

= Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know =

" Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " is a song recorded by American singer Britney Spears for her second studio album , *Oops ! ... I Did It Again* (2000) . It was released on March 5 , 2001 , by JIVE Records as the fourth and final single from the album . After meeting with producer Robert John " Mutt " Lange in Switzerland , Spears recorded several songs for the album , including " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " , which she considered one of her favorites on the album . Additional lyrics were written by guitar player Keith Scott and country pop singer Shania Twain . The teen @-@ pop ballad speaks of a woman wanting to hear her boyfriend say that he needs loves her , and features a sound similar to David Bowie and Iggy Pop 's song " China Girl " (1983) .

" Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " received mostly positive reviews from music critics , who considered it a good break from the album 's genre and praised Spears ' vocals , comparing them to those of Twain and Stevie Wonder . The song attained moderate commercial success , reaching number one in Romania , and peaking inside the top ten in Austria , Europe and Switzerland , while reaching top twenty positions in many European countries . " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was only released for mainstream radio in the United States ; therefore , it failed to chart on any major music chart in the country .

An accompanying music video , directed by Herb Ritts , portrays Spears in love scenes with her fictional boyfriend , played by French model Brice Durand . The singer 's real @-@ life boyfriend at the time Justin Timberlake , however , was said to be annoyed at the kissing scenes , while the original video was considered too racy at the time by Spears ' mother , Lynne , because it contained sexually explicit material . Parts of the video were edited before its release to the public on March 2 , 2001 . As part of promotion for the song , Spears performed it at TRL , Saturday Night Live , and The View . It has also been included on four of her concert tours . " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was nominated at Nickelodeon Kids ' Choice Awards in the category of " Best Song " in 2002 . Spears has named " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " one of her favorite songs from her career .

= = Background = =

In 1999 , Spears began work on her second studio album , *Oops ! ... I Did It Again* (2000) , in Sweden and Switzerland . After meeting with Robert Lange in Switzerland , the singer started to record several songs for the album , including " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " . After finishing the track , Spears revealed in an interview with Billboard that " with the first album , I didn 't get to show my voice off . The songs were great , but they weren 't very challenging . This song is incredible . It 's going to surprise people in the best way . " " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was written and produced by Robert Lange , while additional lyrics were written by his then @-@ wife Shania Twain and Keith Scott . Spears recorded her vocals for the song between November and December 1999 at Robert Lange 's and Shania Twain 's chateau in La @-@ Tour @-@ de Peilz , Switzerland , and it was later mixed by Nigel Green and programmed by Cory Churko , Kevin Churko and Richard Meyer . During a live concert at Hawaii , included on her second home video release *Live and More !* (2000) , Spears claimed the song as one of her favourites on *Oops ! ... I Did It Again* . " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was released on January 17 , 2001 as the final single from the album .

= = Composition = =

" Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " is a pop ballad that lasts for three minutes and 51 seconds . The song is composed in the key of E major and is set in time signature of common time with a tempo of 76 beats per minute , and Spears ' vocal range spans from the low @-@ note of F ? 3 to the high @-@ key of D ? 5 . A NME staff reviewer said that the song takes the riff of David Bowie and Iggy Pop 's " China Girl " (1983) and " puts it over schmaltzy cocktail @-@ hour bass and love film strings . " Tom Terrell of MTV , however , compared the riff to the one of A Taste of Honey 's

cover of " Suki-yaki " (1981) . Terrell further commented that the " Eagles @-@ esque chorus " features " an ' 80s hair band power ballad groove " where " Britney soul @-@ maxes with a vocal that channels both Stevie Wonder (via " Knocks Me Off My Feet ") and Shania herself . "

Stephanie McGrath of Jam ! said the song is " a nice break from the ' baby babys ' , ' yeah yeahs ' and insistent drum beats that pepper the other songs " of Oops ! [sic] . David Veitch of Calgary Sun compared the backing vocals to " nicely old @-@ fashioned shoo @-@ be @-@ doo @-@ doos " . Lyrically , " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " alludes to how Spears wants to hear her boyfriend say he needs her all the way and that he loves her . Spears considered it a " pure and delicate " song . " It 's just one of those songs that pull you in . That 's why I like it , and I like singing it as well , " she continued . " I think they wrote it ' specially for me , because the lyrics of the song , if you really listen ... they 're more of what I can relate to , ' cause they 're kind of young lyrics , I think . I don 't think Shania would probably sing some of the words that I 'm saying . "

= = Critical response = =

" Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " received mostly positive reviews from contemporary critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic deemed it a " sweetly sentimental ballad " along with the other ballads on Oops ! ... I Did It Again , while a Rhapsody review considered them " perfectly constructed ballads " . Stephanie McGrath of Jam ! called the song " the best showcase of Spears ' talents . " A NME staff reviewer considered the track " absolutely frightening , " with Tracy E. Hopkins of Barnes & Noble deeming " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " a " polished ballad " , and praising Shania Twain for the songwriting . Billboard journalist Michael Paoletta noted that Spears may not have the vocal range of " colleagues Jessica Simpson and Christina Aguilera , but she does have an instantly recognizable style @-@ and Oops ! ... indicates that she 's developing a soulful edge and emotional depth that can 't be conjured with a glass @-@ shattering not " , further commenting that this can be confirmed " on the hitworthy , Shania Twain @-@ penned ballad ' Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know ' . " While reviewing 2011 's Femme Fatale Tour , Jocelyn Vena of MTV considered the song , along with " Toxic " , " old @-@ school jams " . The song was nominated at Nickelodeon Kids ' Choice Awards in the category of " Best Song " in 2002 .

= = Commercial performance = =

" Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was not commercially available in the United States , and was sent only to mainstream radio on April 2 , 2001 . Therefore , the track failed to appear on any major music chart in the United States . However , " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was successful in Europe , debuting and peaking at number nine on the European Hot 100 Singles on the chart issue dated April 14 , 2001 . The song was also able to reach the top ten in Austria and Switzerland , while attaining top 20 positions in Belgium (Flanders) , Finland , Ireland , Norway and Sweden . In the United Kingdom , it debuted and peaked at number 12 on April 7 , 2001 , exiting the UK Singles Chart after eight weeks . " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " achieved commercial success in Romania , where it reached number one and was the third best @-@ selling single of 2001 . Despite reaching number 14 in Denmark , the song was later certified Gold by International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) , for shipping over 5 @, @ 000 units of the single in the country . The single was not released in Australia ; instead , it was included as a bonus second disc of the limited edition of Oops ! ... I Did It Again released in the country .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was directed by the American photographer Herb Ritts , and shot at Key Biscayne in Miami , Florida in the last week of January 2001 . Spears revealed she was inspired by Janet Jackson 's video for " Love Will Never Do (Without You) " (1990) to select Ritts as the video 's director . According to Ritts , the singer " wanted to do something fresh . There was one outfit , no dancing , and that meant that it boiled

down to her . She really had to act the song , and she was very impressive . " He also revealed the setting of the video was built as " a funky beach shack " similar to Madonna 's " Cherish " (1989) and Chris Isaak 's " Wicked Game " (1989) . " The story is , pretty much , Britney longing for him to tell her the words " , said Ritts , who was impressed with the chemistry between the singer and her fictional boyfriend , played by French model Brice Durand . Spears ' real @-@ life boyfriend at the time Justin Timberlake , however , " was said to be miffed at Spears ' kissing scenes with French model , " according to Jennifer Vineyard of MTV . Spears mother , Lynne , also criticized considered the original music video for being too racy at the time , because it contained sexually explicit material . Parts of the video were edited before its release to the public .

The music video debuted at number one on MTV 's TRL on March 2 , 2001 . The video begins with Spears and her boyfriend in a hammock . Cuts of her cuddling with her love interest beside a fire are also included . We also see her and her boyfriend on the seashore doing a love scene . Inside a tiki hut , Spears exclaims the words she wants her boyfriend to know . In the second half of the video , she is seen on a tree where her boyfriend reaches for her . There are also scenes where she is running on the beach and her boyfriend is chasing after her . Spears wears only a bikini top and a pair of cutoff shorts during the whole video . The music video was considered by Spears as " the funnest video I 've ever done . " An alternate footage of the video can be found on the DVD of Spears first compilation album Greatest Hits : My Prerogative . Vineyard considered the footage as the one that " makes the most use of Britney 's body of work , with the spaceman from " Oops ! ... I Did It Again " , an opening door from " My Prerogative " and one love interest from " Toxic " all making cameos " .

= = Live performances = =

The first performance of " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was on March 8 , 2000 , during the Crazy 2k Tour in Pensacola , Florida , where Spears appeared onstage sitting on a magic carpet and flew over the audience while singing the song . After releasing her second studio album , Oops ! ... I Did It Again , Spears performed the song on the American music show TRL , on Saturday Night Live and on The View . She also performed the song live on 2000s Oops ! ... I Did It Again World Tour . After performing " Sometimes " , she climbed the staircase and briefly spoke to the audience before moving into the performance of the song , for which she wore a long white dress trimmed with boa feathers . " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was performed also on 2001 's Dream Within a Dream Tour . The performance consisted of Spears singing the song on an elevated platform wearing an evening gown with artificial snow falling from the ceiling , while two of her dancers performed a routine .

Almost ten years later , " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " was performed by Spears on 2011 's Femme Fatale Tour . The performance consists of Spears sitting on a swing singing the song , whilst a male dancer dances beneath her , at one point attaching himself by his feet to the swing whilst midair . Shirley Halperin of The Hollywood Reporter named it one of the best performances of the show along with " Piece of Me " and " 3 " , stating that " ironically enough , [they] were the ones with fewest frills . " In a review of the special broadcast by American premium television channel Epix of the tour , Jocelyn Vena of MTV summarized her thoughts about the performance saying , " It 's rare these days to see Britney Spears show her soft side , but she takes a break from the nonstop , fist @-@ pumping music during the spectacle that is the Femme Fatale Tour and kicks it old @-@ school , showing us she still has the heart and soul to bust out a power ballad . "

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for " Don 't Let Me Be the Last to Know " adapted from Oops ! ... I Did It Again liner notes .
Technical

Recorded at Mutt Lange 's and Shania Twain 's chateau in La @-@ Tour @-@ de Peilz ,
Switzerland .
Mixed by Nigel Green for Out Of Pocket Productions , Ltd .
Personnel

= = Charts = =

= = = Chart procession and succession = = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =