

= Gorgeous (Kanye West song) =

" Gorgeous " is a song by American hip hop recording artist Kanye West from his fifth studio album , My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy (2010) . The track features a hook provided by Kid Cudi , a recording artist formerly signed to West 's label GOOD Music , and a rap verse provided by the Wu @-@ Tang Clan member Raekwon . The song was written by West , Cudi , Raekwon , No I.D. , Mike Dean and Rhymefest , and was produced by West , No I.D. and Dean . It contains elements of The Turtles 's cover version of the song " You Showed Me " . " Gorgeous " received mostly positive reviews from music critics , who generally praised the intricacy of the production , the quality of the guest features and the rock music inspired aesthetic of the song . Several critics cited West 's verses as a highlight of the track , complimenting his lyricism and delivery .

Before its release , West premiered an a cappella version of the song in the form of a freestyle rap on Funkmaster Flex 's Hot 97 radio show . Despite not being released as a single , the song appeared on the Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart . Cudi and West performed the song live at SXSW , and West performed the track at the Lollapalooza musical festival . " Gorgeous " was also utilized in West 's short film Runaway .

= = Background = =

The majority of My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy was recorded in Oahu , Hawaii , including " Gorgeous " . Following several media controversies , West decided to record his next album in a reclusive manner only working with artists he considered himself familiar with . The song features rapper and occasional singer Kid Cudi , a performer West once described as his favorite artist . The two had previously collaborated on West 's fourth album 808s & Heartbreak , an album that served as a big influence on Cudi . As a friend of West , Cudi was invited to Hawaii to listen to recording sessions of the album . One day when Cudi was hanging around the studio , he overheard the composition of " Gorgeous " , which he was overwhelmed by . He asked immediately to be featured on the track . While a majority of the artists who worked on the album passed their time playing games of basketball , Cudi smoked marijuana and worked @-@ out on a treadmill in preparation of the recording of his lines . On the recording of the song , Cudi mused ;

? Gorgeous was one of those records that , as soon as I heard the beat , I was like , ? Man , this is the one . This is that ' This Can ? t Be Life ' Kanye beat . This is that classic ? [Kan] Ye beat . I want to be on this . ? I came up to him , and I was like , ? Man , are you working on this record ? Are you working on this beat ? ? He goes , ? Yeah ? do you got an idea for it ? ? I was like , ? Yeah , I might . I didn ? t . I was lying like a motherfucker . I was like , ? Yeah , man , I want to get on this joint . ?

Cudi commented that the way the song was recorded was similar to the way prior collaborations between the two were recorded ; West will bounce ideas off of other writers and gauge their reaction before going forward with any of his own ideas . In an interview with MTV Cudi commented , " that 's always our collab formula , and that 's just how ' Gorgeous ' came about . He just kind of told me what he was trying to say , I threw out some words , we rearranged words , and we came out with a bunch of different options before we come up with the hook . "

It was announced that Raekwon of the Wu @-@ Tang Clan would also be featured on the song , who West had invited to Hawaii . Raekwon initially had no interest in working with West musically , and originally only went to Hawaii to share some insight with him . According to the rapper , a lot of artists in the music industry refuse to be honest and give genuine advice because they don 't want to help their competition , comparing the mentality to a group of crabs in a barrel . One of the reasons for Raekwon 's desire to give West advice was because the frontman of the Wu @-@ Tang Clan , RZA , spoke positively of West . RZA stated that West embodied the mentality of the Wu @-@ Tang Clan , and praised his skills as a producer . RZA was a part of the recording sessions for the album in Hawaii , and contributed to the production of songs " Dark Fantasy " and " So Appalled " . Eventually after being impressed by West himself , Raekwon decided to collaborate with West on several tracks , including " Gorgeous " . Raekwon described West as a hard worker , and stated that

the " first thing I can tell you about Kanye West is that he 's a hard worker . When you look at him , you can tell that he still has that whole hip @-@ hop thing in his bones . "

= = Composition = =

" Gorgeous " is a bluesy , rock @-@ driven song that features West 's thoughts on social injustice . Other topics such as sexual exploitation and social disillusionment are expressed throughout the track . It contains elements of The Turtles 's cover version of the song " You Showed Me " , which is where the guitar riff is derived . The song opens with a melodic electric guitar chord , erupting into the hook provided by Cudi . The production style found within the song is noticeably more subdued than average West compositions , quietly playing alongside the lush guitar playing . West muses about social issues and comments on his past critics , rapping at a modest pace over the guitar @-@ driven production . Jon Caramanica of The New York Times commented on West 's lyrical presentation on the track and compared him to rapper Jay @-@ Z , writing " on ' Gorgeous ' he sneers at the competition , ' you blowing up ? / that ? s good / fantastic ' , maybe the iciest blow @-@ off since ' Jay @-@ Z ? s You got a little dough ? That ? s cool with me . ' " Sputnikmusic 's Channing Freeman felt that the song was " broodingly slow " and that it was " driven by piano chords and a questing electric guitar . " Dan Vidal of URB commented on the intricacy of the lyrics :

" On ' Gorgeous , ' he treats his distorted vocals as if they were another instrument to be blended seamlessly into the mix alongside the muted electric guitar @-@ riff . He spits : Penitentiary chances , the devil dances / and eventually answers to the call of autumn / all them fallin ? , for the love of ballin ? / get caught with 30 rocks , the cop look like Alec Baldwin . This track is an excellent microcosm of the album because it exemplifies the pinnacle of Ye 's visionary talent . ?

The line " choke a South Park writer with a fishstick " is a reference to the South Park episode " Fishsticks " which parodied West . While he enjoyed the episode , it reportedly hurt his feelings . MTV highlighted the full verse , which goes ; " but this pimp is at the top of Mount Olympus / Ready for the world 's games / This is my Olympics / We make ' em say ' ho ' cause the game is so pimpish / Choke a ' South Park ' writer with a fish stick . " The line " What 's a black beetle anyway , a roach ? " is a reference to The Beatles .

= = Reception = =

The song attracted widespread praise by music critics , many of whom ranked it among West 's best songs . Pitchfork Media 's Ryan Dombal compared elements of the song to the rock band The Strokes , and stated that it contained some of the best lyrics ever written by West . Dan Vidal of URB largely praised the track , writing that it was an excellent song overall , though wrote that " in my personal opinion , I don ? t really think Kid Cudi can sing ; and I ? m not sure why his generally off @-@ key caterwauling is appealing to people , but here it ? s hypnotically on point ? matching perfectly with the track ? s imposing tone . " MTV wrote that the song featured West at his most boastful lyrically , musing that " while his lyrics are razor sharp , the production here is softer , resulting in a melodic finger wag to his naysayers rather than searing jabs . " David Amidon of PopMatters praised the performance by West on the song but felt that neither guest appearance ultimately left much of an impression . On the other hand , Sputnikmusic 's Channing Freeman felt that both Cudi and Raekwon fit perfectly on the guitar @-@ driven track .

Rolling Stone writer Rob Sheffield wrote " nobody else is making music this daring and weird " and described the song as " spooky space funk " . The Washington Post 's Chris Richards stated " West 's moment of post @-@ Beatles anxiety comes during ' Gorgeous , ' a song that moans and groans with a dark urgency that permeates this album . " Entertainment Weekly 's Simon Vozick @-@ Levinson described the song as " narcissistic " and noted West 's insults of his critics in the song . Alex Denney of NME praised West 's sense of humor on the song and praised the guitar work . Andrew Martin of Prefix Magazine called West 's first verse on the song a " bilious rant about racial inequality " . AbsolutePunk 's Drew Beringer stated that West sounded angry on the song , and viewed that it contained some of his best lyrics . Andrew Barber of Complex stated that the track had

several quotable lines , and commented that West was a " frontrunner " for hip @-@ hop 's best producers and rappers combinations . Barber called Cudi 's hook excellent , and mused that the " guitar riff on the beat will stay stuck in your head for days . " The song charted at 23 on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart as reported by Billboard , however it only spent one week on the chart . The song also appeared on the South Korean Gaon Chart at 86 .

= = Marketing = =

The song was also featured during the third scene of Runaway , a 35 @-@ minute music video directed by West set to music from My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy . The song plays during the scene where Selita Ebanks ' character inspects around the garden , interacting with the animals and plants , while Kanye watches her from inside . Cudi and West performed the song together at the SXSW musical festival . During the 2011 Lollapalooza festival in Chile , " Gorgeous " was featured on the setlist . West also performed an a cappella version of the song during a concert in New York . A case of pre @-@ release promotion was exhibited when West , performed a freestyle of the song on Hot 97 . The lyrics from the freestyle later became " Gorgeous " . West performed the freestyle alongside Pusha T , a rapper signed to his GOOD Music Label .

= = Chart positions = =