

= Breakdown (Mariah Carey song) =

" Breakdown " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Mariah Carey from her sixth studio album , Butterfly (1997) . It was released as the fourth single from the album on March 22 , 1998 by Columbia Records . Similar to the treatments of " Butterfly and The Roof (Back in Time) " , " Breakdown " received a limited worldwide release due to Carey 's conflict at the time with Sony . The song was written and produced by Carey , Stevie J and Puff Daddy , and features rap verses by Bone Thugs @-@ n @-@ Harmony . The song 's lyrics describe the emotions someone feels when their lover suddenly stops loving and leaves them , and the pain , or breakdown , it causes the person . The song was well received by contemporary music critics .

In the music video , Carey goes through a variety of different colorful outfits , with matching make @-@ up . Of the many changes , two scenes predominantly occupy the video . The first in Carey dressed in flamenco style clothing , while dancing on a chair with two other female dancers . The other features Carey and Bone Thugs @-@ N @-@ Harmony gambling in a casino . Carey performed the song live during select dates of her Butterfly World Tour in 1998 and Adventures of Mimi Tour in 2006 . Due to the song 's limited release , " Breakdown " did not chart in most major music markets , with the exception of Australia and New Zealand , where it peaked at numbers 38 and four , respectively . In the US , due to Billboard rules at the time , the song was unable to chart on the Hot 100 , but charted at number 53 on the Hot 100 Airplay Chart .

= = Background = =

Carey recorded the song at the Hit Factory in New York City , throughout 1997 . " Breakdown " was one of the first of Carey 's album tracks to veer in a hip hop direction , and many were surprised when she contacted Bone Thugs @-@ n @-@ Harmony to record the song because she was considered more of a R & B / adult contemporary artist . According to author Chris Nickson , " Breakdown " was an important component of Butterfly : " ' Breakdown ' showed Mariah treading forcefully into territory that was new for her and making it her own ; it had a melody that simmered under her vocal , and a groove that was irresistible . " When Carey began recording the album , she had slow and sultry ballads such as " Whenever You Call " and " Butterfly , " but also had big R & B and hip @-@ hop like " Honey " . For this reason , Carey recorded " Breakdown " in order to fill in the midsection of the album , and serve as the album 's " backbone . "

= = Controversy = =

" Breakdown " was the source of controversy when it came to its release . Carey was having a conflict with Columbia over the singles choices , as they were already not happy with the album 's hip @-@ hop transition . Later , in 1998 when Carey was composing the songs for her first compilation album , # 1 's , the song was again one of the reasons for continued conflict within the label . They disagreed on what content should compose the album . Sony wanted to release an album that featured her US number one singles , void of any new material . Carey on the other hand , felt that a greatest hits album should reflect on her most personal and favorite songs , not her most commercial . To accompany her thirteen number ones , Carey recorded four new songs . She felt that not including any new material would result in cheating her fans , therefore including some new material as well . While compromised , Carey often expressed distaste towards the album 's song selection , expressing her disappointment in the omission of her " favorite songs . "

For this reason , Sony titled the album # 1 's , as Carey felt the need to express the album 's true content , a collection of her number one hits . Carey has frequently cited " Underneath the Stars " (1996) and " Breakdown " (1998) as examples of songs she was unsuccessful in releasing .

= = Composition and remixes = =

" Breakdown " is a slow and sultry song , which blends hip @-@ hop and contemporary R & B

genres . It incorporates drum notes , including heavy beats and grooves . The song features rap verses from two of the five members of Bone Thugs @-@ N @-@ Harmony , Krayzie Bone and Wish Bone . As part of " layering the song , " background vocals are featured throughout the chorus and sections of the bridge . It is set in the signature common time , and is written in the key of E major . It features a basic chord progression of A ? -F ? -1 . Carey 's vocal range in the song spans from the note of B2 to the high note of F ? 5 ; the piano and guitar pieces range from F ? 3 to G ? 5 as well . The song contains choral lyrics written by Carey , who produced the song 's melody and chorus as well . Aside from assisting with its writing and chord progression , Combs and Stevie co @-@ arranged and produced the track as well . A different edit of the song , titled The Mo ' Thugs remix , features longer raps from Krayzie and Wish Bone and an intro and verse from Layzie Bone , who was absent from the original mix . This version can be found on Bone Thugs @-@ n @-@ Harmony 's compilation The Collection Volume One .

= = Critical reception = =

" Breakdown " garnered positive reviews from local critics . David Browne from Entertainment Weekly praised the song , writing " for most of the album she keeps her notorious octave @-@ climbing chops at bay . Showing some admirable restraint , she nestles herself into downy @-@ soft beats . In ' Breakdown ' , she demonstrates she can match the staccato , lite @-@ reggae phrasing of her guests , two members of Bone Thugs @-@ n @-@ Harmony . " Rich Juzwiak from Slant called " Breakdown " " the song of Carey 's career , " noting its " lyrical strokes as broad and obvious as they are naked . Mariah the chanter flawlessly adapts to their singsong style , largely boxing her multi @-@ octave range into a sly , hypnotic melody so that when she really wails at the end , you really feel it . As with ' The Roof ' , Carey lunges toward musical maturity by embracing , not shunning hip @-@ hop . This is the height of her elegance and maybe hip @-@ hop @-@ soul 's , too . "

= = Chart performance = =

It was released as the album 's third single in 1998 in the United States , Canada , New Zealand and Australia only (in Europe , " The Roof " was chosen as the third single instead) . Because of conflict between Carey and her record label at the time , Sony Music Entertainment , it was only given a commercial release in Australia , where it performed modestly and remained in the top 40 for three weeks . A remix of the song was promoted to U.S. radio stations and debuted on Billboard magazine 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Airplay chart in September @-@ October 1997 . However , it wasn 't released commercially in the U.S. until April 1998 , as a double A @-@ side with " My All . " It reached the top five on the Billboard 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart as " My All / Breakdown . " However , the song itself independently appeared on the Billboard Hot 100 Airplay chart and reached the top twenty on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Airplay and Rhythmic Airplay Chart charts . In New Zealand , the song performed well , peaking at number four and being certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) , denoting shipments of over 7 @, @ 500 units .

= = Music video = =

The single 's video (released in March 1998) was directed by Carey with the assistance of Diane Martel . It sees her take on the role of various " casino girl " roles , including a cabaret girl , showgirl , cowgirl and lucky charm . The members of Bone Thugs @-@ n @-@ Harmony make appearances as well . In the video , Carey plays her part a cabaret girl , by dancing on a chair , accompanied by two other females. other scenes include Carey in a main casino hall , where Wish and Krayzie Bone make appearances . While they gamble with a large crowd surrounding them , Carey lounges on the table and cheers for them .

= = Live performances = =

Carey performed the song live during her 1998 Butterfly World Tour . Throughout the performances , Carey wore a short beige outfit and long semi @-@ teased up hair , accompanied by male and female dancers . During the song 's act , Carey would slowly sway hand @-@ in @-@ hand with other male dancers , giving the illusion of sultry compassion . Carey performed the song A Capella in Chicago during her 2000 Rainbow World Tour . During her Adventures of Mimi Tour in 2006 , Carey performed the song during select dates on the tour . The performance included many exotic female dancers , performing seductive pole dances and other similar routines . Carey , while singing , danced light routines on a chair , while wearing a red one piece suit . The song was also performed on select dates of Carey 's 2014 The Elusive Chanteuse Show tour .

= = Track listing and formats = =

U.S. CD Single

" My All " ? 3 : 51

" Breakdown " ? 4 : 58

CD Maxi @-@ Single

" Breakdown " (Radio Edit) ? 4 : 15

" Breakdown " (The Mo ' Thugs Remix) ? 4 : 58

" Breakdown " ? 4 : 58

" Honey " (Morales Dub Club) ? 10 : 58

" Honey " (Mo ' Honey Club) ? 7 : 23

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Butterfly liner notes .

Mariah Carey ? vocals , songwriting , co @-@ producing

Stevie J. ? songwriting , co @-@ producing

Anthony Henderson ? songwriting

Charles Scruggs ? songwriting

Puff Daddy ? co @-@ producing

= = Charts and certifications = =