

= Honey (Moby song) =

" Honey " is a song by American electronica musician Moby . It was released as the first single from his fifth studio album *Play* on August 31 , 1998 . The uptempo song incorporates vocal samples from " Sometimes " by American blues singer Bessie Jones , while its instrumentation is built around a repeating piano riff . Moby discovered the " Sometimes " sample while listening to albums of folk music recordings compiled by field collector Alan Lomax . He subsequently composed " Honey " , along with several other songs from *Play* , using the Lomax recordings .

" Honey " was generally well received by music critics , who praised the song 's sampling of " Sometimes " and cited it as a highlight of *Play* . Upon release , it peaked at number thirty @-@ three on the UK Singles Chart and also charted in several other countries , including Austria and Germany . The song 's music video , directed by Roman Coppola , depicts three duplicates of Moby venturing through various locations . " Honey " was later remixed to feature vocals from American R & B singer Kelis .

= = Background and composition = =

Moby composed " Honey " for his fifth studio album *Play* after listening to a box set of folk music songs compiled by field collector Alan Lomax . He developed an interest in the acapella songs recorded by Lomax and subsequently wrote " Honey " in " about 10 minutes . " Lomax recordings were also used as the basis for several other songs from *Play* , including " Find My Baby " and " Natural Blues " . After producing " Honey " , Moby commissioned Brazilian record producer Mario Caldato , Jr. to carry out its mixing process ; he had heard of Caldato from his work on American hip hop group Beastie Boys ' 1998 album *Hello Nasty* , and later recounted :

I was hanging out at Max Fish and Mars Bar and Motor City drinking with the few remaining people in New York who would still hang out with me . At this time the Beasties had *Hello Nasty* , which was doing incredibly well , and I just couldn 't believe that Mario Caldato , Jr. was willing to work with me .

" Honey " features a piano @-@ driven beat and additional instrumentation performed by Moby himself , including original slide guitar parts . The song is built around samples of American blues singer Bessie Jones ' 1960 song " Sometimes " , from the Alan Lomax compilation *Sounds of the South* . The samples consist of several lines performed by Jones , each followed by a choir responding " sometime " ? the lines are repeated , harmonized and orchestrated in different ways throughout the course of the song . Moby has said that the vocals are meant to " convey female sex . " Other musical elements incorporated in " Honey " include hand claps , vinyl record scratches and synthesized strings . John Bush of AllMusic notes the song 's mixture of sampled blues music with " breakbeat techno . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Honey " received generally positive reviews from music critics . Frank Owen of *The Village Voice* called the song a " mesmerizing floor @-@ filler , arousing memories of Hamilton Bohannon 's hypnotic ' 70s metronome funk . " Alexandra Marshall of MTV wrote that its samples of " Sometimes " " work both as ingredients in a sonic collage and stay totally recognizable at the same time " . A writer for *The Guardian* praised " Honey " as " joyous , hypnotic , romping blues " , while reviews from NME described the song as a " sparkling diamond " and a " natural born dancefloor groove " . In his book *I Hear America Singing : An Introduction to Popular Music* , author David Kestin notes that " Honey " was often singled out in reviews of *Play* for special praise . Jim Sullivan of *The Boston Globe* cited " Honey " as a highlight song from *Play* , while Gene Stout of *Seattle Post @-@ Intelligencer* called it " one of the album 's most riveting tracks . " The song ranked at number twenty @-@ four on *The Village Voice* 's annual Pazz & Jop critics ' poll . On their year @-@ end list , Spin named " Honey " the tenth best single of 1999 .

= = Release = =

" Honey " was released as the lead single from Play on August 10 , 1998 in the United Kingdom , months prior to the release of the album . Several remixes of the song were produced by various artists , including Rollo Armstrong , Sister Bliss , WestBam , Sharam Jey , Mickey Finn and Moby himself . Instead of selecting remixes for inclusion on issues of the " Honey " physical single , Moby and his label Mute Records ultimately opted to release all of them commercially . " Honey " was released in several other European countries the following month ? several radio stations refused to play the song , however , with Moby later saying :

The song " Honey " was a single we put out in Europe in September , and a lot of radio stations wouldn 't play it because they said it was an instrumental dance track . I listen to it and all I hear is singing . Are they talking about the same song ?

Despite decreased European radio support , " Honey " managed to chart in several countries within the continent . The song debuted and peaked at number 33 on the UK Singles Chart for the issue dated September 5 , 1998 . It achieved its highest chart placement in Austria , where it peaked at number 30 , and also charted in Germany and the Netherlands . Outside of Europe , " Honey " peaked at number 49 on the United States Billboard Dance / Electronic Singles Sales chart in conjunction with the single " Run On " and at number 56 in Australia . Moby later collaborated with American R & B singer Kelis for a remix of " Honey " on which she provided additional vocals . Additional production and remixing was provided by Fafu . The remix was released as a dual single with " Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad ? " on October 16 , 2000 and peaked at number 17 on the UK Singles Chart .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Honey " was directed by Roman Coppola . It opens with a wooden box falling from the sky ? upon hitting the ground , three clones of Moby dressed in suits emerge and make their way towards a city . One spots a car and walks toward it , but accidentally drops a map in his possession . Crawling underneath the car to retrieve it , the Moby clone soon finds himself in a bathing woman 's apartment room ? he manages to obtain the map and exit the room before the woman discovers his presence . He enters another room , followed by his duplicates , and jumps out the window .

The other two clones are then seen in a forest ? one walks behind a tree and reappears dressed in casual attire . He climbs another tree and ends up in the bathroom of the woman 's apartment , where he retrieves a package . The clone then crawls underneath her bed and finds himself underneath a car . He opens the package and finds a gasoline can , which he pours into a compartment located behind the car 's license plate . All three clones enter the car and drive to the box , which they step back into ; the video concludes with the box 's explosion .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Charts = =