

= Stupid Girl (Garbage song) =

" Stupid Girl " is a song recorded by alternative rock band Garbage for the band 's self @-@ titled debut studio album . The song was composed and produced by bandmembers Duke Erikson , Shirley Manson , Steve Marker and Butch Vig . " Stupid Girl " features lyrics about female empowerment , and a musical arrangement centered on both a repetitive bassline and a drum sample from The Clash 's 1980 hit " Train in Vain " .

The song was released by Almo Sounds in North America and Mushroom Records worldwide as the band 's fourth international single in 1996 . " Stupid Girl " became their biggest hit in United States and the United Kingdom , with its performance on the charts driven by an innovative music video and remixes which gained massive airplay across the world . The success of " Stupid Girl " propelled sales of its parent album Garbage into the top twenty of the Billboard 200 and into the top ten of the UK Albums Chart .

Reviews of the song were positive , with praise to the production . " Stupid Girl " was nominated for two Grammy Awards , Best Rock Song and Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group , as well as the Danish Grammy for Best Rock Song , an MTV Video Music Award for Best New Artist and an MTV Europe Music Award for Best Song .

= = Development = =

= = = Production = = =

" Stupid Girl " began as a rough demo around January 1994 . It was recorded during informal studio sessions between Duke Erikson , Steve Marker and Butch Vig in Marker 's home basement recording studio in Madison , Wisconsin prior to Shirley Manson joining the group . The band had been jamming using an ADAT eight @-@ track , AKAI samplers and a small drum kit . Vig took a loop from the drum introduction from The Clash 's " Train In Vain " and added further percussion . Afterwards , Marker created the bassline , under the request of doing something like Creedence Clearwater Revival 's " Suzie Q " , " something that 's almost like a Motown feel " . Erikson finished off what became the song 's core with a jangly guitar riff .

After Marker saw Manson 's group Angelfish on 120 Minutes , the band invited her to Vig and Marker 's Smart Studios to sing on a couple of songs , but after a " dreadful " first audition , she returned to Angelfish . Manson eventually returned to Smart for a successful second time , where she began to work on the then @-@ skeletal " Queer " , " Vow " and " Stupid Girl " . Working on the lyrics , " Stupid Girl " became an " anthem for a girl who won 't settle for less than what she wants " . Later she added , " [" Stupid Girl " is] really about squandering potential , [it 's] our version of Madonna 's ' Express Yourself ' , but a little more subversive " . Manson aimed the song as a rebuke towards a friend 's foolish behaviour : " A lot of females still find it difficult to find their own voice in society . It 's just that women have a different set of problems from men ... make the most of your potential . " Manson added that " Stupid Girl " was " a song of reproach to a lot of people we know " , both male and female , and that " we could have called it ' Stupid Guy , ' but we thought another song about a strident female dissing a guy would be tedious . "

Garbage wanted to write a song that incorporated a very thumpy and repetitive bass line ; this would act as a hook . Continuing to develop the demo throughout the recording process for what would eventually become the band 's debut album , the group decided to add textures , guitars , and keys to make " Stupid Girl " dynamic rather than built on complicated chord changes . Marker and Vig then added in elements of ambient sound effects throughout the audio mix ; including the " glitchy " sound of a broken DAT player used during the pre @-@ chorus . Marker had been dubbing between audio tracks , resulting in scratchy feedback ; he sampled the sound and tuned it to fit the song , unintentionally created by an alternative hook . When Manson recorded her first vocals for " Stupid Girl " , the band realised that the key that the song had been arranged in was too low , but instead of re @-@ recording the guitars , Vig re @-@ printed them through a pitch @-@ change

patch on an effects unit . Erikson commented that the effects are " just ear candy , but they contribute to the character of the song , make the listener think in a certain way about the song " . Additional percussion on " Stupid Girl " was performed by Madison musician Pauli Ryan , while the bass guitar line was played on record by Milwaukee session bassist Mike Kashou , both of whom performed on a number of tracks on the band 's debut album .

Reflecting on the success of the song in 2002 , Vig admitted : " People still ask us who the ' Stupid Girl ' is , and that 's impossible to answer . The song is sort of meant to be a wake up call . It could be about an ex @-@ girlfriend . It could be about a rock diva that we all know , it could be about your sister . It could also be called ' Stupid Boy ' . " Looking back , he also stated , " It 's impossible to predict what will be a hit . But subconsciously , I knew the song was good when I kept playing the same rough mix over and over again on my car stereo for months . "

= = = Composition = = =

" Stupid Girl " is a moderately alternative rock fast song with touches of electronica , set in common time . It is built on a I @-@ IV change in F ? , with both chords , F ? 7 and B7 .

The tonal function of a " dominant " seventh chord is to resolve up a perfect fourth . In non @-@ classical harmony , the chord is often used similarly , but also , especially in blues , funk , and early rock music , it is used commonly for its color that seems to mesh major and minor together with its major third , minor seventh , and the dissonant interval between the two . When the F ? 7 chord is played , it should traditionally resolve to B , which would expectedly be a B major 7th chord , the M7 being the major 3rd of the tonic .

Instead , on the B note is another dominant seventh . Such chords are the basis of the twelve @-@ bar blues , and are used in this way to give " Stupid Girl " a bluesy , rock- ' n ' -roll feel , the chord change is manipulated to emphasize the B 's flatted seventh (a minor third from the tonic) , giving the song a sulky mood . This chord change is used for the intro , verse , chorus and the instrumental sections , with exception to the pre @-@ chorus , which is in the relative key of D ? minor . Overall , even regardless of the chord progression , the song seems to fall somewhere between major and minor , and the use of four @-@ note seventh chords (as opposed to " three @-@ note " chords) help to form a rich atmosphere . " Stupid Girl " is mainly carried by this arrangement , along with drum beats , sampled from " Train In Vain " .

On the intro , four bars set the rhythm , adorned by only a guitar pick @-@ slide and audio effects . The verse adds Manson 's vocals and a bass riff which uses flattened blue notes to give " Stupid Girl " an funky , unsettled feel . The eight @-@ bar prechorus abruptly cuts in with minor chords and sampled feedback replaces the bass which drops out . This , coupled with Manson singing high in her range , creates tension and enables the presence of the bass to be felt when it re @-@ enters on the chorus . The guitar figures in the bridge include a phrase played low and rhythmic guitar stabs on the opposite side of the audio mix . On the chorus , Manson 's main vocal is answered by an " aah @-@ ah " of voice and guitar together . The word " girl " lands on a flattened bass note (A against the F ? note , instead of A ?) .

= = Single release = =

= = = Release and promotion = = =

The first single release of " Stupid Girl " occurred in Australia and New Zealand on January 22 , 1996 , when White issued on both CD and cassette , backed with " Trip My Wire " (previously released on the " Queer " single in the United Kingdom) and remixes of " Queer " by Adrian Sherwood and Martin Gore . A week later , White issued a second CD featuring a cover version of The Jam 's " Butterfly Collector " and a further two " Queer " mixes produced by Danny Saber and Rabbit In the Moon (also previously released in the UK) . In July , White released a limited edition EP titled Stupid Girl ? The Remixes collecting together the UK b @-@ sides and remixes for the

Australian market . BMG released " Stupid Girl " across Europe on February 28 . The single was issued as a CD maxi backed with both " Butterfly Collector " and " Trip My Wire " . When Garbage returned to tour Europe 's rock festivals in August , BMG reissued " Stupid Girl " in France and Germany

Mushroom Records serviced " Stupid Girl " to radio stations in the United Kingdom a month in advance of the release ; it was A @-@ listed at Radio One , Virgin and Capital . Mushroom issued " Stupid Girl " on March 11 as a 2 x CD single set and limited edition 7 " vinyl packaged in two differing colours of fabric . The song was backed with " Driving Lesson " , a new version of " Dog New Tricks " and a remix of " Stupid Girl " produced by Red Snapper on the first disc ; " Alien Sex Fiend " and two versions of " Stupid Girl " remixed by Dreadzone on the second . The vinyl was backed with the mix of " Dog New Tricks " . The single was supported by Garbage 's first ever UK tour , which launched on March 19 . During the middle of the live shows , Garbage performed the single on Top of the Pops , and a live showcase performance of " Stupid Girl " and " Only Happy When It Rains " on TFI Friday .

In North America , where " Only Happy When It Rains " had been the band 's breakthrough single , Almo Sounds planned either " Stupid Girl " or a re @-@ release of their debut single " Vow " to follow it up . On May 25 , Almo serviced " Stupid Girl " to alternative radio , simultaneous with Garbage joining The Smashing Pumpkins ' North American arena tour as the opening act throughout June and July . The tour was halted after Smashing Pumpkins keyboardist Jonathan Melvoin fatally overdosed ? the Pumpkins resumed without Garbage a month later . Almo re @-@ serviced " Stupid Girl " with a remix of the song produced by Todd Terry to Top 40 radio . On July 9 , Almo released " Stupid Girl " to record stores on CD and cassette single , backed with " Driving Lesson " and the Todd Terry version . Almo serviced remixes of the song to clubs . On July 11 , Garbage performed " Stupid Girl " on the Late Show with David Letterman , and in October performed the song at the VH1 Fashion Awards ? which earned attention as Manson had a wardrobe malfunction . On August 6 , Almo released a 12 " vinyl format commercially featuring " Driving Lesson " and remixes of " Stupid Girl " produced by Todd Terry , Danny Saber , Rabbit In the Moon and Jason Bentley ,

= = = Chart performance = = =

" Stupid Girl " first charted on the Australian ARIA Singles Chart dated week ending February 4 , 1996 , debuting at # 99 and peaking at # 47 on March 24 , 1996 . The single charted for two non @-@ consecutive weeks on the New Zealand Top 40 ? peaking at # 32 in February . In Iceland , " Stupid Girl " debuted at 18th at the start of April , and shot up to 4th in the second week , where it remained for three weeks . In Spain , " Stupid Girl " peaked at 40th on the airplay chart . In Ireland , " Stupid Girl " peaked at 16th . In France , " Stupid Girl " peaked at 38th on the French singles chart , and Garbage re @-@ charted to peak at # 16 on the album chart .

At the start of March , " Stupid Girl " debuted at 48th on the UK airplay chart , and the band 's debut album re @-@ charted at # 27 on the album chart . Later , " Stupid Girl " debuted as the highest new entry on the UK Singles Chart at 4th , which remains the band 's highest charting single . On its second week , " Stupid Girl " dropped to 10th , as Garbage broke into the albums top ten for the first time . On the airplay chart , " Stupid Girl " peaked at 5th , and spent the entire following month within the top ten . " Stupid Girl " clocked up seven weeks in the top 75 and sold 120 @,@ 000 copies .

In North America , after a week on air in April , " Stupid Girl " debuted on Modern Rock Tracks at 38th . Two weeks later , it broke into the Modern Rock top twenty ? with an " Airpower " rating , meaning the song had registered over 900 detections for the first time on alternative radio - and debuted at 66th on the Hot 100 Airplay chart . At the end of the month " Stupid Girl " reached the top ten at Modern Rock - peaking at number 2 in August , and only leaving the top ten in September - as Garbage ascended into the top forty of the Billboard 200 for the first time . The remixes were rated Hot Dance Break @-@ outs as " Stupid Girl " debuted at 46th on the Hot 100 .

By August , " Stupid Girl " continued to chart , debuting at 68th on the Hot 100 Singles Sales chart , at 47th on the Top 40 Mainstream chart and at 46th on the Hot Dance / Club Play chart . The

success also led the album Garbage to peak at 20th on the Billboard 200 , double its sales to shifting around 40 @,@ 000 units each week , and receive a platinum certification by the RIAA for shipping a million units . The remixes album peaked on 30 on the Maxi @-@ Singles Sales chart . In mid @-@ August , " Stupid Girl " peaked at 26th on the Hot 100 Airplay chart , and picked up enough mainstream rock airplay to spend two weeks at 39th on the Mainstream Rock Tracks chart . At the start of September , " Stupid Girl " became a crossover hit , having built up at both alternate and contemporary hit radio , where it reached 25th on the Top 40 Mainstream chart . Two weeks later , " Stupid Girl " earned Garbage 's highest position on the Hot 100 with a number 24 ; it also peaked at 33rd on the Single Sales chart , and hit 5th on the Club Play chart . " Stupid Girl " continued to gain a larger crossover audience throughout October , debuting on the Adult Top 40 . " Stupid Girl " bowed off of the Modern Rock chart in mid @-@ November after twenty @-@ five weeks , and remained on the Hot 100 until the start of December , clocking twenty weeks .

= = = Remixes = = =

In 1996 , Mushroom released a white label to clubs featuring the Red Snapper and Dreadzone mixes in advance of the UK release of " Stupid Girl " . The Red Snapper mix was later released in Europe on the b @-@ side to " Only Happy When it Rains " , while White Records released this mix along with the Dreadzone mixes on a Stupid Girl ? The Remixes extended play . Almo Sounds commissioned additional remixes from Danny Saber , Rabbit In the Moon , Jason Bentley and Todd Terry for the North American release of the single . One of Todd Terry 's mixes was also serviced to Top 40 radio . Mushroom later released this version , along with the Danny Saber mix in the UK on the b @-@ side of " Milk " , while White included the Todd Terry mix on the bonus disc of the Garbage : Australian Tour Edition . In 1997 , Mushroom released four Todd Terry mixes on a set of 12 " vinyls (Stupid Girl Remixes) in the UK . An instrumental version of the Red Snapper mix was also included on the compilation album Big Beat Elite . In 2007 , Todd Terry 's radio mix was remastered and included on the Absolute Garbage bonus disc Garbage Mixes .

Danny Saber 's remix brief for his version of " Stupid Girl " was to create a version of the song for radio airplay on K @-@ Rock new wave / alternative rock stations . Garbage 's management wanted Saber to retain the original 's " Train in Vain " loop , as it had cost the band significantly to license . Saber opted for a Soft Cell / house music combination ; incorporating the original vocal line , tempo , key and feedback . Saber created a new bassline for the remix , arranging the mix around that . Saber completed the remix in a single day , with one further day required to mix .

= = = B @-@ sides = = =

Garbage recorded a number of tracks for the b @-@ side of " Stupid Girl " in January 1996 during rehearsals for their first full @-@ length concert tour . During the rehearsals , Garbage remixed their album track " Dog New Tricks " , wrote and recorded " Driving Lesson " and " Alien Sex Fiend " and finally , recorded their own take " Kick My Ass " , a Vic Chesnutt cover for inclusion on charity album Sweet Relief II : Gravity of the Situation . Daniel Shulman plays bass on all four tracks . On October 14 , 1998 , Garbage , Electronic Arts , AT & T and Broadcast.com linked up to promote a live webcast from Garbage 's headline show at Dallas Bronco Bowl by offering a free .a2b file format digital download of " Driving Lesson " , which registered over 6 @,@ 000 downloads .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Stupid Girl " was filmed on January 16 , 1996 in Los Angeles by director Samuel Bayer . The video for " Only Happy When It Rains " was shot at the same time , and received a higher budget as Almo Sounds believed that that it would be a bigger hit than " Stupid

Girl ". According to Manson , " Stupid Girl " had the other bandmembers drunk and all of Garbage exhausted after three days shooting the other video .

The video debuted internationally on February 1 , 1996 , and in North America on May 5 . MTV certified " Stupid Girl " a Buzz @-@ clip , the band 's third video in a row to be guaranteed heavy airplay on the network , while VH1 added the video at the start of September and incorporated it into a Pop Up Video episode .

The video for " Stupid Girl " is a performance piece , inspired by the title sequence from David Fincher 's 1995 movie Se7en . The clip was shot in just four hours entirely within a warehouse decorated with plexiglas sheets on which the song lyrics were written . Bayer cut the film into pieces , and soaked it in his bath , applying deliberate fingerprints and abrasions to the footage before putting it back together by hand . Vig would compliment the video for mirroring the band 's sound : " some of it looked beautiful , some of it looked distorted , and kinda fucked up - and it sorta described some of our music visually " . Bayer later re @-@ edited a second version of the video , with alternative footage from the original shoot for a remix version of " Stupid Girl " by Todd Terry .

The " Stupid Girl " video was nominated in the Best New Artist in a Video category at the 1996 MTV Video Music Awards , losing to the Stéphane Sednaoui @-@ directed video for Alanis Morissette 's " Ironic " .

The " Stupid Girl " video was first commercially released on VHS and Video @-@ CD on 1996 's Garbage Video , along with " making of " out @-@ take footage . A remastered version was later included on Garbage 's 2007 greatest hits DVD Absolute Garbage , and made available as a digital download via online music services the same year .

= = Critical reception and legacy = =

" Stupid Girl " received an overwhelmingly positive response from music critics both upon the release of Garbage and on its eventual single release . Select 's Ian Harrison called the song " Duran @-@ like " , describing it as " mighty doomy pop neatly tailored to enhance one 's natural discontentment " . Vox magazine 's Craig McLean called it " malignant , dirty , devious , sneering pop " , while Metal Hammer 's Pippa Lang compared Manson 's " ever @-@ so @-@ sexy , sibilant " vocals to Trent Reznor 's . Kerrang ! described " Stupid Girl " as " a classy piece of predatory pop perfection that wields an iron punch beneath it 's [sic] velvet glove " .

The song was nominated for two Grammy Awards , Best Rock Song and Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group , but lost to Tracy Chapman 's " Give Me One Reason " and Dave Matthews Band 's " So Much to Say " , respectively . " Stupid Girl " was also up for the Danish Grammy for Best Rock Song , and the MTV Europe Music Award for Best Song . In 1997 , Broadcast Music Incorporated awarded " Stupid Girl " a Citation of Achievement for Best Pop Song , meaning it was among the year 's most performed songs . Erikson said the song was " a crowd favorite " that improves the setlist 's mood whenever it gets played , and Vig added that " we 've played ' Stupid Girl ' on stage more than a thousand times and I 'm still not sick of it . "

In 2005 , " Stupid Girl " was featured in Curtis Hanson 's film In Her Shoes , while later that year , Alexz Johnson recorded a cover version of the track for the soundtrack album Songs from Instant Star . In 2011 , it was nominated for a place on the final track listing of STV 's Scotland 's Greatest Album .

= = Charts = =