

= E.T. (song) =

" E.T. " is a song by American singer Katy Perry taken from her third studio album , Teenage Dream (2010) . It was serviced to radio stations as the album 's fourth single on February 16 , 2011 . " E.T. " was written by Perry along with the song 's producers Dr. Luke , Max Martin , and Ammo , and features a guest rap by Kanye West . Musically , it is an electronic and hip hop ballad which draws heavily from dubstep and techno , along with smaller amounts of drum and bass . Lyrically , the song speaks of " falling in love with a foreigner , " according to Perry .

The song became Perry 's fifth non @-@ consecutive number one on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 , and also topped charts in Canada , New Zealand , Poland , Australia , Ireland , Scotland , and Croatia . To date , " E.T. " has sold over six million digital downloads worldwide , making it one of the best @-@ selling singles worldwide and Perry 's third highest selling song in the U.S. According to Billboard , it was the fourth biggest song of 2011 .

To promote the song , Perry and West performed on the tenth season of American Idol , the 54th Grammy Awards , and at Madison Square Garden for Z100 's Jingle Ball . Floria Sigismondi directed the song 's music video , which shows Perry as an evolving alien drifting in outer space before landing on an abandoned litter @-@ covered Earth , while clips of large felines hunting game are interspersed . The video garnered positive reviews from music critics .

= = Background and release = =

Perry 's decision to write " E.T. " came after its beat was accidentally played during a recording session she had with Dr. Luke , Max Martin , and Ammo . It was originally intended for American hip hop group Three 6 Mafia . However , after hearing it , Perry chose to work with the track . She told MTV News : " I heard it and I always knew I wanted to write this futuristic , alienistic song , and they pulled it up and I was like , ' Wait , I can wrap my head around this . I know this seems like a long shot , but I think I have the perfect material to put on top of this sound . ' And I did , and it really worked out perfectly . "

On August 17 , 2010 , the solo version of the song was released as a promotional single from Teenage Dream . In December 2010 , Perry asked fans through Twitter to help her select the album 's fourth single . On December 13 , 2010 , she tweeted , " Thanks for all your great suggestions for the next single today ! " and " Your voice has been heard ! We 're on the same page . " In early January 2011 , Perry announced via Facebook that " E.T. " would be the record 's fourth single . The announcement was accompanied with the single 's artwork , which features Perry with " cat eye make @-@ up , bangs , and a sequined top " . Unlike the original , the single version features rap verses from rapper Kanye West . The remix debuted on February 16 , 2011 , worldwide . On April 12 , 2011 , the song was sent for airplay on US urban radio .

= = Composition = =

Musically , " E.T. " is an electronic and hip hop song , and draws heavily from dubstep and techno , along with smaller amounts of drum and bass . BBC Music described the song as a " rave @-@ influenced quasi ballad " . The song is written in the key of F minor and follows a slow tempo of 76 beats per minute in common time . Perry 's vocal range spans from E ? 4 to D ? 5 . Ann Powers of Los Angeles Times noted a " hip @-@ hop diva 's stutter " in the song similar to that of Rihanna . Matthew Perpetua of Rolling Stone felt the song was similar in sound to hard rock ballads by Evanescence . The song 's production has been described as " a mishmash and bleeps and blips with a driving drum track " . Darryl Sterdan of the QMI Agency noted the song uses the " stomp @-@ stomp @-@ clap " beat from Queen 's " We Will Rock You " (1977) , while AllMusic 's Stephen Thomas Erlewine noted similarities to productions helmed by Ryan Tedder .

According to Perry , the song is about " falling in love with a foreigner " . James Montgomery of MTV News also noted that Perry sings about a " lover from different dimension " . For its single release , the song was reworked to feature two verses from Kanye West , in which he raps about "

extraterrestriality " . " E.T. " opens with the first rap verse by West containing the lines " I got a dirty mind / I got filthy ways / I'm trying to bathe my Ape in your milky way / They callin ' me an alien / A big @-@ headed astronaut " . Then , using metaphors about extraterrestrials , Perry sings , " You 're not like the others / Futuristic lover / Different DNA " . The chorus has Perry addressing her lover : " Kiss me , kiss me / Infect me with your love and / Fill me with your poison " , claiming to be " ready for abduction " . West contributes a second verse to the track , before Perry 's final refrain , with heavily auto @-@ tuned vocals : " I know a bar out in Mars / Where they driving spaceships instead of cars " . He finishes with a reference to the fictional animated character Shrek and lyrics about " alien sex " : " I 'mma disrobe you then I 'mma probe you / See , I abducted you so I tell you what to do . " Ben Kaplan from National Post noted West 's presence on the track was similar to the work on his fourth studio album , 808s & Heartbreak (2008) .

= = Critical reception = =

Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly felt that Perry shows strength on the song , comparing its sound to a combination of American rock musicians Lita Ford and Trent Reznor . Kerri Mason from Billboard felt that " E.T. " together with some other tracks from the albums is heavier sonically and lyrically , with a boom @-@ boom @-@ pow electro punch and Perry discussing more toxic relationships . " Even though Robert Copsey from Digital Spy stated that West 's contribution on the track was " needless " , he felt that the track " is a quirky and assured slice of state @-@ of @-@ the @-@ art pop " . Ben Kaplan from The National Post lauded the track as a " great duet " , praising the vocals of both performers . Speaking for West 's contribution on the track Brad Wete from Entertainment Weekly noted that the song was improved from a male perspective . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from AllMusic commented that Perry " replicates Ryan Tedder 's glassy robotic alienation on ' E.T. ' , but tellingly avoids ripping off Lady Gaga " .

Matthew Cole of Slant Magazine disliked the single 's " inscrutability " and said that song 's backing track was reminiscent of t.A.T.u. ' s " All the Things She Said " . Jason Richards from Now called the song " awkward " and Sputnikmusic 's Rudy Clapper dismissed its attempt at a more mature sound , calling it " cheesy " . PopMatters ' staff writer Steve Leftridge called the song " neither strong nor edgy nor clever nor sonically interesting enough to lend any genuine credibility to Perry as a serious artist with anything to actually say . " Amos Barshad of New York magazine felt West 's alien metaphors went into jarring , misogynistic directions . Genevieve Koski of The A.V. Club gave the song a C- , saying that while its lyrical content was " borderline @-@ embarrassing " , it did earn " a couple bonus points for showing a relatively darker side " of Perry , while A.V. Club editor Steven Hyden was more critical of the both Perry 's and West 's lyrics , saying that " borderline @-@ embarrassing " was too generous and that " the whole concept of the song is so beyond either side of sanity " that it was impossible to grade .

= = Commercial performance = =

One week before the official release of Teenage Dream , the solo version of " E.T. " was released as a promotional single and debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart at number 42 , selling 64 @ , @ 000 digital copies . Following its single release featuring West , the song re @-@ entered the Billboard Hot 100 on March 5 , 2011 at number 28 with 110 @ , @ 000 copies being sold . In its fifth week , for the issue dated April 9 , 2011 , " E.T. " topped the chart , giving Perry her fifth and West his fourth number @-@ one single on the Hot 100 . It ended the six @-@ week run of Lady Gaga 's " Born This Way " and made Teenage Dream the ninth album in history to yield four number @-@ one singles . " E.T. " spent five non @-@ consecutive weeks at number @-@ one on the Hot 100 chart and was certified eight times Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . It topped the Billboard Hot Digital Songs chart for seven weeks , the longest since Eminem and Rihanna 's " Love the Way You Lie " in 2010 . " E.T. " is one of the best @-@ selling singles worldwide , and is the second @-@ highest @-@ selling single of Perry 's career . According to Billboard , it was the fourth @-@ biggest hit of 2011 .

It debuted the same week on the Canadian Hot 100 at number 13 . In Australia , the song debuted at number 12 and peaked at number five for two weeks in February 2011 . Since then " E.T. " has been certified double platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association . One week after debuting at number 17 , " E.T. " topped the New Zealand Singles Chart on January 31 , 2011 , becoming her sixth number @-@ one in the country , and has been certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand for sales of 15 @,@ 000 . As of July 20 , 2011 , it also became Perry 's third single to be on New Zealand 's Best Singles of All Time , just behind " Firework " and " California Gurls " . On February 26 , 2011 , the solo version of the song entered the Billboard Hot Dance Club Songs chart at number 36 , and later topped it , becoming her sixth number @-@ one on the chart .

On the Billboard Mainstream Top 40 (Pop Songs) , " E.T. " set a record for most weekly plays in the 18 @-@ year history of the chart : for the tracking week of April 25 ? May 1 , 2011 , Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems registered 12 @,@ 330 plays over its 131 stations ? an average of 94 plays per station . This figure rewrote Perry 's previous record held with " California Gurls " in July 2010 (12 @,@ 159) . That record was later broken yet again by Perry , when her single " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " registered 12 @,@ 468 plays for the week dated August 13 , 2011 . Meanwhile , on the Rhythmic Airplay Chart , she achieved her first number @-@ one hit , a rare feat for female pop artists considering she was the third to ever do so .

In other Billboard charts , " E.T. " reached number two on the Adult Pop Songs chart , and the top 20 on the Adult Contemporary and Latin Pop Songs charts . Its highest sales week according to Nielsen SoundScan came in its fourth week at the summit of the Billboard Hot 100 , where it sold 344 @,@ 000 copies following its American Idol performance . The song sold over 300 @,@ 000 digital copies in a week four times , becoming one of four songs in history to achieve this . " E.T. " was certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America on April 28 , 2011 . " E.T. " was the highest selling track for the first half of 2011 . The song is Perry 's fourth and West 's first song to reach the 5 million range which , for Perry is more than any other female artist in digital history . As of January 2015 , the song has sold 5 @.@ 8 million copies in the US .

The song re @-@ entered the Canadian Hot 100 at number 18 following its single release and topped the chart in its 12th week , on May 7 , 2011 . " E.T. " has charted in Ireland at number five , has become a top ten hit in Austria , Germany , and Italy , and became a top 20 hit in Belgium (Wallonia) , Denmark , France , Finland , Norway , Sweden , and Switzerland , and a top 40 hit in Belgium (Flanders) . On the UK Singles Chart , the single peaked at number three in its eighth week , becoming her eighth top ten hit there . Elsewhere in Europe , the song charted in its solo version at number 18 on the Slovak airplay chart , 20 on the Czech airplay chart , 27 on the Dutch Top 40 , and 28 on the Greek airplay chart . As of July 2012 , the song has sold over 6 @.@ 4 million digital copies worldwide .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and production = = =

MTV debuted the video on March 31 , 2011 . A backstage picture of West wearing street clothes along with Perry in a pastel @-@ colored makeup and a giant braided headpiece was shown on MTV . On March 21 , a teaser trailer was released ; it was 12 seconds long and showed clips of an unidentified flying object . Its music video was directed by Floria Sigismondi . Prior to release , Perry aspired to make it " larger than life . "

= = = Synopsis = = =

The video begins with the song " Where in the World Can My Lover Be ? " by Midge Williams & Her Jazz Jesters playing in the background . As the music begins , West is shown in a Sputnik @-@ like spacecraft revealing pictures before zooming out of the craft . In the video , Perry , as an alien ,

drifts through outer space while slowly evolving into a humanoid appearance before landing on an abandoned Earth . Clips are interspersed of large felines hunting game . She comes across a broken robot , resembling a spaceman ; upon her kiss it turns into a naked man , played by Shaun Ross . It is eventually revealed that Perry 's legs resemble those of a gazelle . Meanwhile , West is featured in the video floating in a traveling spacecraft . The video also alludes to a presumable future , as Perry finds a box containing a skeleton of a pigeon (a species said to have gone extinct in 2030) and a pair of Vogue sunglasses , which she later wears . Throughout the video , Perry wears heavy cosmetics , including blue and pink make @-@ up , cat @-@ like and reptile @-@ like eyes , and braids resembling those of Medusa .

= = = Reception = = =

The video received positive reviews from critics . Willa Paskin of New York magazine praised Perry 's looks in the video as " detailed , outlandish , [and] semi @-@ gorgeous rainbow @-@ kabuki " . Kara Warner from MTV News also praised her appearance in the video , calling her an " angelic alien princess " . She also felt the video was Perry 's " most complex , stylized and out @-@ there video production yet . " Joseph Brannigan Lynch of Entertainment Weekly felt that West 's rap verses helped the song top the Billboard Hot 100 , and called the video an " awesomely bizarre sci @-@ fi video , which impressively resists any obvious Spielberg references " . Matthew Perpetua from Rolling Stone described the video as " a sequel to Avatar or a Katy Perry video game " , and felt the song and video were " a bold move away from Perry 's usual silliness and sexuality " . Los Angeles Times described the video as a " sweeping visual manifestation " . In a more negative review , Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine complained that Perry looked like an " animated video @-@ game character " while saying West was a " non @-@ presence " . Cinquemani later went on to say : " It 's a step up from bras that shoot whipped cream and fireworks , but this is ultimately Sigimondi 's vision , and it 's far from her finest five minutes . " At the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards , the video for " E.T. " won awards for Best Collaboration and Best Special Effects .

= = Live performances and cover versions = =

The song was included on the set list of the California Dreams Tour , Perry 's second concert tour . Perry has also performed " E.T. " at several venues , including a performance at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan on December 10 , 2010 for Z100 's Jingle Ball . The song was released as a free track on Katy Perry Revenge 2 , a game for the iOS application Tap Tap . A lyrics video for the single was released on March 16 , 2011 . After playing " We Will Rock You " , West performed " E.T. " without Perry at the 2011 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival . Perry performed the single with West for the first time on the tenth season of American Idol on April 21 , 2011 . Carried by background dancers , she wore a flickering outfit and was joined by West , who was previously unannounced .

An acoustic version of " E.T. " was performed by VersaEmerge in May 2011 at The Fueled By Ramen Studios . On June 27 , 2011 , the video of a stripped @-@ down cover of the song by the American pop punk / alternative rock band Yellowcard was featured in Billboard 's Mashup Mondays series .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Ammo ? composer , drums , keyboards , programming , producer
Megan Dennis ? production coordination
Serban Ghenea ? mixing
Jon Hanes ? mix engineer

Sam Holland ? engineer

Dr. Luke ? composer , drums , keyboards , programming , producer

Max Martin ? composer , drums , keyboards , programming , producer

Katy Perry ? composer , lead vocals

Kanye West ? lead vocals

Irene Richter ? production coordination

Vanessa Silberman ? production coordination

Emily Wright ? engineer

Credits adapted from Teenage Dream album liner notes .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =