

= Whiplash (Selena Gomez & the Scene song) =

" Whiplash " is a song by American band Selena Gomez & the Scene , from their third studio album When the Sun Goes Down (2011) . The song was originally written by Britney Spears ; after she started working on her sixth studio album Circus (2008) , Spears contacted Nicole Morier to write songs with her . Together , they wrote " Mmm Papi " , " Rock Me In " and " Whiplash " . The latter , which was produced by co @-@ writer Greg Kurstin , failed to make the album . In 2011 , Selena Gomez recorded the song with her band for When the Sun Goes Down .

" Whiplash " is a dance song with influences of electro , relying heavily on the usage of synthesizers . The pre @-@ chorus has a sing @-@ rap section in which Gomez delivers the lyrics in a thick British accent . " Whiplash " is musically different and much more aggressive than the rest of the album , and its lyrics speak of a blossoming romance ; it has been compared to the work of Spears . " Whiplash " received mixed to positive reviews . While some critics called it one of the standout tracks of When the Sun Goes Down , others dismissed its rap sections and lyrics . Selena Gomez & the Scene performed the song at shows while on the We Own the Night Tour (2011) .

= = Background = =

" Whiplash " was written and produced by Greg Kurstin , with additional writing by Nicole Morier and Britney Spears . The latter had recorded " Heaven on Earth " , written by Morier and songwriting team Freescha , for her fifth studio album Blackout (2007) . During an interview with On Air with Ryan Seacrest , Spears named the song her favorite from the album . When she started recording her sixth studio album Circus (2008) , she contacted Morier to write songs with her . When the two were in the studio , they asked Kurstin to give them tracks . Among the songs they worked on were " Mmm Papi " , " Rock Me In " and " Whiplash " . Both wanted to do something that Spears had not done before . " Mmm Papi " and " Rock Me In " were included in Circus ; however , " Whiplash " failed to make the cut . Morier explained , " There ? s a couple songs we started that were great ideas but just incomplete . Maybe we ? ll hear them with fresh ears someday and put them out , but I usually just like to start anew . "

On April 11 , 2011 , it was reported by MTV News that " Whiplash " would be recorded by Selena Gomez & the Scene for their third studio album When the Sun Goes Down . Lead singer Selena Gomez is a Spears fan , and after Kurstin played her the track for the first time , she " fell in love with it " , unaware of Spears 's contribution to the song . Gomez explained , " I came and sang and saw that she had co @-@ written it , so I was very excited . [...] It was an honor and I 'm completely stoked . " The song leaked online in early June 2011 , several weeks prior to the album 's release .

= = Composition = =

" Whiplash " is a dance song with influences of electro . It features a heavy usage of synthesizers , which were compared to those in Christina Aguilera 's " Not Myself Tonight " (2010) . During the pre @-@ chorus , there is a sing @-@ rap section in which Gomez delivers several phrases in a thick British accent , before the pulsating chorus begins . " Whiplash " has a much more aggressive vibe than the typical teen pop sound . According to the digital sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Universal Music Publishing Group , it is written in the key of D minor . The song runs through a shuffle beat and maintains a tempo of 138 beat per minute . Gomez 's vocal range spans from the high @-@ tone of A3 to the lower register of B ? 4 . It is also musically different and a departure from other songs in When the Sun Goes Down which are more straightforward pop , such as " Who Says " and " Bang Bang Bang " .

Several critics compared the song to the works of Spears . James Dinh of MTV News said that " Gomez , who has gushed to us about her Spears fandom , shows off her best impersonation " in the song . While reviewing the We Own the Night Tour , Kevin C. Johnson of the St. Louis Post @-@ Dispatch said the song " sound [s] as if it was ripped directly from Spears ' catalog . " Blair Kelly of musicOMH compared it to the music of Circus , and more specifically to " Womanizer " (2008) . It

was also compared by Tim Sendra of Allmusic to the " electro glam " sound of Goldfrapp . The lyrics of " Whiplash " speak of a blossoming romance . Gomez sings in the chorus , " Come on and take me to the other side / I 'm blown away , when I look into your eyes / I 'm so in love , I think I 'm going to crash / And get whiplash , whiplash , whiplash . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Whiplash " has received mixed to positive reviews from music critics . Tim Sendra of Allmusic selected it as one of the ' track picks ' of When the Sun Goes Down , calling it a " stomping jam " and one of the surprises of the album . He stated that the song " adds some welcome weirdness to an otherwise straightforward record . " In a positive review , Jarett Wieselmann of the New York Post suggested that " Whiplash " was better than at least five songs from Spears 's seventh studio album Femme Fatale (2011) , saying " what I can 't figure out is why in the world would [Spears] give up this hot track " . Mikael Wood of Entertainment Weekly commented that " the top @-@ shelf collaborators don 't hurt ? see : the grinding ' Whiplash , ' co @-@ penned by one Britney Spears . " Scott Shetler of PopCrush gave the song four stars out of five , explaining that it " possesses a hook that will send people running for the dance floor " , although " Gomez 's vocal is pretty flat [...] but then again , this isn 't the kind of song to show off any sort of vocal gymnastics . "

Blair Kelly of musicOMH was divided in his review of " Whiplash " , calling it one of the best uptempo tracks from the album , although dismissing its " horrendous rap sections " , elaborating that " Selena Gomez should never be allowed to rap again , especially if she ? s going to break into a horrific Queen 's English accent midway through . " Some reviews of the song were negative , with Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone stating that Gomez " brings nothing in the way of personality to her songs " , adding that " the swaggering ' sex ' song ' Whiplash ' would be comical if it wasn 't so tedious . " In another broadly negative review , PopMatters writer John Bergstrom suggested that Spears did not write any songs on Femme Fatale " to avoid the embarrassment of overwrought , fake @-@ British @-@ accent @-@ flaunting would @-@ be come @-@ ons like ' Whiplash ' .

= = Live performances = =

Selena Gomez & the Scene performed " Whiplash " on shows at the We Own the Night Tour (2011) . The band performed the song after a medley of Britney Spears covers , including versions of " ... Baby One More Time " , " (You Drive Me) Crazy " , " Oops ! ... I Did It Again " , " I 'm a Slave 4 U " , " Toxic " , " Hold It Against Me " , " Till the World Ends " , and " I Wanna Go " . After " Whiplash " , the band continued with a performance of Gomez 's " Tell Me Something I Don 't Know " (2008) .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Selena Gomez ? lead vocals

Greg Kurstin ? songwriter , producer , audio engineering , instrumentation , audio mixing at Echo Studios in Los Angeles , California

Nicole Morier ? songwriter , background vocals

Britney Spears ? songwriter

Jesse Shatkin ? audio engineering

Credits adapted from When The Sun Goes Down album liner notes .