

= Circle the Drain =

" Circle the Drain " is a song by American singer Katy Perry , from her third studio album , Teenage Dream (2010) . It was written by Perry , Christopher " Tricky " Stewart and Monte Neuble . Lyrically , " Circle the Drain " candidly focuses on a former lover 's drug @-@ addiction and the strains it put on both of them . Following its release , several media outlets reported it to have been inspired by her former relationship with Travie McCoy . Critics were divided on the track , with some finding Perry to be in a hypocritical position , given the album 's other material . Other reviewers found it nice to see a different side to the singer .

Capitol Records released the track as a promotional single two weeks before the album 's release on August 10 . The song achieved modest charting , with its highest peak position being number 30 on the Canadian Hot 100 . It charted similarly in New Zealand and managed to enter the US Billboard Hot 100 at number 58 . " Circle the Drain " has been performed by Perry on her 2011 world tour , California Dreams Tour . On the tour , she was dressed in a catsuit and the stage was decorated in cartoonish meat . Concert reviewers gave her performances mixed reviews .

= = Production and composition = =

Along with Christopher " Tricky " Stewart and Monte Neuble , Perry wrote the song entitled " Circle the Drain " for her third studio album , Teenage Dream . A total of 17 music engineers contributed to the track 's composition . Critics suggest the song is about her former relationship with Gym Class Heroes ' lead vocalist Travie McCoy . When finally asked about his opinion on the track , McCoy admitted to hearing about " Circle the Drain " , but has never actually listened to the song . Nonetheless , he commented : " I heard she put out a song that 's about me , or about some old habits or whatever . [And] I look at it like this : I 'm just stoked that she finally has a song with some substance on her record . Good job . "

" Circle the Drain " is a rant song where , lyrically , Perry is telling off a self @-@ destructive drug @-@ addicted ex @-@ boyfriend . Its candid lyrics also discuss the strains his addiction put on both of them . In the track 's chorus , she sings about how she wants to be his lover , not someone who has to take care of him , such as a maternal figure . She also sings about how he had ultimately lost large opportunities . Styled in the genres of electronic rock , disco @-@ rock , and gothic rock tones , it is an up @-@ tempo song that lasts for four minutes and 32 seconds , and also has influences of techno . The track is composed in the key of E ? minor and is set in time signature of common time , with a tempo of 135 beats per minute . Perry 's vocal range spans over an octave , from A ? 3 to D ? 5 .

Entertainment Weekly writer Leah Greenblatt stated that Perry 's lyrical talent is not her strength , adding : " neither , in fact , is rhyming ' forte ' with ' foreplay , ' as she does painfully on the druggie @-@ boyfriend takedown ' Circle the Drain ' . " Billboard journalist Monica Herrera found the song to have been inspired by Pat Benatar 's material , while Perry herself said : " It 's kind of like my ' You Oughta Know ' Alanis Morissette moment . " Al Fox of BBC News wrote that the song has " menacing undertones " which unveils a different side to Perry , unlike her current " unsolicited residency in many a showbiz column . "

= = Release and reception = =

Capitol Records released " Circle the Drain " as a promotional single from Teenage Dream two weeks before the album 's release on August 10 . The song charted modestly and only remained on music charts for its debut week . The track 's highest peak position was on the Canadian Hot 100 , where it debuted at number 30 ; " Circle the Drain " became the biggest jump on that chart (28 places , from number 58) for the week ending on August 28 . On the New Zealand Singles Chart , the song performed similarly , peaking at number 36 on August 23 . Additionally , " Circle the Drain " managed to enter the US Billboard Hot 100 at number 58 .

Critical reaction to " Circle the Drain " was mixed . Keri Mason from Billboard believed that tracks

like " Circle the Drain " made the Teenage Dream album " get heavier sonically and lyrically , with a boom @-@ boom @-@ pow electro punch " . Slant Magazine 's Matthew Cole found the singer to be virtually less sympathetic than her former lover . This being because her " put @-@ downs are alternately pedantic " and hypocritical even , as she finds offense to his substance use before foreplay , but was singing about blacking out and hooking up on another of the album 's tracks ? " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " . Chris Richards of The Washington Post had a similar reaction , finding it impossible to take any of the cautionary advice " Circle the Drain " offered , as Perry had just bragged about being very drunk on the very same record .

MTV News reporter James Montgomery , said when discussing several tracks on Teenage Dream , one of which included " Circle the Drain " , that " they are all really pretty great " and are " destined to be smash hits . " Yahoo ! Music journalist Chris Parkin found the song to be the only track on Teenage Dream to offer something deep and dark , citing the lyric " You fall asleep during foreplay because the pills you take are more your forté " . In his review of the record for PopMatters , Steve Leftridge stated that tracks such as " Circle the Drain " are not strong , edgy or clever enough " to lend any genuine credibility to Perry as a serious artist with anything to actually say . "

= = Live performances = =

Perry has included the song on the setlist for her 2011 world concert tour entitled California Dreams Tour . For performances of the track , the stage was decorated with cartoonish link sausages and rib @-@ eye steak that dangled from the rafters , while Perry was dressed in a catsuit . Along with Perry 's performances of " Teenage Dream " and " E.T. " , music blog Idolator staff writer Erika Brooks Adickman cited " Circle the Drain " as being a highlight of the tour . The Patriot Ledger 's Jay N. Miller found " Circle the Drain " to be " the most rocking " out of the setlist 's line @-@ up at TD Garden .

In contrast , The Hollywood Reporter quoted Rolling Stone 's Meredith Blake in her concert review saying she found it pointless to have those items onstage given the song 's theme . Writing for NME , Emily MacKay did a live review of the singer 's tour at the HMV Hammersmith Apollo in London during March 2011 . She said that the spiritless " Circle the Drain " , " Hummingbird Heartbeat " and " Who Am I Living For ? " were enough to make you feel somewhat like that of a " fractious toddler having a series of expensive toys waved in its mottled face by a fretful aunt to keep it from deciding it wants to cry . "

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Circle the Drain " ? 4 : 32

= = Charts = =