

= Over (Drake song) =

" Over " is a song by Canadian recording artist , Drake . The song serves as the lead single from his debut album , Thank Me Later . It was written by Drake with Boi @-@ 1da , and produced by the latter and Al Khaaliq (Nick Brongers) . The orchestral samples were composed and arranged by Brongers . The single was released for digital download on March 8 , 2010 . The song is midtempo hip @-@ hop featuring an orchestral backdrop and lyrically about an introduction to fame . The song received positive reviews , commending the lyrics among other content .

It has peaked in the top twenty of the United States and Canada , becoming Drake 's fourth consecutive top twenty hit in the U.S. It also charted within the top five on the U.S. R & B and rap charts , becoming Drake 's fourth consecutive top five on those respective charts . The song has also charted in the United Kingdom and its R & B chart . The song 's accompanying music video features Drake reflecting on an experience , and the struggle between his old life and the new . Several artists have made a freestyle over the track , including Eminem , Trey Songz , and Diggy Simmons , among others . Drake performed the song a number of times , including at the 2010 MuchMusic Video Awards . The track received a nomination for Best Rap Solo Performance at the 53rd Grammy Awards .

The song is featured on the NBA 2K11 soundtrack .

= = Background = =

On choosing his lead single , Drake told Rap @-@ Up , " It ? s gotta be a real great song . It ? s gotta be something that I feel is timeless and is better than anything that I ? ve ever done . " Drake exclusively revealed to Rap @-@ Up on February 15 , 2010 that " Over " would be the lead single from his debut album , Thank Me Later , and would be produced by Boi @-@ 1da , producer of his previous singles " Best I Ever Had " and " Forever " . Drake chose to premiere the song on his hometown Toronto 's radio station Flow 93 @.@ 5 . In an interview session with the station , Drake said , " I went with ' Over ' as the first look because of the words in the hook , " he said . " The hook being the most repetitive part . I got a lot of great songs on my album . I got songs for women who wanna feel special . I got songs for dudes ? if you ever thought my music was too soft , this is one you will enjoy . I got a lot of variety on there , but the biggest thing was that opening line on the hook : ' I know way too many people here right now that I didn 't know last year ' . " He went on to explain that the record sums up where he is in his career right now , and called it a " great first impression " . Drake did a lot of work for the song and also the album in Jamaica , during which he called the " calm before the storm " , and called " Over " the storm . He said , " It 's the moment . I wanted to emerge at first from this album and just let people know ' This is how I 'm coming out in the public eye . I 'm ready for anything . " He then went to explain that after the album people will be like " he 's still human " or " he 's still thinking the same way " , and said he wanted people to " understand I could have lost it . He said , " ' Over ' could have been my entire album . Just ' cause that 's what this industry and game will do to you if you lose yourself . " Drake later said that the song was a " warm @-@ up record " . He went on to say ,

" I love the song . I love the message in the song . It 's funny , because ' Over ' is the fourth song on the album and it 's the turning point in the album . It 's like , you get three songs of me sort of trying to paint the picture of what the last year has been like for me ? trying to fill you in , almost let you into my world as much as I can . ' Over ' is that moment where you 're almost worried on the album . ' Is this kid about to ... ? What 's happening ? Is he changing ? ' I wanted that to come out first . I wanted people to be a little nervous . This whole journey could have changed me drastically . Fortunately I 'm able to step out of my shoes and reflect on it and give you some great music . ' Over ' is a great alter @-@ ego moment . It 's the dark side of things and I really wanted that to come out first . "

= = Music and lyrics = =

According to MTV News , the song " touches on Drake reaction to fame and stardom " . Drake told MTV News , that the song was " definitely " a choice of his for releasing as a single , and that it was a song he did for himself . Brad Wete of Entertainment Weekly called the song , " a prideful track about a guy who fought for notoriety , gained it , and now struggles with what comes with it : criticism , groupies , and the pressure of expected greatness . " The song makes heavy use of an orchestral backdrop , while Drake delivers confident , aggressive raps in a paced fashion . Drake makes references to film critics Roger Ebert & Richard Roeper , as well as actress Jada Pinkett Smith and her 1996 film , Set It Off . According to Michael Craggg of MusicOMH , the song contains three hooks . Several lines in the second verse are actually a flip of hip @-@ hop group Dead Prez 's " Hip @-@ Hop " , from their 2000 debut , Let 's Get Free . Ironically , Dead Prez 's track is meant as a jab at media controlled artists like Drake , stating , " One thing about music when it hits you feel no pain / White folks say it controls your brain / I know better than that / It 's just game " , to which Drake stated when asked about it , " I love that flow . So I took that flow and flipped it in the second verse . " He also references Michael Jackson 's iconic attire in his " Thriller " video , though the lines , " ' Bout to go ' Thriller ' Mike Jackson on these niggas / All I need is a fucking red jacket with some zippers . " [sic] On the reference , Drake said ,

" That was sort of my reference point ; that phenomenon of Michael . He was young and had the world excited and anticipating his every move . That was my homage to him and the impact that he had on the world that I live in . It 's also ... great for people to say . Especially , unfortunately what happened to him , just to honor him was great . "

= = Critical reception = =

Mariel Conception of Billboard said that the single lived up to its expectations , and that " Drake continues to prove he 's worthy of the hype . " She commented , " It definitely isn 't over for Drake @-@ this is only the beginning . " . Chris Ryan of MTV News said the song sounded " very much a first single " and that Drake " is almost overwhelmed by the opportunity to officially go off " . Ryan also said that " it sounds like he 's pouring all of himself into every corner of the song " . Ryan Dombal of Pitchfork Media said the song " does not back down " as the album 's lead track , with " royal fanfare-- strings , horns , the works " , which he called " an emperor 's welcome " .

Henry Adaso of About.com dismissed the song , giving it two out of five stars , not pleased with the chorus , and called the rhymes and metaphors " redundant " and " proposterous " . While he called the lead single a " disappointment " , he said that it raises expectations for his album , hoping that " he 's saving the gems for his album " and also called the " distracting music " a pro of the song .

= = Chart performance = =

The song debuted at number thirty @-@ five on the Billboard Hot 100 , and eventually peaked at fourteen on the chart . While it peaked at number one on the Rap Songs chart , it charted at number two on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . In Drake 's native Canada , the song debuted at fifty @-@ six , later peaking at seventeen . The song peaked at number fifty in the United Kingdom , and at eighteen on the UK R & B Chart . In Germany , the song peaked at seventeen on the German Black Chart .

= = Music video = =

= = Background = = =

The video was shot on March 12 , 2010 in Los Angeles , directed by Anthony Mandler . Mandler previously worked with Drake on the video for his collaboration with Mary J. Blige , " The One " . It premiered on VEVO on April 12 , 2010 . In an exclusive with Rap @-@ Up , when asked about how the connection came about , Mandler said , " I ? m a big fan of Drake and I was really excited when

he called me about doing it , and really put a lot into making it special and capturing what I think is an image he hasn't had yet . Here's a guy whose lyrical presence does not equal his visual presence yet , by any means . That's something that he and I spoke a lot about . He felt strongly that nobody had really captured him , and some of the videos that had been done were less iconic than he would like to be represented as . " On Drake and the song he said , " It's so refreshing that he's confident , but he's not arrogant . I think that dimensionality is so important in a genre that is very one note with words like bravado and swagger and arrogance and promiscuity . Here's a guy that's finally putting a duality to the words and saying , " Yeah , I have all that and I do all that , but I'm also somebody that's asking , is that what I should be doing with my life ? " When asked of the concept of the " Over " video , Mandler said that it was something that would not be expected . Mandler explained , " Drake and I were very conscious about trying to push the limits and trying to push things forward . He came to me because he wanted to throw away the conventions of a medium , and take chances and be daring and take certain themes that are relevant to him and try to visualize them in not the obvious way " .

In an interview with MTV News on the set of the video shoot , Drake said , " I've shot a lot of videos before , but this is my first attempt to establish myself as Drake the artist . " Confronting the criticism of his past videos , notably the one for " Best I Ever Had " , Drake said , " I really don't care what other people think about them , they were great experiences for me . I've learned a lot from them " , and he explained that he was working on that day with Mandler , someone he respects and looks up to . On the video , Drake said , " We talked colors , we talked epic , emotion @-@ evoking visuals . " He called the story of the video interesting and the song tells " sort of a love story " . He explained that the video has a lot to do with his debut album , stating " The album is about finding love , feeling ' Have I sold my soul ' as far as ' Will I ever be able to gain the trust of a woman ? Will I only be able to be around the dark , evil women ? Will I ever find that pure love ? ' Those elements are in the video . " In a separate interview on his Away From Home Tour , with MTV News , Drake said the video takes the song to " another place " . He said it offers up a different look to the song . He explained ,

" This video is what I was really thinking about . The song is like a bad dream ? but it's not a bad dream , it's not a terrible dream . It's a little evil . The video really reflects that . It's a struggle between the purities of my past life and what this new life has to offer . Even in the video , you see me looking back and forth between the two and deciding . At the end of the video I don't necessarily make a decision , but when you get the album , you'll see what choice I make . "

== Synopsis and reception ==

Roc Nation artist , Rita Ora , plays Drake's distant love interest in the video . It begins with Drake dressed sitting in a room on a bed , reflecting on his new life . Several images including explosions and cityscapes are shown on him and on the wall before the performance begins . Drake is later shown throughout the video in front of a gray backdrop , as he seems to be thinking about two women in his visions , Ora , who seems to portray the good girl , and another woman , who remained yet to be seen fully , portrayed as dangerous as she dances provocatively in the background . Brad Wete of Entertainment Weekly called the video " artistically contradictory " , however said that the scenes of Drake sitting " alone in his bedroom as flashing images of busy streets and crowds of strangers float around him , pensive and rebellious " , and called them " controlled chaos " , but said that it worked in the video . Wete also pointed out that " He chose not to go the cliché rap @-@ video route and fill his four @-@ minute flick with nearly naked women , Ciroc bottles , and Beamers " , and that he stuck with " one leading lady " .

== Remixes ==

Several artists have remixed or made a freestyle over the beat , including Eminem , B.o.B , Sean Kingston , Royce da 5'9" , Trey Songz , Fat Joe , Teairra Marí , and Diggy Simmons . Simmons , the first to release a freestyle over the track told Vibe , " With that freestyle , I heard the track , loved

it , then got the instrumental from a friend of mine and just did it on the whim . It wasn't really anything I planned . I wasn't even ready for this to be a big thing because I've had tracks out before . I put my all into everything , but sometimes some tracks come out better than others . It got such a big buzz maybe because it came out the day after and people enjoyed it . ?

= = Live performances = =

Drake performed the song at MTV 's Spring Break 2010 in Acapulco , Mexico , and at the 2010 Juno Awards . He also performed the song at the 2010 MuchMusic Video Awards . " Over " was also performed alongside " BedRock " with Nicki Minaj on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! on June 25 , 2010 . Drake also performed the song at the 2010 BET Awards on June 27 , 2010 , in a medley along with " Fireworks " and a remix of Young Jeezy 's " Lose My Mind " .

= = Charts = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Songwriting - Drake , Boi @-@ 1da , Nick Brongers , Noah " 40 " Shebib
Production - Boi @-@ 1da , co @-@ produced by Al Khaaliq
Mixing - Noah " 40 " Shebib , assisted by Dale Dizzle Virgo and Tandra Jhagroo
Engineering - Noah " 40 " Shebib
Drum programming - Boi @-@ 1da
Keys , Strings and Horns - Al @-@ Khaaliq , additional by Noah " 40 " Shebib
Source

= = Release history = =