

= Only Happy When It Rains =

" Only Happy When It Rains " is a song written and produced by alternative rock group Garbage for the band 's self @-@ titled debut studio album . The song was recorded at the band 's own recording studio , Smart Studios , in Madison , Wisconsin , being mixed twice before its release . The bleak content of the lyrics was intended as a parody of the angst @-@ filled themes present in mid @-@ 1990s alternative rock , as well as a sarcastic reference to Garbage 's own preference for darker themes .

" Only Happy When it Rains " was released as the third single from the campaign for Garbage in both the United Kingdom (in September 1995) and North America (in February 1996) , being issued in three formats vinyl , CD maxi , and cassette . The song received positive reviews , praising the production and Shirley Manson 's singing , and became the band 's breakthrough single , charting strongly on both the UK Singles Chart and Billboard Hot 100 . It also crossed over to pop radio formats , propelling their debut album into the Top 100 of the Billboard 200 for the first time , and the song 's music video , directed by Samuel Bayer , received much airplay on MTV . " Only Happy When it Rains " has gone on to be an enduring work for the group , being featured in the video game Guitar Hero 5 and receiving covers by Richard Cheese , Katerina Graham and Metallica .

= = Composition and recording = =

" Only Happy When It Rains " was written and recorded between March 1994 and May 1995 , with the composition happening in sessions between band members Duke Erikson , Shirley Manson , Steve Marker and Butch Vig in Marker 's basement recording studio , and the recording itself being done at their own Smart Studios in Madison , Wisconsin . Bass on " Only Happy When It Rains " was played by Mike Kashou , and additional percussion by Pauli Ryan . In the latter stages of the album recording , Garbage mixed " Only Happy When It Rains " twice before it was sent for mastering . At the last minute , Vig decided to increase the mix of the guitar tracks louder ; he later claimed that the song still did not sound the way he wanted it to , in his head . The mixing was noted for Manson 's voice being at the same volume level as the instruments , while in mainstream pop the singing is louder than the musical backdrop . The song is written in the key of G # minor , set in time signature of common time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute , and the chord progression is G # m ? F # ? E ? C # m ? E ? F # in the verses and C # -F # -G # -A in the chorus .

The song 's bleak lyrics were explained by Marker as a mockery of the angsty " wearing your heart on your sleeve thing " themes prevalent in mid @-@ 1990s alternative rock songs , as well as a self @-@ deprecating reference to Garbage 's own dark lyrics , with Manson explaining that the song was " a dig at ourselves because we like records that don 't make us feel very happy , and at this so @-@ called ' alternative ' scene of ' we 're so weird and more wonderful than everybody else ' " . Vig added that " ' Only Happy When It Rains ' was about what happened with grunge and the angst @-@ filled thing which has dominated the American alternative rock scene . With us there 's self @-@ deprecation , we have to poke fun at ourselves because we 're so incredibly obsessive about the songs and the lyrics , which makes us filled with self @-@ loathing , hurhur . " Garbage said they referenced both the title of The Jesus and Mary Chain song " Happy When It Rains " (1987) and Manson 's own Scottish psyche . Lyrically , Manson described " Only Happy When It Rains " as " about wanting love but knowing life will always get in the way yet not being obliterated by that . It 's a song for people that know what it is like to live on the dark side of life . It 's about devotion but a different kind . A devotion to the truth and to freedom ... and to hell with the consequences . "

When " Only Happy When It Rains " was to be remastered in 2007 for Garbage 's greatest hits album Absolute Garbage , the song had to be reverse engineered from a damaged backup DAT due to the analog masters for the debut album being lost , resulting in some discernible differences in the remaster .

= = Critical reception = =

Upon both the release of Garbage , and of " Only Happy When It Rains " as a single , the song received a positive reception from music journalists . In reviews for the single release Patrick Brennan of Hot Press declared " Only Happy When It Rains " his Single of the Fortnight , writing " it 's hugely refreshing to come across a song which celebrates all those sad moments of loneliness that can be so life affirming " , while Billboard 's Larry Flick described the song as " solid all the way through " praising the overall production . A reviewer for Kerrang ! wrote , " A truly inspired single ... Garbage combine a slightly sinister acidic approach with an infectious melodic atmosphere and an alternative punch . The result is awesome , " and a reviewer for Music Week stated that " Shirley Manson 's vocals veer between fuzzy darkness , grinding catchy and crystal brilliance . " Alastair Mabbot , writing for The List , described the song as " Spitting Image 's notion of alternative rock " , In reviews for the debut album , Robert Yates of Q wrote that there was " a nice self @-@ deflating Morrissey touch to [the song] " , while Jackie Hinden of Hot Press felt that " Only Happy When It Rains " was " like a Pretenders for the nineties " . Caroline Sullivan of The Guardian described the song as " perversely pretty " , while Leo Finlay of Music Week compared the song to Mazzy Star , and that it " employs the current hip status of country music to devastating effect " . Spin 's Eric Weissard said the song was the only one he hated in Garbage 's debut album , but reacted positively to the intro where " backward guitars produce a chiming solo . " At the end of 1995 , Melody Maker rated " Only Happy When It Rains " the 49th best Song of the Year , writing up : " In a year of sunny Britpop , reservoir supplies of ironic bubblegum pop @-@ noir were dangerously low . This burst of mocking miserablism helped " . The track has been described as Garbage 's signature song , and in 2000 was ranked as 69th in a list of 100 Greatest Pop Songs Of All Time jointly compiled by Rolling Stone and MTV .

= = Single release and chart performance = =

Initially , Mushroom Records had scheduled " Queer " to be the lead single for the UK release of the debut album Garbage , matching the single release strategy internationally . At last minute , it was decided to release " Only Happy When It Rains " upfront of the album , with " Queer " rescheduled to later in 1995 . " Only Happy When It Rains " was quickly picked up by radio , and was C @-@ listed by Radio One , and reached # 47 on the airplay chart . Mushroom issued the single on a limited edition 7 " vinyl , CD and cassette on September 18 , 1995 . All formats were backed with two new tracks specifically recorded for the single ; " Girl Don 't Come " and " Sleep " . After its first week on @-@ sale , " Only Happy When it Rains " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at # 29 . At the end of the month , Garbage made their debut live appearance to perform the single on Top of The Pops , providing momentum for the album Garbage to debut on the album chart at # 12 .

In United States , Almo Sounds first sent " Only Happy When It Rains " to alternative radio at the start of January 1996 , earning much airplay in both college and alternate rock radio stations . The physical single was issued on February 20 in two formats , CD maxi and cassette single , both featuring " Girl Don 't Come " and " Sleep " as b @-@ sides . A single remix of the song was also issued to Top 40 radio on March 26 as the single escalated up the pop charts . Notable live performances of " Only Happy When It Rains " included Garbage 's network television debut on Saturday Night Special on April 27 , and during the 1996 MTV Movie Awards . The song spent twenty weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 , peaking at # 55 , plus nineteen weeks at the Modern Rock Tracks , peaking at # 16 at the end of May , and peaked at # 54 on the Hot 100 Airplay chart . The single 's success also lead to a sales increase of the band 's debut album , which managed to enter the Billboard 200 chart six months after its release. having sold 238 @,@ 000 units at this point .

In Australia and New Zealand , Garbage 's Australasian record label , White , released " Only Happy When it Rains " as the follow @-@ up to " Stupid Girl " on May 28 , 1996 . The single was issued on CD single and cassette , backed with " Driving Lesson " and a house remix of album track " Dog New Tricks " , both of which had been recorded by the band earlier in the year . On June 16 , 1996 , " Only Happy When it Rains " debuted on the ARIA singles chart and spent nine weeks in the top 100 , peaking at # 80 . A month later , the song debuted at # 42 on the New Zealand singles

chart , peaking the following week at 38th .

Across Europe , Mushroom Records international distributor BMG released " Only Happy When It Rains " in two formats , a two @-@ track card sleeve CD single with " Dog New Tricks " , or a four @-@ track maxi single with " Dog New Tricks " , a remix of " Stupid Girl " by Red Snapper and a remix of " Queer " by Danny Saber . Following the band 's performance at the Lowlands Festival , the single was a success in the Netherlands where it spent the month of September 1996 on the charts , peaking at # 36 on the Single Top 100 .

In 1999 , B @-@ side " Girl Don 't Come " was used in the PlayStation game F1 Racing Championship .

= = Music video = =

The promotional video for " Only Happy When It Rains " was filmed in mid @-@ January 1996 in Los Angeles by director Samuel Bayer , simultaneously with the video for single " Stupid Girl " . As Almo Sounds thought " Only Happy When It Rains " would be more successful , its video was given a higher budget than " Stupid Girl " . The video debuted in the United States on February 12 , 1996 , being certified one day later by MTV as a " Buzz clip " , which would guarantee heavy rotation on their network .

The video begins a short prologue sequence with several children dressed in animal costumes playing in an overcast field , before cutting to Garbage upon the commencement of the song . Garbage are located in a litter @-@ strewn warehouse , where the male members of the band destroy vinyl records , videotape and musical instruments as Manson performs to the camera . Some sequences feature Manson performing the song while on her own in dilapidated toilet stalls . The video ends with inter @-@ cut footage of Manson joining the children on the field .

The " Only Happy When It Rains " video was first commercially released - along with out @-@ take footage shot while filming - on VHS and Video @-@ CD on 1996 's Garbage Video . A remastered version of the video was later included on Garbage 's 2007 greatest hits DVD Absolute Garbage and made available as a digital download via online music services the same year .

= = In popular culture = =

= = = Covers = = =

In 2009 , " Only Happy When it Rains " was featured as a playable song in the videogame Guitar Hero 5 . By playing the song in " Career Mode " , a virtual avatar of Shirley Manson could be unlocked for use elsewhere within the game . As one of Garbage 's signature songs , " Only Happy When it Rains " has been covered by a number of artists over the years . In 2000 , comedic musician Richard Cheese performed a lounge arrangement of the song on his album Lounge Against the Machine . Actress Katerina Graham recorded a pop rock cover for use in The Vampire Diaries ' second season episode " The Sacrifice " . In 2007 , Metallica covered the song during an acoustic performance at Neil Young 's Bridge School Benefit show .

= = = Media = = =

The song also appeared in an episode of The X @-@ Files entitled " Terms of Endearment " .

= = Track listings and formats = =

Continuing their theme of collectible 7 " vinyl releases , which had seen " Vow " packaged in an aluminium sleeve and " Subhuman " in black rubber , Mushroom packaged the 7 " format for " Only Happy When It Rains " in a " Prismaboard " (rain @-@ effect) die @-@ cut card sleeve , with a hologram logo sticker on the inner jacket . The b @-@ side of the vinyl was pressed with a double

@-@ groove , so that either " Girl Don 't Come " or " Sleep " played depending on where the stylus landed ; the songs were shorter on the vinyl than they were on the CD or cassette formats to accommodate both on one side of the disc . This pressing was limited to 5 @, @ 000 copies . The original design for the vinyl was for the sleeve to be made from wood , or corrugated cardboard , with wing @-@ nuts in each corner like a flower @-@ press . The nuts would have to have been unscrewed to find the vinyl disc inside - between ten layers of different types of cardboard .

= = Credits and Personnel = =

= = Comprehensive charts = =

= = Release history = =