

= Crash (Gwen Stefani song) =

" Crash " is a song by American singer and songwriter Gwen Stefani from her debut solo studio album , Love . Angel . Music . Baby . (2004) . Written by Stefani and No Doubt bandmate Tony Kanal , the song uses automobile metaphors to describe a relationship , and it received mixed to positive reviews from critics . Not originally planned as a single , the song was released as the album 's sixth and final single on January 24 , 2006 during Stefani 's pregnancy .

= = Background and writing = =

Stefani had been working on her solo project with Linda Perry . The two penned several songs , including lead single " What You Waiting For ? " , but Stefani found the process difficult , commenting , " It 's humiliating and intimidating even if they 're sweet and excited , because you 're drowning in their creativity . " When the two began working on a song about a deceased friend of Stefani 's , Perry began writing the lyrics and Stefani , feeling that Perry was encroaching on her territory , broke down and left .

Stefani 's No Doubt bandmate Tony Kanal invited her to his house so that the two could go out with friends . When she arrived , however , Kanal surprised her by playing some tracks on which he had been working and revealed that he had prepared some for Stefani . Though Stefani had wanted to work with Kanal , she was concerned that his work would not fit with her dance @-@ oriented album ; however , she called it her " favorite track that [she had] written so far " , and the two worked on the track , modeling it after hip hop trio Salt @-@ n @-@ Pepa .

= = Critical reception = =

" Crash " received mixed reviews from critics . In a review for The New York Times , Kelefa Sanneh noted that the track " successfully conjure [s] up the infectious spirit of early Madonna . " David Browne of Entertainment Weekly called the song " a pricey retro fashion blurb " on which Stefani appears as " an old @-@ school , gold @-@ chained rapper " . Krissi Murison of the NME disagreed , calling it one of " the best bits of the decade of decadence " and referring to it as " Salt @-@ N @-@ Pepa 's cartoon rap " . Jason Shawhan of About.com stated that the song 's " great Narada Michael Walden bleepy synth noises [...] pop out of the mix like the car stereo just decided to sing along " , and Jennifer Nine of Yahoo ! Music commented that the track had " icy @-@ cool schoolyard sass " . Eric Greenwood of Drawer B argued that the track " carelessly revisits Stefani 's blatant fondness for 80 's pop , but not even [...] Tony Kanal can save her from lifeless retreads like these . " The Washington Post reviewer Sean Daly compared it to Salt @-@ n @-@ Pepa 's 1987 single " Push It " and added that Stefani " pushes it real good " . PopMatters 's Jason Damas gave it a very strong review , stating that " Stefani nails all the vocal mannerisms " and that Kanal " reveals a major mainstream pop jones here , especially in the way he layers the cut [...] with dozens of orchestra hits [...] which have been absent from almost all pop albums for a decade or more now . " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine gave the song a mixed review , stating that it " features some near @-@ fatal car metaphors " but that Stefani " maintains her signature sass throughout " .

= = Release and commercial performance = =

" Crash " had originally not been planned as a major single release from Love . Angel . Music . Baby . In late 2005 Stefani announced that she was pregnant (while performing the song on tour in Fort Lauderdale , Florida) and would be delaying her second solo album , and the song was announced as the sixth single in January 2006 . The song impacted US contemporary hit radio and rhythmic contemporary radio stations in the US on January 24 , 2006 . Because " Crash " was released as the sixth single , success was very limited since many consumers had already purchased the album , which at the time had been certified triple platinum in both the US and Canada . It debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 on February 11 , 2006 at number 95 . It reached

number 45 for two weeks and remained on the chart for a total of eight weeks . The single was somewhat more successful on the pop charts , reaching number 20 on the Top 40 Mainstream and number 28 on the Pop 100 , and had some crossover success , reaching number 38 on the Rhythmic Top 40 .

" Crash " was the only single from Love . Angel . Music . Baby. that did not receive a CD single solicitation in Canada ; in addition , the track experienced minimal radio success , peaking at number 87 on the BDS Airplay Chart in March 2006 .

Due to Stefani 's pregnancy , a live music video was released instead of a narrative video . The video was directed by Sophie Muller at a performance in Anaheim , California during Stefani 's Harajuku Lovers Tour .

= = Track listings = =

US 12 " promotional single

A1 . " Crash " (Album Version) ? 4 : 06

B1 . " Crash " (Instrumental) ? 4 : 05

B2 . " Crash " (A Cappella) ? 4 : 06

European promotional CD single

" Crash " (Album Version) ? 4 : 06

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Love . Angel . Music . Baby .

Gwen Stefani ? lead vocals , songwriting

Brian " Big Bass " Gardner ? mastering

Lee Groves ? keyboards , mix programming

Rob Haggett ? second assistant engineer

Tony Kanal ? keyboards , production , programming , songwriting , synthesizers

Colin " Dog " Mitchell ? recording

Mark " Spike " Stent ? mixing

David Treahearn ? assistant engineering

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =