 355 @,@ 000 copies there , as of April 2014 . It also reached number nine on the US Hot Rock Songs .

= = Music video = =

The official music video for " Tennis Court " was directed by Joel Kefali , who previously worked with Lorde on the accompanying video for her debut single " Royals " . The video was filmed as a one @-@ shot . Lorde appears in " black clothing , braided hair , and dark lipstick . " It features Lorde staring into the camera as the song plays ; she does not lip sync the lyrics except for the word " Yeah ! " after each verse and during the chorus . The set lighting fades in and out throughout the video .

Writing for The Washington Post , Bethonie Butler observed a discrepancy between Lorde 's statement that " In a perfect world , [ she ] would never do any interviews , and probably there would be one photo out there of [ her ] " , and the fact that , in the music video , Lorde is " front and center . " Butler viewed the video as " a metaphor for celebrity . " Writing for Ryan Seacrest 's website , Kathleen Perricone complimented the " super simple " clip , which allowed Lorde 's " voice and lyrics [ to ] really shine . " Lindsay Zoladz , of Pitchfork Media , compared the video to that for The Replacements ' " Bastards of Young . " MTV Buzzworthy blogger Luke O 'Neil wrote that the " Tennis Court " video is " a bit unsettling at first , but eventually it starts to make sense . [ Lorde is ] trying to do things a bit differently , and so far it seems like it 's working . "

= = Live performances = =

To promote " Tennis Court " , Lorde held a concert at Le Poisson Rouge in New York and performed the song among others on 6 August 2013 . This was her first US show . On 24 September 2013 , she performed the track at The Fonda Theatre in Los Angeles , California . On 3 October 2013 , Lorde held a concert at the Warsaw Venue in Brooklyn and performed the song among other tracks from the album . On 13 November 2013 , Lorde performed several songs from Pure Heroine during the Live on Letterman to promote the album , including " Tennis Court . " Lorde held a concert at Soho , England and performed a series of songs from her album on 19 November , including " Tennis Court " . The song was also performed by Lorde during the " Almost Acoustic Christmas " event on KROQ @-@ FM radio station on 9 December .

Lorde performed " Tennis Court " at the 2014 Billboard Music Awards in May . The following month , she performed a Goth @-@ influenced medley of " Tennis Court " and " Team " at the 2014 MuchMusic Video Awards . Lorde also performed the song during several music festivals . In April , Lorde performed " Tennis Court " at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival . Around 2014 , she also performed the single live during the Laneway Festival in Sydney , and Lollapalooza Brazil in Sao Paulo . At the Lollapalooza Festival in Grant Park on 1 August 2014 , she performed the track among other songs from Pure Heroine . The performance of Lorde was well received by media outlets , with Billboard picked it as the fifth best performance of the festival , while Rolling Stone deemed it the best part of Lollapalooza in Chicago , writing , " She danced like she was trying to fling her arms off her body , but just as with her voice , the sense that she was in absolute possession of her abilities never waned . She nailed every stomp and every note ? but it was clearly fueled by passion , not perfection . "

= = Usage and remixes = =

" Tennis Court " was played during the 2013 Wimbledon Championships ? Women 's Singles Final by British Broadcasting Company ( BBC ) . " Tennis Court " was remixed by Australian musician Flume in 2014 . In July 2014 American producer Diplo released his version , titled the Diplo 's Andre Agassi Reebok Pump Mix . In 2014 , " Tennis Court " was featured in the soundtrack of the PlayStation 4 , Xbox One and Microsoft Windows versions of Grand Theft Auto V .

= = Track listings = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =

= = = Single = = =

= = = Tennis Court EP = = =