

= Cold Case Love =

" Cold Case Love " is a song recorded by Barbadian singer Rihanna for her fourth studio album , Rated R (2009) . It was written and produced by The Y 's (Justin Timberlake , Robin Tadross and James Fauntleroy II) . Following Chris Brown 's assault on Rihanna , she started working on the sound of her new album . Timberlake who co @-@ wrote " Cold Case Love " labeled the sound of Rihanna 's new project as a step forward for the singer . In February 2010 , Rihanna admitted that the song 's lyrics are about her complicated relationship with Brown .

An R & B song , " Cold Case Love " has an instrumentation infused with a simple piano pattern , thumping bassline , violin and viola strings and electric guitar licks . Lyrically , it is a " melancholic and mature farewell " to a failed relationship . " Cold Case Love " received acclaim from contemporary music critics who labeled the song as a highlight on Rated R and additionally praised Rihanna 's vocals . The singer performed the song on her 2013 worldwide concert tour , Diamonds World Tour , in a medley with " Take a Bow " and " Hate That I Love You " .

= = Background and production = =

Following the assault of Rihanna 's boyfriend Chris Brown on her , there was much speculation as to whether any song featured on the upcoming album would be about him . Producer Chuck Harmony mused that no matter what song Rihanna released as the lead single from the record , it would immediately be looked at as referring to Brown . During an interview with Marc Malkin at the MTV Video Music Awards , American singer @-@ songwriter Ne @-@ Yo stated that listeners should expect an " edgier " and " angrier " Rihanna on the album . He later told In Touch Weekly that the album is definitely more menacing than Rihanna 's prior work , describing the album as " liberated " . The album was released under the title Rated R in November 2009 .

" Cold Case Love " was written and produced by The Y 's (Justin Timberlake , Robin Tadross and James Fauntleroy II) . At the " Justin Timberlake & Friends Concert in Las Vegas " , Timberlake told MTV News that Rated R is a whole new sound and that the new songs are not just a rehash of what fans heard on her last album . " She broke onto the scene so hard with the last record ? to have that many songs on the charts is impressive . I think that the smartest thing she 's doing is not trying to emulate what she did but move forward " , Timberlake explained . In February 2010 , Rihanna admitted that " Cold Case Love " was inspired by her difficult relationship with ex @-@ boyfriend Chris Brown , " It 's a song that everybody wanted to hear , everything that I didn 't say for the past eight months , exactly how I felt about that relationship and how I feel about it now ? that song says it all . " When asked what the most important song from the album to her was , she stated that she doesn 't have one , however , Rihanna cited " Cold Case Love " together with " Fire Bomb " as her favorites .

Makeba Riddick provided the vocal production of the song . " Cold Case Love " was recorded by Marcos Tovar and Paul Foley at the German Studios and Roc the Mic Studios in New York City and Westlake Recording Studios in Los Angeles . Bobby Campbell and Kevin Porter served as Tovar 's assistant recording engineers , while Antonio Resendiz and Peter Martinez helped Foley . Jean Marie Horvat mixed the song at the Palms Studio in Las Vegas , with Foley serving as a mixing assistant . The engineering was completed by Jeff Chestek , with Montez Roberts and Rick Friedrich serving as assistant engineer . The cello was played by Glenn Fischbach and James J. Cooper III , while the viola was provided by Davis Barnett and Peter Nocella . The violins were played by Charles Parker , Emma Kummrow , Gregory Teperman , Igor Szvec , Luigi Mazzocchi and Olga Konopelsky . John Epcar provided the drums , while Mike Elizondo played the guitar . Larry Gold was the strings arranger and conductor .

= = Composition and lyrical interpretation = =

" Cold Case Love " is an R & B ballad that lasts for a duration of six minutes and four seconds . It contains an instrumentation infused with a simple piano pattern , thumping bassline , violin and viola

strings and electric guitar licks . According to Kitty Empire of The Observer , " Cold Case Love " takes six minutes to " arc from a riveting short story for vocal , organ and life @-@ support machine " into a " denouement laden with an actual living string section " . It has a fluid melody and easier production which according to Jim Farber of Daily News , allows Rihanna " to fully emote , to show the feeling behind the stance " .

" Cold Case Love " starts with a sparse melody and gradually builds through each verse before it culminates with a full production flourish . The Boston Globe 's Sarah Rodman wrote that Timberlake manages to build a wall of sound , from simple voice and quavering organ to full " strings @-@ beatbox @-@ kitchen @-@ sink melodrama " . According to Will Welch of GQ " Cold Case Love " is a combination of the works by Phil Collins and Lionel Richie and Timberlake 's song " Losing My Way " (FutureSex / LoveSounds , 2006) . Sean Fennessey wrote that on the song Rihanna seems to discover the " flip " side of her 2007 single " Umbrella " .

Lyrically , the song is a " melancholic and mature farewell " to a failed relationship . Jody Rosen of Rolling Stone wrote Rihanna " slow @-@ boiling " interprets the line " What you did to me was a crime " . According to Jude Rogers of BBC Music the lyrics of the song hint towards her failed relationship with Brown . A reviewer of Plugged In wrote that the lyrics that allude to this are " And I let you reach me one more time / But that ? s enough . " According to the reviewer , she later admits that the she was blind by her emotional confusion , " your love ain ? t the kind you can keep . " Jon Pareless of The New York Times wrote that Rihanna compares her love to a crime scene in the " elegiac " " Cold Case Love " which features the couplet " Prints , pictures and white outlines / Are all that 's left at the scene of a cold case love " .

= = Reception and live performances = =

The song received critical acclaim from contemporary music critics . Kitty Empire of The Observer wrote that while most R & B ballads are woeful , " Cold Case Love " " at least has the wit to sustain a plot " . About.com 's Bill Lamb declared Rihanna 's vocals to be among the " most beautiful " she has recorded and noted that " they are in the service of a very dark , bleak statement " . HitFix reviewer Melinda Newman wrote that it is impossible to listen to the song and not filter it through " that horrific context whether that is how they are meant to be heard or not " . Both Newman and Benjamin Boles of Now cited " Cold Case Love " as a highlight of Rated R.

Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly stated , " A genuine moment of vulnerability plays stunningly on the meticulously layered ' Cold Case Love ' " . Writing for GQ , Will Welch declared the song as a " sweeping , grandiose , almost ludicrously over @-@ stuffed and endless album closer " . He wrote that the song is " epic , evocative , on @-@ message (eat shit , Chris Brown) and just plain catchy " . Welch cited " Cold Case Love " as his favorite song on the album , while a reviewer for Rap @-@ Up declared it , alongside " Wait Your Turn " , " Hard " and " Rude Boy " , as their favorite song from the album . Writing for Complex magazine , out of 26 Rihanna songs , Claire Lobenfeld placed the song at number 24 and compared it to the material present on Timberlake 's 2006 studio album , FutureSex / LoveSounds .

Rihanna performed " Cold Case Love " at her 2013 worldwide concert tour , Diamonds World Tour , in a medley with " Take a Bow " and " Hate That I Love You " . Natasha of HipHopCanada in a review of the concert in Toronto , wrote that during the set she " let out her softer side " and that her vocals were " exceptionally clear and strong " . Reviewing the concert in Los Angeles , Rick Florino of Artistdirect wrote , " Scaling everything back momentarily , she emerged from the center of the stage in a stunning red dress for soaring renditions of ' Love the Way You Lie (Part II) ' , ' Take a Bow ' , and ' Cold Case Love ' flowing within a perfect melody of hits . " In a review of the Ottawa concert on May 2 , 2013 , Aedan Helmer of Ottawa Sun wrote that " diva RiRi " was " crooning " during the set consisted of songs such as " Loveeeeeee Song " , " Take a Bow " and " Cold Case Love " ; according to Helmer those were the tracks describing her " tumultuous " relationship with Brown .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Locations

Vocals recorded at German Studios and Roc the Mic Studios , New York City , New York ;
Westlake Studios , Los Angeles , California .

Mixed at the Palm Studios , Las Vegas , Nevada .

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Rated R.