

= Red Lips =

" Red Lips " is a song recorded by American recording artist Sky Ferreira for her second extended play (EP) Ghost (2012) . It was released on July 17 , 2012 by Capitol Records . The song was written and produced by Greg Kurstin , with additional songwriting provided by Shirley Manson . " Red Lips " is a pop rock song that describes the emotional deterioration of an individual that Ferreira disliked . It differs from the previous electropop styles displayed in her earlier works ; this was deliberately done to prevent Ferreira from being branded in a similar fashion as recording artist Britney Spears , which she felt that Capitol Records had intended to do .

Despite Ghost itself garnering mixed reviews , " Red Lips " received generally favorable reviews from music critics , who complimented its overall production . However , the track failed to impact any national record charts . An accompanying music video for " Red Lips " was directed by Terry Richardson , and was premiered through Richardson 's YouTube channel on June 12 , 2012 . Critics directed their commentaries towards Ferreira 's increasingly risqué public persona , shifting from the more innocent image with which she launched her career .

= = Background and composition = =

With her debut studio album having been frequently delayed throughout the early 2010s , Ferreira released her second extended play Ghost on October 2 , 2012 while simultaneously continuing production of her full @-@ length record . " Red Lips " appears as the fourth of five songs on the track listing ; a preview of the song was first released through YouTube earlier that February . " Red Lips " was later heard on the television series Gossip Girl , during the episode " Save the Last Chance " from its sixth and final season on November 26 .

" Red Lips " was written and produced by Greg Kurstin , with additional songwriting provided by Shirley Manson . Ferreira first collaborated with Kurstin on her demo track " Femme Fatale " , and first came into contact with Manson through her Myspace profile which she had been uploading her music on . They were concerned that her record label intended to brand her like recording artist Britney Spears ; these conversations prompted Manson to offer Ferreira the track " Red Lips " . She made lyrical adjustments to remove slang commonly used in British English , including the term " taking a piss " , to better suit the American Ferreira . The track incorporates pop rock musical styles , becoming a departure from the electropop elements explored in her earlier tracks ; it additionally incorporates elements of grunge music , which was popularized in the 1990s . " Red Lips " also includes prominent guitar instrumentation , which Michael Cragg from The Guardian felt signaled a musical transition for Ferreira ; he further compared the song to the works of the band Yeah Yeah Yeahs . Bradley Stern from MuuMuse noted that the blending of " intimidating stabs of guitars and a wicked drum pulse " showcased " the acidic side of Sky ? s attitude " .

Ferreira stated that the lyrics for " Red Lips " were intended as a narrative of the emotional breakdown of " a very specific person or a type [that] always made me feel uncomfortable " . In October 2012 , DJ Com Truise released a synthpop remix of " Red Lips " , which a writer for Fact felt complimented the songs on his debut studio album Galactic Melt (2011) . The DSL Remix of the original track is included in the soundtrack album of the feature film Vampire Academy : Blood Sisters (2014) .

= = Critical reception = =

" Red Lips " received generally favorable reviews from music critics , who complimented its overall production . Writing for Consequence of Sound , Tony Hardy offered a favorable review and appreciated the grunge music elements seen throughout the track , despite opining that its parent extended play Ghost (2012) lacked a creative focus . Michael Cragg from The Guardian recognized the track as a " welcome return for Sky Ferreira " , and compared it to the works of the band Garbage , which songwriter Shirley Manson is a member of . Bradley Stern from MuuMuse shared a similar sentiment , elaborating that the track " plays like the unofficial sequel " to " Cherry

Lips " by the band . Jon Caramanica from The New York Times drew comparisons to the tracks " Owner of a Lonely Heart " by Yes and " In Bloom " by Nirvana . Writing for Pitchfork Media , Katherine St. Asaph appreciated that Ferreira " fares better and sounds far more comfortable " on tracks including " Red Lips " , which she felt that Ferreira " [sells] with a distant , almost tossed @-@ off vocal . " However , in a more mixed review , a writer for Tiny Mix Tapes was disappointed that Ferreira came across as an " imitation " of Avril Lavigne and Fefe Dobson on the track .

= = Music video = =

An accompanying music video for " Red Lips " was directed by Terry Richardson . She went into its filming open @-@ minded in regards to its concept , and ultimately agreed with the creative direction that Richardson proposed . The final product was premiered through Richardson 's YouTube channel on June 12 , 2012 ; it later appeared on Ferreira 's Vevo channel on July 13 . The clip sees Ferreira , dressed in underwear , applying lipstick on her entire face , and is interspersed with footage of its co @-@ star , the spider " Toby the Tarantula " , crawling across her body . She stated that her wardrobe was intended to complement the simplistic nature of the music video , rather than an attempt to create sex appeal .

Critics directed their commentaries of the music video towards Ferreira 's increasingly risqué public persona , shifting from the more innocent image with which she launched her career . A writer from MuuMuse provided a favorable review , comparing it to the visuals for " Criminal " by Fiona Apple and summarizing that " Sky Ferreira is cooler than anything you and I could ever be . " Becky Bain from Idolator stated that the appearance of Toby the Tarantula was " somehow nowhere near as disconcerting as the image of Sky , looking washed out with platinum hair against a white background , crazily painting her face with a tube of red lipstick . " Michael Cragg of The Guardian felt that Ferreira 's friendship with the controversial Richardson showcased a " shift away from the pop princess she felt she was being moulded into " , and commented that the spider was " not for the faint @-@ hearted " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Release history = =