

= Only Girl (In the World) =

" Only Girl (In the World) " is a song by Barbadian singer Rihanna from her fifth album , Loud (2010) . The album 's lead single , it was released on September 10 . Crystal Johnson wrote the song in collaboration with producers Stargate and Sandy Vee . Rihanna contacted Stargate before Loud 's production and asked them to create lively , uptempo music . " Only Girl (In the World) " was the first song composed for the album , and the singer decided to include it on the track list before she recorded her vocals . Backed by strong bass and synthesizer , it is a Europop song that incorporates elements of Hi @-@ NRG and rave in its composition . In its lyrics , Rihanna demands physical attention from her lover .

Critical response to " Only Girl (In the World) " was positive ; a number of critics praised its composition and Rihanna 's decision to move away from the dark themes of her previous album , Rated R (2009) . The song reached number one on the United States ' Billboard Hot 100 chart two weeks after Loud 's second single , " What 's My Name ? " , peaked at number one . It was the first time in the chart 's history that an album 's lead single reached number one after its second single . In the United Kingdom the song spent two weeks at number one and is the nineteenth @-@ bestselling single of all time by a female artist , with over a million copies sold . The song peaked at number one in Australia , New Zealand , Canada and Ireland , and reached the top five in France , Germany and Switzerland .

Rihanna performed " Only Girl (In the World) " on Saturday Night Live in the United States , The X Factor in the United Kingdom and a shortened version at the 31st Brit Awards . Anthony Mandler directed the song 's music video , in which Rihanna is alone in an open natural landscape . The video suggests that she is the only female in the world , echoing the song 's title and lyrics , and critics praised its bright , colorful theme . " Only Girl (In the World) " won the Grammy Award for Best Dance Recording at the 53rd Grammy Awards in 2011 .

= = Concept and development = =

" Only Girl (In the World) " was written by Crystal Johnson with the song 's producers , Stargate and Sandy Vee . Rihanna had previously worked with Stargate on the singles " Hate That I Love You " , " Don 't Stop the Music " and " Rude Boy " . In February 2011 Stargate said that Rihanna approached the Norwegian production duo before she began recording the then @-@ untitled project , saying that she wanted to have fun and produce happy , uptempo songs . According to Tor Erik Hermansen of Stargate , " Only Girl (In the World) " was the first song created for Loud and Rihanna decided to include it on the album before recording her vocals . In a webchat with fans , Rihanna said that she wanted to take the next step as an artist : " I didn 't want to go backward and remake Good Girl Gone Bad . I wanted the next step in the evolution of Rihanna , and it 's perfect for us . You guys are always defending me , so now you 've got some great songs to justify it . " The singer described " Only Girl (In the World) " as having a " bigger sound " than " Rude Boy " .

The song was recorded during Rihanna 's Last Girl on Earth tour . Its instrumental was recorded by Mikkel Storleer Eriksen of Stargate and Miles Walker at Roc the Mic Studios in New York City and Westlake Recording Studios in Los Angeles , and by Vee at the Bunker in Paris . Kuk Harrell produced Rihanna 's vocals , recording them with Josh Gudwin and Marcos Tovar . Inaam Haq , Dane Liska and Brad Shea recorded additional vocals . The song was mixed by Phil Tan at the Ninja Beat Club in Atlanta and by Vee at The Bunker , with engineering by Damien Lewis . Eriksen , Vee and Hermansen provided the instrumentation , and Johnson sang background vocals .

= = Composition = =

" Only Girl (In the World) " is a Europop song with a length of three minutes and fifty @-@ five seconds . It also incorporates elements of Hi @-@ NRG , rave and R & B styles . It is in the key of F @-@ sharp minor , and written in common time with a moderate tempo of 126 beats per minute . Its instrumentation includes synthesizers , a " heavy whipping bass " and a " strobing " electro beat .

Brad Wete of Entertainment Weekly described the song as a "stronger, sexier" version of her 2007 single, "Don't Stop the Music".

Rihanna's voice spans one octave and a half octaves in "Only Girl (In the World)", from F³ to C⁵, and her vocal has a "silky", "seductive" tone. In the song's lyrics Rihanna yearns for her lover's attention, which makes her feel like the only girl in the world. The singer "pours her heart out" in the chorus: "Want you to make me feel like I'm the only girl in the world / Like I'm the only one that you'll ever love / Like I'm the only one who knows your heart / Only girl in the world." According to Digital Spy writer Nick Levine, the chorus "thumps like a rabbit having an epileptic fit." Rihanna sings suggestively, "Baby, I'll tell you all my secrets that I'm keepin' / You can come inside / And when you enter, you ain't leavin' / Be my prisoner for the night." Fraser McAlpine of the BBC compared the song's message to that of the German fairy tale "Rapunzel"; Rihanna is not willing to throw her hair out of the castle for just any man to come and satisfy her, "particularly not someone who isn't prepared to make the climb up to her scarily high window."

= = Critical response = =

The song received a generally positive response from music critics. Gerrick D. Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times called the track a "surefire hit" and something of a "comeback". MTV News writer James Dinh praised the uptempo song, comparing it to the "stark" lead single "Russian Roulette" from Rihanna's previous Rated R. Monica Herrera wrote for Billboard that "Only Girl (In the World)" "aims squarely for dance floor domination." Nick Levine of Digital Spy gave the song four stars out of five, calling it a "crowd pleaser" but not overly original.

According to Levine and Jim Farber of the New York Daily News, "Only Girl (In the World)" was Rihanna's most pop-sounding song since "Don't Stop the Music". Analyzing the song, the BBC's Fraser McAlpine questioned why "Only Girl (In the World)" leaves a "positive impression" on the listener despite its arrogant, domineering tone. Critical at first ("Listen to the pneumatic hiss at the heart of this song. Try and endure the pumping thrust without getting winded. There is simply too much pressure being stuffed into our ears, with too much brutal force"), he concluded that Rihanna sings the song with great passion and gave it four stars out of five. James Dolan gave the song two and a half stars out of five in Rolling Stone, writing that "the trance beat won't keep you in the club unless someone else is paying for the drinks."

= = Commercial performance = =

= = North America = =

In the United States, "Only Girl (In the World)" debuted at number 75 on the Billboard Hot 100 on September 25, 2010, jumping to number three the following week, before peaking at number one (Rihanna's ninth) on November 25. Loud's second single, "What's My Name?" (featuring Drake), topped the Hot 100 two weeks before; it was the first time in chart history that an album's first single reached number one after its second. "Only Girl (In the World)" was Rihanna's fourth number-one song of 2010, and she was the first female and the first artist since Usher (in 2004) with four number-one singles in a calendar year. The singer also had the most number-one singles (nine) since 2000. "Only Girl (In the World)" appeared on the Billboard Hot 100 year-end chart in 2010 and 2011 at numbers 47 and 40, respectively.

The song debuted on the Digital Songs chart at number one with sales of 249,000, Rihanna's eighth number-one single and her sixth to debut atop the chart (the most in both categories by any artist since the chart's 2005 introduction). The singer set a Mainstream Top 40 (Pop Songs) radio airplay chart record when "Only Girl (In the World)" rose from number two to number one on November 25, 2010, her seventh number-one. The song was number 46 and number 33, respectively, on the 2011 Billboard Digital Songs and Pop Songs year-end charts. "Only Girl (In the World)" was Rihanna's twelfth number-one on the Dance Club Songs

songs chart and number 46 on the 2010 Billboard year @-@ end chart . The song has been certified six times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , and has sold 3 @.@ 6 million copies in the US as of June 2015 . In Canada , " Only Girl (In the World) " debuted at number 65 on September 25 , 2010 and rose to number one for a week the following week . On November 6 the song returned to number one for three consecutive weeks , remaining on the chart for a total of 35 weeks .

= = = United Kingdom = = =

In the United Kingdom " Only Girl (In the World) " debuted at number two on the UK Singles Chart on October 31 , 2010 , with 126 @,@ 000 copies sold . Cheryl Cole debuted at number one with " Promise This " , selling 157 @,@ 000 copies , and Cole and Rihanna had the highest and second @-@ highest debut sales figures of the year . The song , Rihanna 's sixth number @-@ two song on the UK Singles Chart , rose to number one the next week for two consecutive weeks . It was Rihanna 's fourth UK number @-@ one single , following " Umbrella " (2007) , " Take a Bow " (2008) and " Run This Town " (2009) . By December 2011 " Only Girl (In the World) " was the 108th song to sell more than a million copies in the United Kingdom , the fifteenth by a female artist , Rihanna 's first as primary artist and second overall ; the 107th million @-@ seller was Eminem 's " Love the Way You Lie " six weeks before , on which Rihanna was featured .

Rihanna was the second non @-@ United Kingdom , non @-@ North American million @-@ selling artist ; the first was Danish singer Whigfield with her 1994 song , " Saturday Night " . Although at the time the only other female two @-@ song million @-@ seller was Canadian singer Celine Dion , two of Rihanna 's subsequent singles ? " We Found Love " (2011) and " Diamonds " (2012) ? have also sold more than a million copies each . " Only Girl (In the World) " is the nineteenth @-@ bestselling single by a female artist and the 99th overall of all time in the United Kingdom . The song was the fourth- and 68th @-@ bestselling single , respectively , of 2010 and 2011 . Certified platinum by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) for shipments exceeding 600 @,@ 000 copies , it has sold 1 @,@ 080 @,@ 000 copies . " Only Girl (In the World) " peaked at number one on the UK Single Downloads Chart and the Scottish Singles Chart .

= = = Music video = = =

Director Anthony Mandler filmed the music video for " Only Girl (In the World) " at a location two hours from Los Angeles . Rihanna told JustJared.com that the video was filmed in a " big landscape " so she was the only person in the frame , echoing the song 's title . The singer is also " frolicking in a red field and lying in a bed of flowers . " The video features large balloons in different colours , a swing hanging from the sky and a tree with multi @-@ colored lights . Rihanna 's outfits include a mohair sweater , a floral miniskirt and a white @-@ bra @-@ and @-@ boyshorts two @-@ piece .

Entertainment Weekly writer Tanner Stransky praised the video 's simplicity , noting that it seems " as if Rihanna is speaking directly to you , the viewer , and she is your one and only amid swallowing rolling , beautiful , swallowing landscapes . It 's an effect that makes you focus squarely on [Rihanna] , who 's ensconced in flirty outfits . " According to Joyce Lee of CBS , Rihanna appeared to have progressed from the " edgy " music videos of the Rated R singles to a more feminine , colourful tone . A Mail Online reviewer and Seth Sommerfield of Spin echoed Lee 's comments , with the former calling it " beautifully shot " and the latter " whimsical [and] beautiful " . The Mail Online reviewer called the video a departure from the " hard @-@ edged , heavier image " music videos of Rated R. Billboard reviewer Jason Lipshutz described the tree with flashing lights as " surreal imagery . "

= = = Live performances and covers = = =

Rihanna performed " Only Girl (In the World) " and a solo version of " What 's My Name ? " on Saturday Night Live in New York City on October 30 , 2010 . The next day , she flew to London to

perform the song on The X Factor . Rihanna 's dancers had a food fight with cakes and cream while she sang , and the show 's producers had only one minute to clear the stage before the weekly elimination results were announced . On November 7 she performed the song at the MTV Europe Music Awards in Madrid , wearing a " fairy tale " -inspired ensemble and walking through a set of flowers against a sunset . Two days later , Rihanna sang " Only Girl (In the World) " on the Italian version of The X Factor in a floral @-@ print bikini , boots and a red pigtail . The next day she flew to France to sing the song on Le Grand Journal , on a set covered with white balloons .

The singer returned to London on November 11 to record an interview for The Graham Norton Show , which included a live performance of " Only Girl (In the World) " . Rihanna opened the American Music Awards with a medley of songs from Loud . She began with an a cappella version of " Love the Way You Lie (Part II) " , sitting on a stylized tree of lights above " a field of sable @-@ colored blades of grass . " Rihanna then sang a solo version of " What 's My Name ? " and a short version of " Only Girl (In the World) " . According to Mawuse Ziegbe of MTV News , the singer " kicked up the island theme " as drummers in tribal dress circled her .

Rihanna performed a short version of " Only Girl (In the World) " at the 31st Brit Awards on February 15 , 2011 , as part of a medley with two other singles from Loud : " S & M " and " What 's My Name ? " . She had planned to perform " S & M " only (to coincide with its United Kingdom release) , but was asked by the British Phonographic Industry to " tone down the sexual references in the song 's lyrics " . Rihanna was reportedly angered at the request and a related one to perform a different song . She made the changes because the BPI wanted to avoid complaints like those received after the seventh @-@ series finale of The X Factor on December 11 , 2010 , when Rihanna was criticized for wearing a provocative outfit and performing a suggestive , " disgusting " dance routine before the 9 pm UK watershed . Rihanna performed " Only Girl (In the World) " , " California King Bed " , " What 's My Name ? " and " S & M " on NBC 's May 27 , 2011 Today as part of its summer concert series . The song , which was included on the Loud , 777 and the Diamonds World Tours , was the opener for her performance at Radio 1 's Hackney Weekend on May 24 , 2012 .

Katy Perry covered " Only Girl (In the World) " as part of an acoustic mash @-@ up with Willow Smith 's " Whip My Hair " on her California Dreams Tour (2011) . Ellie Goulding covered the song during her appearance on Radio 1 's Live Lounge , and the cover was the B @-@ side of her single " Lights " .

= = Formats and track listings = =

Digital download

" Only Girl (In the World) " ? 3 : 55

German CD single

" Only Girl (In the World) " ? 3 : 55

" Only Girl (In the World) " (Extended Club Mix) ? 5 : 39

UK CD single

" Only Girl (In the World) " ? 3 : 55

" Only Girl (In the World) " (Instrumental) ? 3 : 55

= = Awards = =

= = Charts = =

= = = All @-@ time charts = = =

= = Certifications = =

Since May 9 , 2013 RIAA certifications for digital singles include on @-@ demand audio and / or video song streams in addition to downloads .

= = Radio and digital release history = =