

= No Man 's Land (Kumi Koda song) =

" No Man 's Land " is a song recorded by Japanese recording artist Kumi Koda , taken from her tenth studio album , *Japonesque* (2012) . It was written by Koda , Mr. Blistah , Pete Kirtley , Jorge Mhondera , Samiya Berrabah , with production being done by long @-@ time collaborator Max Matsuura . The song premiered on January 18 , 2012 as the album 's fifth promotional digital single , which was served through online retailers Dwanga , Mora , Mu @-@ Mo , music.jp and Recochoku . It was re @-@ released as an promotional radio airplay single on January 25 , the same release date as *Japonesque* . The single artwork uses the CD and double DVD cover of *Japonesque* , which was used exclusively through Recochoku stores .

Musically , " No Man 's Land " has been described as a rock song that borrows numerous musical elements such as heavy metal . It lyrically portrays an angry and violent woman trying to escape her lover 's life . Self @-@ described as " barren " , the song includes several instruments including electric guitars , acoustic guitars , and drums . The song received mixed to positive reviews from most music critics . While critics singled it out as an album highlight and one of the better tracks from *Japonesque* , it was criticized for Koda 's rap and overuse of instrumentation .

Due to " No Man 's Land " being released digitally , it was ineligible to chart on the Japanese Oricon Singles Chart due to their policy of restricting digital sales and releases . To promote the single , it has featured on one concert tour conducted by Koda , this being her 2013 *Japonesque* Tour . An accompanying music video for " No Man 's Land " (and every other track from the parent album) was directed by long @-@ time collaborator Ryuji Seki ; it featured Koda wondering a wasteland , with distant views of decayed cityscapes and merry go rounds .

= = Background and release = =

While working on her then @-@ upcoming album *Japonesque* (2012) , Koda and her main record labels Avex Trax and Rhythm Zone enlisted Japanese rapper Mr. Blistah to work with her again ; Mr. Blistah worked and performed with Koda in some of her albums , including the single " Candy , and *Japonesque* promotional single " So Nice " , among others . " No Man 's Land " was written by Koda , Mr. Blistah , Pete Kirtley , Jorge Mhondera , Samiya Berrabah , and produced by long @-@ time collaborator Max Matsuura . Mr. Blistah , Kirtley , Mhondera , and Berrabah served as the song 's composers , with Japanese arrangers Kenichi Asami , Toshiyuki Takao , Satoshi Yamada , and Daisuke Sakurai hired to arrange the instrumentation . Both Kirtley and Mhondera were credited as the song 's co @-@ arrangers . The song 's instrumentation includes guitars , drums , bass guitars , keyboards , and subtle synthesizers . The song was recorded in early @-@ 2011 by Takeshi Takizawa , Makoto Yamadoi , and Masahiro Kawata at Prime Sound Studios and Avex Studios , in Tokyo , Japan .

In December 2011 , Rhythm Zone confirmed that " No Man 's Land " would be included on *Japonesque* , and it appeared as the thirteenth track on all formats from *Japonesque* . " No Man 's Land " , alongside *Japonesque* tracks : " So Nice " , " Slow " featuring American recording artist Omarion , " Brave " , and " Escalate " , served as the album 's lead promotional digital singles on January 18 , 2012 , which was served through online retailers including Mora , Mu @-@ Mo , music.jp and Recochoku . That same year , " No Man 's Land " , " So Nice " , " Slow " , " Brave " , and " Escalate " were then re @-@ released on January 25 through Japanese airplay stations . This was the same release date as the album *Japonesque* A special application code was uploaded onto Koda 's official website , which allowed users to access the song from Recochoku and download a full ringtone for free . At the end of January 2012 , British production team StarRock promoted the single on Star Rock television ; the song was circulated throughout UK radio airplay shows . The single artwork uses the CD and double DVD cover of *Japonesque* , which was used exclusively through Recochoku stores .

= = Composition = =

" No Man 's Land " is a " hard " mid @-@ tempo rock song . Koda stated on her website that the song was a " violently " , " painful " , and " destructive " mix of rock and heavy metal music . Koda recognized the musical composition as a " turning point " for her future musical elements and influences . The original arrangement of " No Man 's Land " was different to the current version ; according to Koda , the original arrangement omitted the rapping verses and didn 't include heavy rock instrumentation or synthesizers . Zero from JpopJRock.com commented that " No Man 's Land " was the only song on the album that didn 't suffer from a " sparse " arrangement .

Lyrically , " No Man 's Land " portrays an angry and violent woman trying to escape her lovers life . In an exclusive interview with Recochooku about the song , Koda stated that " No Man 's Land " is a " nuance " of a " girl screaming that she wants to go to a world with no other men . " Koda identified that the themes cheating and betrayal are present throughout the song 's lyrics . However , Koda stated that " No Man 's Land " had a similarity to her single " Futari de ... " , where she believed had also grown strength after moving on . Koda performs the song in both the English and Japanese languages , one of nine tracks from Japonesque that is performed bilingually . According to the lyric sheet provided by Avex Trax , English is used in the song 's hook ; " No man 's , no man 's , no man 's land " . The onomatopoeia lyric " Ding Dong Ding Dong " is spoken during the first verse , whilst the rest is rapped in Japanese . The chorus opens with the English lyrics ; " I 've been running in circles , round and around " , carries on with Japanese , and ends with " Welcome to no man 's land " . The second verse includes the phrases " Zero zero " and " so look at deep " , whilst performed in Japanese . The bridge section has Koda singing in English ; " No matter where I go , this is still my home " and " my home " , whilst performing in Japanese . The song 's final English phrase is the interlude break ; " Everybody put hands right this " , and finishes with the chorus and hook .

= = Critical reception = =

After its release , " No Man 's Land " received mixed to positive reviews from most music critics . Zero , Jaylee , and Loki from JpopJRock.com highlighted " No Man 's Land " as the best track on the album ; they agreed that the single had a better arrangement than most tracks on Japonesque , and enjoyed the song 's composition . A member from StarRock highlighted " No Man 's Land " as the best track on the album , praising its commercial appeal . A staff member from CD Journal enjoyed the song 's composition , labelling the verses and second half of the song " impressive " . However , Asian Junkie member Random J reviewed " No Man 's Land " on his blogsite and criticized Koda 's rapping and overuse of instrumentation ; he commented " " No Man 's Land " would have sufficed as a mid @-@ tempo jam , is shitted on by being raped with electric guitars . "

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and synopsis = = =

The accompanying music video for " No Man 's Land " was directed by long @-@ time collaborator Ryuji Seki . The music video was shot with Koda in front of a green screen to immolate the chroma key functions . Koda , who was present at post @-@ production for the music video , suggested the use of black and white colouring , which Seki then added . This is Koda 's first music video to be in full black and white . The video opens with a distance shot of a wasteland , with decaying trees , floating black leaves , and hills . Koda is seen dragging herself through the valley , and an inter cut scene features a body shot of Koda in front of an abandoned city and abandoned merry @-@ go @-@ round ; the merry @-@ go @-@ round references the lyric in the song . As the first hook stars in the song , it features two scenes ; Koda singing the track in a distance , and close @-@ ups of Koda wearing a shackle . The verse has Koda wondering through a valley and singing the song .

The first chorus has Koda walking through the land , and scenes of her singing . She grabs a compass , but it does not function properly . She grabs a drinking bottle , but only filled with little droplets ; she tries to drink it , but falls all on her face instead . As she sings the song ; by the end of

the second chorus , black projectile smoke is scene falling from the sky in the distance and hits parts of the abandoned city . As more smoke falls and black leaves con @-@ stellate , Koda collapses and sings the bridge on the ground . When the bridge section ends , rocks start levitating and the smoke rises , forming a black Dust devil in the distance . As more dust devil 's form , they become large and closely devour Koda .

By the last chorus , a close @-@ up of Koda 's eyes closes and zooms out , showing Koda in lighter clothes and long hair . A long field of dark green grass with the sun and blue sky beaming above it , still showing the abandoned city and merry @-@ go @-@ round in the distance . The field is then shown to be the distance of a cliff , with Koda standing on the edge and observing a forest at the bottom ; these scenes are shot in colour instead of black and white . The final vocal interlude break of the song has inter cut scenes of Koda on the cliff , and Koda walking through the valley from earlier scenes . The final scene has a repeating scene of the first scene ; Koda walking through the valley in the distance of a wasteland . After completing the video and watching it , Koda commented that the overall appearance had given her a " personal connection " to the video and song . She stated that the visual effects were " very cool " , and declared it as one of her " best " videos .

= = = Release = = =

The music video premiered on Japanese music television channels on January 18 , 2012 . Alongside with its radio airplay release , StarRock Productions had premiered the music video on UK music television channels on January 25 . The music video for " No Man 's Land " appeared on the CD and DVD format , and the CD and double DVD formats for Japonesque . Koda uploaded the video on her website , in order to promote the music videos from the album . On January 26 , Koda hosted a special television show for Nico Nico Live and premiered the music video to " No Man 's Land " , alongside the music videos from Japonesque . Tetsuo Hiraga from Hot Express complimented the music video 's erotic nature , Koda 's sexy image , and the video 's graphics .

= = Live performances and other inclusions = =

" No Man 's Land " has appeared on one of Koda 's concert tours , this being her 2013 Japonesque tour . The performance was included on part two of the concert tour , where Koda is wearing a solder uniform and singing the song in front of her backing band . Koda plays the drums to the ending interlude of the track . The performance was recorded live and included on the subsequent live DVD release , Koda Kumi Live Tour 2013 : Japonesque (2013) . Released as a triple @-@ DVD and double @-@ Blu @-@ ray set , " No Man 's Land " appeared on the second disc and first disc respectively . The 4 Skips D 'n'B remix for " No Man 's Land " was included on her Koda Kumi Driving Hit 's 5 remix compilation (2013) .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Japonesque .

= = Release history = =