

= Not Like the Movies =

" Not Like the Movies " is a song by American singer Katy Perry . The song was written by Perry for her third studio album , Teenage Dream (2010) , while production and additional writing was done by Greg Wells . It was released on August 3 , 2010 , by Capitol Records as the album 's first promotional single . The song is a power ballad from the point of view of a teenage girl . Lyrically , the girl contemplates her first time and how " it wasn 't right " . She realizes through that experience that her " prince " is still " out there " waiting for her . It was written when Perry first started dating her then @-@ husband , Russell Brand .

" Not Like the Movies " received positive reviews from music critics , some of whom called it a powerful and lovely song , as well a contemplative ballad , but noticed that the song 's lyrics make only minimal reference to Perry 's then @-@ husband , Russell Brand . " Not Like the Movies " achieved moderate success , peaking at number 53 on US Billboard Hot 100 chart and at number 41 on the Canadian Hot 100 chart . Perry performed the song on her California Dreams Tour (2011) . She also did a performance of the song along with " Teenage Dream " at the 53rd Grammy Awards on February 13 , 2011 . The performance received positive reviews from music critics .

= = Conception = =

In an interview with YouTube about Teenage Dream in August 2010 , Perry revealed that " Not Like the Movies " was the first song she wrote for the album after she finished her Hello Katy Tour (2009) . Production and additional writing on the songs were done by Greg Wells , who previously worked with the singer on her second studio album , One of the Boys (2008) . Perry considers it to be like that of a two @-@ part song because she had started working on " Not Like the Movies " before she met Brand , and completed it after they began dating . She stated it is a " really special " song to her because , at the first part of the track , it is a story that she needed to let out , which was claiming to know something that you do not actually know . Perry later expressed relief at being able to put all of her feelings into " Not Like the Movies " .

= = Composition = =

" Not Like the Movies " is a power ballad that lasts for four minutes and one second . The song is composed in the key of A ? major and is set in time signature of common time , with a moderate tempo of 100 beats per minute . Perry 's vocal range spans over an octave , from F3 to E ? 5 . The song has a basic sequence of A ? 5 ? Fm7 ? Cm ? E ? as its chord progression . Lyrically , " Not Like the Movies " is a song about a love relationship where a woman does not feel in love and still waits for the man of her dreams , or " charming prince " , as a Terra reviewer put it .

Chris Ryan from MTV News interpreted the song as largely being about how being in love does not meet your expectations and never really captures " the cinematic magic of big @-@ screen love stories . "

Steve Leftridge from PopMatters considered the track to have a " ho @-@ hum " melody . Its melody was compared to Britney Spears ' " Everytime " (2003) and Evanescence 's " My Immortal " (2003) . During the chorus , Perry sings about holding out for a love that is " cinematic and dramatic / With the perfect ending " and later asks if she is a " stupid girl " , according to Elysa Gardner from USA Today and an anonymous reviewer for Portrait Magazine . A reviewer for Portrait Magazine , considering it to be the slowest @-@ paced song on Teenage Dream , said it juxtaposed well with the other tracks . " It takes all the energy from the rest of the album , all the fast beating hearts and overwhelming feelings of love , and slows it all down to a song about looking for love instead , " they wrote .

= = Reception = =

" Not Like the Movies " garnered critical acclaim . Chris Ryan of MTV said the song is " rather lovely

" , but noted that its lyrics refer " very little " to Perry 's then @-@ husband , Russell Brand . Elysa Gardner of USA Today called " Not Like the Movies " an " irresistible power ballad " and recommended readers to purchase the song . A staff writer for Portrait Magazine stated that " Not Like the Movies " was a great way to end Teenage Dream and that it showcases the singer 's voice quite well , as she has " lyrics to work for instead of ones to just play around with . " The reviewer concluded that it was a " really good song . "

Although " Not Like the Movies " was distributed as a promotional single , it still managed to enter music charts based on legally paid digital download sales . For the week ending August 11 , 2010 , " Not Like the Movies " debuted at number 53 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , and stayed on the chart for only one week . It also managed to enter another Billboard component chart , the Hot Digital Songs , where the song found its peak at number twenty @-@ two selling 57 @,@ 000 digital downloads . On the Canadian Hot 100 , the song 's highest position was at number forty @-@ one .

= = Live performances = =

Perry included the song on her setlist for her 2011 world concert tour entitled California Dreams Tour . For performances of the song , she would sit on a flower @-@ entwined bower swing that rises up to reveal a large white bridal train that flows out to complete the entire backdrop . At the same time , a bubble machine started @-@ up and the bed @-@ sheet hanging behind her showed footage of cartoon animals falling in love . In a review of one of her concerts Ed Masley from The Arizona Republic called her performance of " Not Like the Movies " was " sweet " .

The song was also performed live during the 53rd Grammy Awards . Dressed in a sparkly pale @-@ pink , " princess @-@ like " dress and wearing glittery make @-@ up , Perry sat on a swing that continued to rise high above the stage as she sung the lyrics to " Not Like the Movies " . MTV News reporter Mawuse Ziegbe called it a " heartfelt tribute " . Claire Suddath of Time magazine said the " Valentine 's Day ? themed performance coupled with Perry 's wedding footage made @-@ up for the swing that looked like a high school ? yearbook photo backdrop " . She gave it a Suddath " B + " rating . Jon Bream of Star Tribune gave it a B grade .

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Not Like the Movies " ? 4 : 01

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Teenage Dream liner notes .

Katy Perry ? songwriting , lead vocals

Greg Wells ? songwriting , producing , drums , piano , programming

Lewis Tozour ? recording

Serban Ghenea ? mixing

John Hanes ? mix engineer

Tim Roberts ? assistant

= = Charts = =