

= Rich Girl (Gwen Stefani song) =

" Rich Girl " is a song by American singer and songwriter Gwen Stefani from her debut solo studio album , *Love . Angel . Music . Baby .* (2004) . Produced by Dr. Dre , the track features American rapper Eve , and is a remake of Louchie Lou & Michie One 's 1993 song of the same name , which is in turn an adaptation of the Fiddler on the Roof song " If I Were a Rich Man " . Stefani says the song discusses her dreams of fame and riches from the perspective of " when she was just an Orange County girl " .

The last song to be included on the album , " Rich Girl " was released as the album 's second single in late 2004 to mixed reviews from music critics . It was a commercial success , reaching the top 10 on most of the charts it entered . In the United States , " Rich Girl " was certified gold , and it received a nomination for Best Rap / Sung Collaboration at the 47th Grammy Awards .

= = Writing and development = =

Stefani and Eve had previously collaborated on the 2001 single " Let Me Blow Ya Mind " . When Stefani first began recording solo material , Eve expressed interest in working with Stefani again , saying , " She 's fly , she 's tight and she is talented . It 's going to be hot regardless . " The two decided to work together again after talking in Stefani 's laundry room during a party . After Stefani had co - @ - @ written more than 20 songs for her solo debut , she approached Dr. Dre , who had produced for her twice before . Dre had produced " Let Me Blow Ya Mind " as well as " Wicked Day " , a track that was excluded from No Doubt 's 2001 album *Rock Steady* .

After playing some of the songs on which she had been working , Dr. Dre told her , " You don 't want to go back there . " Instead of using one of the tracks , Dr. Dre instead suggested using English reggae duo Louchie Lou & Michie One 's 1993 song " Rich Girl " , which itself interpolated " If I Were a Rich Man " from the 1964 musical *Fiddler on the Roof* . Stefani and Eve helped each other with their parts , but when they presented Dr. Dre with the demo , he told them to rewrite the song , suggesting that Stefani play a character in the song .

Since she had not seen the musical since she was a child , Stefani went to Broadway to better understand the theme that " even if you 're poor and you have love , you 're rich . " The idea which became the final version came to Stefani while brainstorming on her treadmill . She commented that the troubles in writing the song came because " Dre was really pushing me to write in a new way " , but when she presented him with the song , " he just totally tricked the track out . "

= = Composition = =

" Rich Girl " is a reggae song composed in the key of C minor . It is written in common time and moves at a moderate 100 beats per minute . The beat is accompanied by an alternating perfect fifth dyad and an accented piano trichord . The song is written in verse ? chorus form , and its instrumentation includes the electronic keyboard , guitar , and keyboard bass . Stefani 's voice ranges from G3 to E5 .

The introduction consists of the repeated use of the word *na* . Stefani reaches her highest note of the song , E5 , as part of a trichord and her lowest , G3 , during this section . After the first chorus , Stefani discusses dreams of wealth and luxury , and she namechecks fashion designers Vivienne Westwood and John Galliano . Stefani commented that the references were not product placement but that she included them " because I think they 're rad and want to talk about them . [...] I 'd give all my money to [Westwood] and buy all her clothes ! " A bridge , in which Stefani 's voice is overdubbed , precedes the second chorus . During the second verse Stefani discusses her *Harajuku Girls* , and she then repeats the bridge . Following Eve 's rap , Stefani sings the chorus and closes the song with a coda , which , like the introduction , consists of repeating the word *na* .

= = Critical reception = =

" Rich Girl " received mixed reviews from music critics . Richard Smirke of Playlouder said that it brought " a much @-@ needed element of diversity " to L.A.M.B. and called it a " potential hit single " . Krissi Murison of the NME , however , described it as " playground chant featuring a tough @-@ girl ragga cameo from Eve . " John Murphy from musicOMH gave it an overall positive review , calling it " a great fun song , and far superior to some of the dross that comes out these days " , but also commented that it did not live up to " Let Me Blow Ya Mind " and found the references to the Harajuku Girls " slightly creepy . " Lisa Haines of BBC Music referred to the song as " disco gold , impossibly girly and very easy to dance to . " The song drew comparisons to the No Doubt album Rock Steady , and Charles Merwin of Stylus Magazine described it as " a lite version of ' Hey Baby . ' "

Several reviewers found it ironic that Stefani , who had already sold 26 million records with No Doubt , discussed having money in the counterfactual conditional . John Murphy from musicOMH found it " rather strange " for Stefani to sing the song while living off of royalties from No Doubt and her husband , post @-@ grunge musician Gavin Rossdale . Anthony Carew from Neumu called the lyrics " insipid " and noted that " the incredibly wealthy pop @-@ starlet wonders what it 'd be like to be , uh , incredibly wealthy " . The Orange County Register writer Ben Wener told Stefani that the song was disingenuous and " absurd " , to which Stefani responded that the point of view was from before she was famous . Stefani later refused to issue credentials to the newspaper after Wener wrote that " while posting a reported US \$ 90 million via her clothing lines [...] she 's no more ' just an Orange County girl ' than Best Buy is just a shack that sells Commodore 64s " in response to a track titled " Orange County Girl " from Stefani 's second album The Sweet Escape .

The interpolation of " If I Were a Rich Man " drew mixed reviews . Jason Damas , writing for PopMatters , argued that the track " turns it into an anthem of urban bling @-@ lust " and that its " simple pounding piano chord makes for great percussive backing . " Nick Sylvester from Pitchfork Media found the song corny , classifying it as " Eve- and Dre- and Tevye @-@ powered camp @-@ hop . " The Villager 's Winnie MCCroy found the interpolation " innovative " and noted the song 's take on " the current style of shout @-@ out rap songs . " David Browne of Entertainment Weekly disagreed , stating that the interpolation was used awkwardly , and Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone called the interpolation a goof . Jason Shawhan from About.com called the track " a dancehall / classic house teardown of ' If I Were a Rich Man ' " and added , " If this is what Jay @-@ Z 's fudging with Annie has wrought , I say , be glad of it . "

= = Commercial performance = =

" Rich Girl " debuted at number 74 on the Billboard Hot 100 on December 25 , 2004 , and peaked 10 weeks later at number seven , remaining on the chart for over six months . The song did well on pop @-@ oriented charts , reaching number three on the Pop 100 , number four on the Mainstream Top 40 , and number 16 on the Adult Top 40 . The single had little crossover success on the urban charts , only reaching number 27 on the Rhythmic Top 40 and number 78 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . " Rich Girl " was helped on the Hot 100 and Pop 100 charts by its strong digital downloads , peaking at number two on the Hot Digital Songs . The song was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on March 29 , 2005 . At the 2006 Grammy Awards , the song was nominated for Best Rap / Sung Collaboration but lost to Jay @-@ Z and Linkin Park 's " Numb / Encore " . The single was less successful in Canada , where it peaked at number 12 on the Canadian Singles Chart .

" Rich Girl " was largely successful across Europe , reaching number two on the European Hot 100 Singles . It reached the top five in Belgium , Denmark , France , Ireland , the Netherlands , Norway , and Sweden and the top 10 in Austria , Finland , Italy , and Switzerland . The song also charted highly in the United Kingdom , debuting at number four on March 20 , 2005 for the week ending date March 26 , 2005 . The track was unable to reach a higher position and remained on the chart for 12 weeks .

Elsewhere , " Rich Girl " peaked within the top 20 on the majority of the charts it entered . In Australia , it debuted on February 27 , 2005 at number two behind Nelly 's " Over and Over " .

featuring Tim McGraw . It was unable to reach number one and dropped off the chart after 13 weeks . The single was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for sales in excess of 70 @, @ 000 copies .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Rich Girl " was directed by David LaChapelle and features a pirate theme . The video , inspired by an early @-@ 1980s Vivienne Westwood advertising campaign , opens with four Japanese schoolgirls playing with a toy pirate ship and two Bratz dolls of Stefani and Eve , while the girls discuss what they would do if they were a " rich girl " . The video features several sequences . Stefani is first shown below the deck of a pirate ship , dancing on a table and singing to the song . She is surrounded by pirates and wenches and is soon joined by Eve , wearing an eyepatch . In the surreal style of LaChapelle , the pirate crew has distorted features , and a leaked casting call commented , " I need the freaks on this one . " Above deck Stefani , the Harajuku Girls , Eve , and more pirates dance on the deck and rigging . Stefani is also seen dancing with the Harajuku Girls in a treasure trove , often carrying a sword , and swinging from an anchor . When the girls dunk the toy ship in a fish tank , the galleon engages in cannon fire , causing Stefani and the pirates to fall all over the ship , and Stefani and the Harajuku Girls are soon shipwrecked .

The music video was a success on video channels . The video debuted at number nine on MTV 's Total Request Live on December 13 , 2004 . It worked its way to number five , staying on the chart for a total of 13 days . The video also reached number four on MuchMusic 's Countdown , remaining on the chart for 16 weeks . VH1 listed " Rich Girl " at number 24 on its Top 40 Videos of 2005 .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Love . Angel . Music . Baby .

= = Charts and certifications = =