

= We Ride =

" We Ride " is a song by Barbadian singer Rihanna from her second studio album *A Girl like Me* (2006) . It was written by Makeba Riddick , Mikkel S. Eriksen and Tor Erik Hermansen , with production helmed by StarGate . The song was released on August 21 , 2006 , as the album 's third single . " We Ride " is a hip hop and soul song . Critical reception of the song was generally positive , as the majority of reviewers praised its relaxing and carefree qualities .

" We Ride " peaked inside the top forty on multiple charts , including Australia , the Flanders and Wallonia regions of Belgium and the United Kingdom . The song peaked inside top ten in Finland and New Zealand . Despite failing to chart on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , the song peaked at number one on the Hot Dance Club Songs chart and number 34 on the Pop Songs chart . The song 's accompanying video was directed by Anthony Mandler , and shot in Miami and the Florida Keys . The video features Rihanna in various scenes , including a beach , nightclub and socialising with friends .

= = Background and release = =

" We Ride " was written by Makeba Riddick , Mikkel S. Eriksen and Tor Erik Hermansen , with production helmed by Eriksen and Hermansen under their stage name StarGate . Rihanna explained the reasoning behind " We Ride " being chosen as the third single from the album in an interview with Corey Moss of MTV . The singer stated that instead of asking her record label and management which song should be released after " Unfaithful " , Rihanna looked on iTunes to see which was her most downloaded song after the album 's lead single " SOS " and " Unfaithful " and stated that " We Ride " was the third most popular , saying " Out of all my songs available for sale on iTunes , [We Ride was] the third most downloaded , behind ' SOS ' and ' Unfaithful , ' ... It 's having good feedback , so I 'm gonna give fans what they want . " " We Ride " was released as the third single from the album to US mainstream and rhythmic radio stations on August 21 , 2006 , and was released in certain European territories as a CD single throughout October and November 2006 . In Australia , the song was released as an Extended play (EP) on October 30 , 2006 , which featured remixes of " We Ride " and the previous single from the album , " Unfaithful " .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

As a mid @-@ tempo ballad , " We Ride " is a hip hop and soul music song . According to the digital sheet music published by Musicnotes.com , " We Ride " is written in the key of E ? major and is set in common time with a moderate dance groove with 80 beats per minute (BPM) . Rihanna 's vocal range in the song spans from the lower note of G ? 3 to the higher note of C5 . The song includes piano keys and guitar strings as part of its instrumental composition , and were provided by Stargate . Jazzily Bass of Contactmusic.com commented that " We Ride " incorporates a " teen music sound " into its composition , which features a melodic tap to keep the listener engaged . In an interview with Corey Moss of MTV , Rihanna explained the meaning behind the song 's lyrics , saying :

'We Ride ' is about this guy saying over and over again , ' When we ride , we ride , we 're gonna be together until the day that we die ' ? promising all these things ... then it turns out he broke all of his promises , which is sad ? but it 's summer and I don 't care if you wanna do that and be ugly and unfaithful , then I can just do my thing , chill with my girls and have fun . That 's what summers are all about ... every summer you remember a certain relationship and there 's always a song to connect to that . So ' We Ride ' is just one of those songs .

= = Critical reception = =

" We Ride " garnered a generally positive response from music critics . David Jeffries of Allmusic praised " We Ride " , writing that the song is " an easy @-@ flowing weekend cruiser " . Spence D.

of IGN similarly noted that " We Ride " is a song to which someone can listen to whilst driving , writing that it is a " ubiquitous cruising track that reworks the cliché catch phrase of the new millennium : ' we ride till the day that we die . ' " Bill Lamb of About.com noted that " We Ride " would appeal most to urban audiences due to its hip @-@ hop composition . However , Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine was critical of " We Ride " , writing that although the song is a " hip hop @-@ influenced club banger " , it appeared to be too mature for the singer and her " minor vocal talents " .

= = Chart performance = =

In Australia , the song debuted and peaked at number 24 on November 19 , 2006 . The following week , the song remained at number 24 and spent a total of 10 weeks on the singles chart , with its last chart appearance at number 43 on January 21 , 2007 . In New Zealand , " We Ride " debuted at number 16 on December 11 , 2006 , and rose to number eight the following week . In its third week charting , the song fell to number 10 , but peaked at number seven in its fourth week . After having spent 12 weeks on the chart , " We Ride " dropped out of the top @-@ 40 singles chart , however , the song re @-@ entered the chart at number 37 on February 26 , 2007 , for one week .

In Europe , " We Ride " charted moderately in several territories . In The Netherlands , the song debuted at number 89 on November 25 , 2006 , and peaked at number 60 the following week . Over the following six weeks , the song fluctuated on the lower region on the top @-@ 100 singles chart , and spent a total of eight weeks on the chart . In the Flanders region of Belgium , the song debuted at number 46 on December 16 , 2006 , where it remained for a further week . In its third week charting , " We Ride " peaked at number 40 . The song re @-@ entered the singles chart at number 43 on January 20 , 2007 , where it remained for a further week before dropping out of the singles chart . In the Wallonia region of Belgium , the song debuted at number 34 on December 9 , 2006 , and rose by one chart position to number 33 the following week , where it remained in its third week . " We Ride " peaked at number 26 in its fourth week on the singles chart . In Switzerland , " We Ride " debuted and peaked at number 42 on December 17 , 2006 . After having spent seven weeks on the chart , " We Ride " dropped out of the top @-@ 100 singles chart , however , the song re @-@ entered the chart at number 95 on February 11 , 2007 , for one week . In Finland , the song debuted peaked at number four in the final week of December 2006 ; " We Ride " spent one week on the singles chart . In Italy , the song debuted and peaked on that countries singles chart at number 16 on October 9 , 2008 , more than two years after the song 's release as a single ; " We Ride " spent one week on the singles chart . The song peaked at number 96 on the European Hot 100 Singles chart .

In the United Kingdom , " We Ride " debuted at number 17 on November 4 , 2006 , and fell to number 34 the following week , spending a total of two weeks inside the official UK top @-@ 40 . In the United States , the song failed to make a chart appearance on the Billboard Hot 100 chart , but managed to chart on the Hot Dance Club Songs chart and Pop Songs chart . The song peaked at number one on the Hot Dance Club Songs chart on February 3 , 2007 , and spent a total of 18 weeks on the chart . On the Pop Songs chart , " We Ride " debuted and peaked at number 34 .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and release = = =

The music video for " We Ride " was filmed in Miami and the Florida Keys in August 2006 . It was directed by Anthony Mandler , the director of the previous single 's video , " Unfaithful " . In an interview with Corey Moss of MTV , Rihanna explained the concept behind the inspiration for the video , saying , " We just wanted to reconnect with my peers , let them know I 'm still a teen , I still have friends ? but to make something provocative . The ' [SOS] ' and ' Unfaithful ' [concepts] were so out there , so we pulled it back a little bit . I 'm chilling with my girls some . " The singer continued

to talk about the choreographic content , saying , " I 'm dancing [in the video] , like technical dance , which was a challenge ... It usually takes years to learn , but we got it done in a few days . And it was beautifully shot . " The video was released to download via iTunes on September 18 , 2006 in Ireland and September 20 , 2006 in the United States .

= = = Synopsis = = =

The video begins with Rihanna walking towards a white Jeep Wrangler , but stops due to her mobile phone ringing . As Rihanna answers , she converses with a male friend , presumably her boyfriend . As she tells him that she needs to do some things before meeting with him , Rihanna hangs up and the screen cuts to a black screen . As a visual of Rihanna driving along a bridge in the Florida Keys , the song begins to play . During the first verse , different scenes are intercut of Rihanna , including a close @-@ up shot of the singer driving behind the wheel is shown , walking along the beach and dancing in a black dress against a white backdrop , as she sings about how her boyfriend has been seeing another girl without Rihanna knowing . For the first chorus , in addition to the other three scenes , one shot is shown of Rihanna dancing with a man in a nightclub . During the second verse , Rihanna is shown lying down on the beach and playing in the water , as well as dancing with a male dancer against a white backdrop , this time wearing a lace dress .

For the second chorus , a new scene of Rihanna is introduced , with Rihanna meeting with her friends , having arrived at her destination , where they eat in restaurant and walk down the street . During the bridge , as Rihanna sings about the difficulties of getting over a failed relationship , scenes of Rihanna partying and talking to her ex @-@ boyfriend on her phone are depicted , which results in her agreeing to meet him as she sings " Just blame yourself ' cause you blew it / I won 't forget how you do it , my sweet baby / This is where the game ends now / But somehow wanna believe you and me / We can figure it out " , as she decides that their relationship is worth salvaging . During the final chorus , the singer is shown intimately dancing and partying with her boyfriend , whilst other scenes from the video are intercut . The video ends with a close @-@ up shot of Rihanna against a white backdrop ; when the song 's audio finishes , the singer turns her head to the side and looks into the distance , as the camera pans away .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Battery Studios , New York City , New York ; The Loft Recording Studios , Bronxville , New York ; Blue Wave Studio , Saint Philip , Barbados ; and Hinge Studios , Chicago , Illinois .

Personnel

Songwriting ? Makeba Riddick , Mikkel Eriksen , Tor Erik Hermansen

Production ? StarGate

Vocal engineering and recording ? Mikkel Eriksen , Al Hemberger , James Auwarter

Mixing ? Phil Tan

Vocal production ? Evan Rogers , Carl Sturken

Instruments ? Mikkel Eriksen , Tor Erik Hermansen

Lead and background vocals ? Rihanna

Credits adapted from the liner notes of A Girl Like Me , Def Jam Recordings , SRP Records .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

Since May 2013 , RIAA certifications for digital singles include on @-@ demand audio and / or video song streams in addition to downloads .

= = Radio adds and release history = =