

= Touch My Body =

" Touch My Body " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey , taken from her eleventh studio album , *E = MC ²* (2008) . It was written by Carey , along with Crystal " Cri \$ tyle " Johnson , Terius " The Dream " Nash and Christopher " Tricky " Stewart and produced by Mariah Carey and " Tricky " Stewart , and was released as the album 's lead single on February 12 , 2008 . Lyrically , the song features a double message , with the first describing sexual fantasies with her lover , while also jokingly warning him against recording or releasing information regarding their rendezvous .

The song received generally positive reviews from music critics , with many highlighting the song 's light pop melody and hook ; however , it also garnered some backlash from certain music reviewers , who felt the song did not properly represent the singer 's acclaimed 5 @-@ octave vocal range . " Touch My Body " became Carey 's eighteenth chart topper on the Billboard Hot 100 , making Carey the solo artist with the most number one singles in United States history , surpassing the record held by Elvis Presley . Additionally , it gave Carey her 79th week atop the chart , tying Presley for most weeks at number one . Throughout Europe , the song also achieved high charting , peaking within the top five on the charts in Italy , Japan , New Zealand , Switzerland , and the United Kingdom .

Carey performed " Touch My Body " on several live televised events and programs , debuting it on Saturday Night Live as a two @-@ piece performance . Similarly , Carey opened the Good Morning America " Summer Concert Series " on April 25 , 2008 , singing the song , as well as two other singles from *E = MC ²* . Similar renditions took place at the season premiere party of The Hills , as well as a mash @-@ up of the song with " I 'll Be Lovin ' U Long Time " at the Teen Choice Awards . Aside from reprising performances of the British programs The Sunday Night Project and The Paul O 'Grady Show , and German talent show Deutschland sucht den Superstar , the song was included on the set @-@ list of Carey 's North American Angels Advocate Tour , held throughout 2009 and 2010 .

The song 's music video was directed by filmmaker Brett Ratner , who had previously worked with Carey on five other music videos . It follows around a story revolving around a computer employee 's fantasy as he visits Carey 's home . As he fixes her computer , he enters a fantasy in which the pair perform several activities together , including pillow fights , laser tag , Guitar Hero , slot cars , and frisbee throwing , all while Carey shows off her figure in several revealing outfits . The music video won in the category of " Best Comedic Video " at the 2008 BET Awards , and won the " MTV Video Vanguard Award " at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards Japan . Additionally , the video was nominated for " Best Female Video " at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards .

= = Background and release = =

Carey achieved critical and commercial success with her tenth studio album , *The Emancipation of Mimi* (2005) . and the second best @-@ seller around the world , It earned a myriad of music industry awards , and brought Carey back to the top of pop music following her decline in 2001 . After completing The Adventures of Mimi Tour , Carey began working on material for her eleventh studio effort , the yet untitled *E = MC ²* (2008) . *E = MC ²* was hailed as one of the most anticipated albums of 2008 , with many critics weighing their opinions on whether Carey would be able to deliver significant success , following her achievements with *The Emancipation of Mimi* . " Touch My Body " was eventually chosen as the lead single through a vote in between the record executives at Island Records , with the final choices being the former and " I 'm That Chick " (titled " I 'm That Chick You Like " at that point) . After choosing the former , the song was sent to radio stations worldwide on February 12 , 2008 and to digital outlets on March 24 , 2008 .

= = Composition = =

" Touch My Body " is a mid @-@ tempo song , which draws influence from R & B and pop music genres . The song 's hook is built around a piano melody and " circular keyboard line " , and features

" a stuttering mid @-@ tempo beat that 's accented by finger snaps and electronic synthesizers " as its instrumentation . Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe described it as a " standard @-@ issue mid @-@ tempo jam " , while The New York Sun 's Jayanthi Daniel wrote " It 's a smooth , mid @-@ tempo song with a swaying , melodic beat , and serves as a simple and mellow introduction to the material . " Writing for The Guardian , Alex Macpherson felt the song was very " girly " , and expressed how the " cushioned " track incorporates " all tactile bass bumps and tinkling music box motifs " into its production . Written by Mariah Carey , The @-@ Dream , Tricky Stewart and Cristyle , the song drew comparisons to several musical arrangements featured throughout " We Belong Together " . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , " Touch My Body " is set in common time with a tempo of 80 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of B minor , with Carey 's vocal range spanning from the low @-@ note of F ? 3 to the belting range of E5. and the high @-@ note of B5 . The song follows in the chord progression of Bm7 ? Am7 ? Gmaj7 .

Lyrically , the song describes the protagonist revealing several bedroom fantasies in which she would like to engage , asking her lover playfully to " touch her body " . Though the song features sexually oriented lyrics , critics deemed that the melody and playful tone of the song made them less explicit . The song 's lyrics find Carey maintaining the duo keep the relationship private from the media , as she threatens to " hunt him down " if he shall record anything of their private life . According to Ben Ratliff from The New York Times , " Touch My Body " is a " questionably sexy striptease : a goofy @-@ sleazy tryst vignette " , with Carey singing " If there 's a camera up in here then I best not catch this flick on YouTube . " Critic Rodman felt the song 's lyrics describe the protagonist 's sexual fantasies , but also serves as a warning to " potential touchers : ' If you run your mouth and brag about our secret rendezvous / I will hunt you down . ' Yikes ! " In an interview with Fox News , journalist Hollie McKay asked Carey if there was any literal interpretation regarding the lyrics " Touch My Body / Put Me on the Floor / Wrestle Me Around / Play With Me Some More " , to which she replied " There is no full @-@ blown meaning ; it is just cute and it 's one of those songs that makes me happy . I wasn 't taking it that seriously . It was just fun experience . " Evan Sawdey from PopMatters wrote that in the song " Mariah coos soft @-@ core phone sex fantasies over plinked piano notes , all while referencing YouTube in what appears to be a desperate grab for relevance . " In his review of the song 's parent album , Los Angeles Times critic Richard Hartog described the song 's production , Carey 's vocals and its overall mixing :

" Touch My Body " rides a relatively restrained slow @-@ dance groove , with some light , orchestral @-@ synth flourishes thrown in . The rhythm is almost completely carried by an effortless keyboard bump , the easygoing repetitiveness of which eventually wears the listener down , and sets up a delicate frame for Carey to sing around . She pulls back when the song picks up the pace , and Carey keeps it simple here , playing with tempos rather than range . Indeed , she almost quietly slides into the chorus . " If you run around and brag about this secret rendezvous , I will hunt you down " , she sings , letting the last line trail off . But you don 't necessarily believe her , as the feel is more playful than sinful .

= = Critical reception = =

" Touch My Body " garnered generally positive reviews from music critics . While most reviewers complimented the song 's hook and production , as well as its playful lyrics , some were critical of Carey 's vocal performance , which they felt didn 't properly demonstrate her " The Voice " . Billboard 's Chuck Taylor gave the song a positive review , writing " this sensual jam is 100 % Mariah , packed with satisfying harmonic layers and hooky background ' oh 's , ' supersonic verses and a chorus as catchy as a winter snuffle , " Bill Lamb from About.com rated the song four out of five stars , stating that the single " is simple , sexy elegance from one of the most enduring of pop stars . " Additionally , Lamb complimented the songs " clever and sexy lyrics " , and wrote " The gentle finger @-@ snapping beat will send countless fans dancing in private reveries . " Newsday critic , Glenn Gamboa , named it as the " Song of the Week " , commenting that it was " the best opening single she 's had since ' Heartbreaker ' . " Nick Levine of Digital Spy was also impressed

with the song , writing , " its cooing , sensual charms soon take hold , suggesting the wind 's still very much behind the Carey comeback bandwagon . " It was described as a " cheeky hit " by Margeaux Watson of Entertainment Weekly , and " playful " by Los Angeles Times 's Chuck Philips .

Aside from common criticism aimed at Carey 's lack of vocal bombast , many made heavy comparisons to its predecessor , " We Belong Together " . Freedom Du Lac from The Washington Post compared the two heavily , while PopMatters 's Evan Sawdey felt it was " stealing the structure that made ' We Belong Together ' such a great song . " In his critique , he continued " For being an album from one of the world 's biggest pop stars , its amazing how hook @-@ free and dated it feels a mere two weeks after its release . " Slant Magazine 's critic and writer , Sal Cinquemani , wrote that the single " isn 't exactly filled with combustible energy and it lacks the full @-@ throttle belting that accompanied the Return of the Voice three years ago , but it features all of the characteristics one expects from a latter @-@ day Mariah track . " Rachel Devitt of Rhapsody expressed a desire to see Carey " show off those legendary five octaves a bit more " , while also noting the song 's " slightly paranoid / just @-@ this @-@ side @-@ of @-@ crazy lyrics threatening to hunt down her lover if he videos their tryst . " New York Daily News critic , David Hinckley , was critical on the song 's simplicity , and wrote " [It 's] a single that could have been cut by any one @-@ hit diva @-@ ette today ? has scored a chart grand slam . There 's just one small price to pay for all this : the singer 's soul . "

= = Chart performance = =

After only a few hours worth of airplay , " Touch My Body " entered the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs Chart at number seventy @-@ eight the chart week of February 23 , 2008 . In its second week within the chart , it leaped to number twenty , before reaching its peak of number two . In its first complete week of radio airplay , the song garnered 46 million audience impressions , making its debut at number twenty @-@ three on the Billboard Hot 100 Airplay . The song made its debut at number fifty @-@ seven on the Billboard Hot 100 as the " Hot Shot " of the week . The following week , " Touch My Body " jumped twenty @-@ three spots to number thirty @-@ four , making it Carey 's 31st top @-@ forty hit on the chart . It placed Carey as the woman with the fifth most top @-@ forty entries on the Hot 100 in Billboard history . " Touch My Body " reached the top position on the Hot 100 in its fourth week , and became Carey 's eighteenth chart topper , selling 286 @,@ 000 digital downloads . The song 's opening week broke several records , first making Carey the solo artist with the most number one singles in United States history , surpassing the record held by Elvis Presley . Additionally , it gave Carey her 79th week atop the Hot 100 , tying her with Presley as the artist with the most weeks at number one in the Billboard chart history . " The song also sold the highest amount of digital records in one week , surpassing Rihanna 's " Umbrella " (2007) , which sold 277 @,@ 000 units . The following week , the song stayed at number one , and according to Mediabase , received over 400 @,@ 000 spins in the United States within its second week at number one . By the song 's sixth week of digital availability , " Touch My Body " had sold 879 @,@ 000 units , and was eventually certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of over one million units throughout the United States . According to Nielsen SoundScan , " Touch My Body " has sold over 1 @,@ 459 @,@ 000 copies in the United States as of August 15 , 2010 . It entered the Canadian Hot 100 at number ninety @-@ seven , based on airplay alone , and peaked at number two . The song also peaked at number two on the Hot Canadian Digital Singles chart , and spent a total of thirteen weeks within the singles chart . In an interview with Fox News , Carey described her feelings regarding surpassing Presley 's record , as well as her general sentiments following her success :

For me , in my mind the accomplishment is just that much sweeter . In terms of my ethnicity , always feeling like an outsider , always feeling different ... for me it 's about saying , ' Thank you Lord , for giving me the faith to believe in myself when other people had written me off . ' I 've gone through enough of my life worrying about that kind if thing . I want to encourage anyone else out there who feels like maybe they can 't overcome an obstacle , I feel like I 'm living proof ... never

lose your faith . I 'm seriously a grateful individual right now .

Throughout Australasia and Europe , the song managed to peak within the top five in several countries . In Australia , " Touch My Body " debuted at number twenty on the singles chart , during the week of April 4 , 2008 . The following week , the song reached its peak of number seventeen , where it spent two weeks , and had a total chart trajectory of ten weeks . On April 11 , 2008 , " Touch My Body " debuted at number forty @-@ five on the Ö3 Austria Top 40 chart . The song peaked at number ten , and fell out of the chart in its tenth week , while it was at fifty @-@ seven . The song achieved moderate success in both the Flemish and Wallonian territories in Belgium , peaking at numbers fourteen and thirty @-@ three , respectively . Making its debut at its peak position of number sixteen , " Touch My Body " charted for a total of nineteen weeks in France , before falling out on October 4 , 2008 . " Touch My Body " became one of Carey 's strongest charting singles in Germany , debuting at number ten on the Media Control Charts . The following week , the song moved up three places to number seven , before completing its ten @-@ week run on the singles chart . On the Dutch Top 40chart , the song made its debut at number twenty @-@ seven . Seven weeks later , the song peaked at number fourteen , before dropping outside the top 40 three weeks later , ending its eleven @-@ week trajectory . " Touch My Body " entered the New Zealand Singles Chart at number eleven , during the week dated March 31 , 2008 . In total , the song spent two weeks at its peak position of number three , and a total of ten weeks on the chart . In both Norway and Sweden , the song saw moderate success , peaking at numbers ten and fourteen , and lasting on the chart for five and six weeks , respectively . On April 20 , 2008 , " Touch My Body " debuted and peaked at number three on the Swiss Music Charts , spending a total of twelve weeks on the chart . On the Japan Hot 100 , the song peaked at number two , and the full @-@ length ringtone was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of Japan (RIAJ) . On the UK Singles Chart , " Touch My Body " debuted at number ninety @-@ nine , from just one day of release . The following week , the song leapt to number six on the chart , before peaking at number five in its third week . In total , " Touch My Body " spent thirteen weeks within the UK charts , and has estimated sales of over 120 @,@ 000 units .

= = Remixes = =

The official remix , " Touch My Body (Love / Hate Remix) " (aka " Touch My Body (Tricky Remix) ") , was produced by Carey , Christopher " Tricky " Stewart and The @-@ Dream , and feature Def Jam labelmate rapper Rick Ross on the first verse and R & B singer The @-@ Dream , who co @-@ produced the song , on the fourth verse . Aside from both their verses , Carey 's are intermingled , and featured in between and after both of the male parts .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background = = =

The song 's music video was directed by film @-@ maker Brett Ratner in Los Angeles , and features a cameo appearance from 30 Rock 's Jack McBrayer . Prior to filming the video , or releasing the single , Carey had toned her body , and lost a reported twenty pounds . Due to her slim @-@ down , she and Ratner wanted to flaunt Carey 's new figure as much as possible throughout the video : " Mariah looks better than she has ever looked . It 's ridiculous . Mariah has an incredible body , but she was always kind of very voluptuous . Now she 's just like , fit . And we were like , we 've got to show this body . " As the pair came up with the video 's plot , Ratner contacted McBrayer to play a male leading role , alongside Carey . After receiving the call , McBrayer claimed he was so shocked by the proposal , that he didn 't believe it at first . He only met with the producers after Ratner personally called him and assured him the authenticity of the offer . In an interview with MTV News , McBrayer joked " I 'm always worried now that somebody is pranking me , so at first I was very leery . But when I heard it was legit , and then later on we got a

phone call from Brett Ratner , who directed it . I was like , ' This is either a very elaborate prank , or this is the real deal . ' " In the fantasy @-@ themed story , he recalled what he considered the video 's most memorable scene , in which he and Carey , dressed in medieval attire , were walking with a unicorn . Additionally , he described the filming process as very simple , as they were given very loose directions and pointers . McBrayer claimed that during one take , they were meant to play Frisbee on the mansion lawn , and he accidentally threw it at Carey 's face , jokingly adding " by the time she spins back around ? bonk , right in her face . I threw a Frisbee in Mariah Carey 's face ! I 'm like , I 'm fired ! . " When questioned by critics regarding the song and video , Carey responded " Have you seen the ' Touch My Body ' video ? C 'mon . Clearly you must see the humour in that . Even the lyrics , ' I will hunt you down ' . If anyone doesn 't get the joke by this time then they are an idiot . " In an interview with Reuters , Carey described working with Ratner , and her experience filming the video :

I love Brett because he is like me . If I 'm eternally 12 -- because he 's a little bit more naughty than I am -- he 's eternally 15 . He has a great sense of humor , obviously , and he knows that I have a sense of humor and he feels that people don 't recognize that about me . And I 'll do stuff that I 'm totally joking and they 're like (uses mean girl voice) , " Why is she doing that ? Why is she doing the treadmill with her high heels on ? " I 'm like , " It 's a freakin ' joke ! It 's ' Cribs ' ! Hello ! It 's a freakin ' joke ! " "

= = = Synopsis = = =

The music video revolves around the fantasy of a computer store employee , as he dreams about a relationship with Carey . Throughout the video , the pair is seen to have a pillow fight ; play laser tag , Guitar Hero and slot cars ; and throw a frisbee . The video also features Carey in various revealing outfits . The video begins with a small Compu Nerd Volkswagen , parodying Geek Squad , pulling up into the driveway of Carey 's large manor . As the employee introduces himself , Carey flippantly refers to him as a " CompuNerd " , and asks him to follow her to the broken computer . As he attends to it , Carey removes her robe , and enters her large closet , leaving McBrayer to begin his fantasy with her . The first scene is of Carey wearing a tight pink number , laying seductively on the bed , as the computer employee plays with an electric guitar . He joins her on the bed , and she begins playfully spanking him as the two enter a pillow fight . Another scene is interspersed , of Carey sporting a mini silver dress , with tall socks and heels , flaunting her body . The fantasy then adapts to a new scenery , of the pair dressed in medieval clothing , while walking a unicorn , followed by the duo in a large room in the mansion , racing electronic cars . As they proceed to play laser tag , they are shown outside , laying on a picnic bed , with Carey dressed in a " naughty school girl outfit " . They both get up , and begin to throw a frisbee , before relocating in front of the main stairwell in the mansion . The final scenes of the fantasy are of Carey , wearing a shortened red gown , standing atop the staircase , and McBrayer climbing on his knees while carrying flowers . All the scenes begin to fade , with the last being Carey feeding him by hand by the refrigerator , as he wakes up with Carey , now dressed , poking him . She tells the employee that security will let him out when he is finished , and leaves him while he is still fantasizing about her .

= = = Promotion and reception = = =

The music video won in the category of " Best Comedic Video " at the 2008 BET Awards , and won the " MTV Video Vanguard Award " at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards Japan . Additionally , the video was nominated for " Best Female Video " at the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards in the United States . As the MTV Video Music Award is the only industry award for which Carey has not yet received even one trophy , she jokingly expressed to MTV News her feelings regarding the video for " Touch My Body " :

I have faith in my fans . I believe they will come through for me , because they always have . My house is not complete without an American Moonman , and I would say ' Touch My Body ' deserves one . Brett Ratner directed it , I have a unicorn in there , I have [' Guitar Hero '] in there ? who else

has that ? "

Carey appeared on several music video programs in promotion for the video 's debut . She appeared on MTV 's Total Request Live and BET 's 106 & Park on February 27 , 2008 , to premiere the video for " Touch My Body " ; BET also played the video all day , every hour on the hour , until 106 & Park aired . VH1 posted a 45 @-@ second sneak peek on their blog on February 26 , and subsequently posted the video in its entirety at midnight on February 27 , 2008 .

= = Live performances = =

Following the song 's digital release , Carey promoted the song on several live televised appearances and programs throughout the world . Only days prior to being released digitally , Carey was announced as the musical guest on an episode of Saturday Night Live , taking over for Janet Jackson who caught the flu and was unable to perform . Hosted by Jonah Hill , Carey performed both " Touch My Body " , as well as live rendition of " Migrate " alongside T @-@ Pain . Following the set , Carey and her manager at the time , Benny Medina , met with Lee Daniels , who then offered Carey a role in his film adaptation of Precious (2008) , in which Carey would later star and earn acclaim for her acting . After reaching the top of the Billboard charts , the Empire State Building was lit up in Carey 's motif colors , white , pink and lavender , for the entire week . On March 25 , 2008 , Carey was featured as the special guest performer at The Hills season premiere party , an event marking the start of a span of ten episodes airing in between season three and four . Carey , dressed in a black skirt and gold top , performed " Touch My Body " , " I 'm That Chick " and " We Belong Together " , before exiting the stage to a standing ovation . After the performance , Carey received strong praise from the program 's cast members , with Lauren Conrad saying " I 've always been a huge Mariah fan , and she 's just so beautiful and talented " , while Whitney Port and Audrina Patridge referred to Carey as " an amazing singer " , while claiming to have listened to her music from a young age .

On April 25 , 2008 , Carey opened the Good Morning America " Summer Concert Series " with a live performance in Times Square . Carey , wearing a pink mini @-@ skirt , began the set with " Touch My Body " in front of thousands of fans . During the song , Carey 's backing vocals began to malfunction , causing it to repeat phrases and play during her main vocal moments . In order to let the sound engineer know of the problem , she substituted part of the lyrics for " stop singing my part now baby " , and completed the final chorus . She continued on with " I 'm That Chick " , and completed the three @-@ song set @-@ list with her follow @-@ up single , " Bye Bye " . After marking the album 's stateside launch with her appearance on Good Morning America , Carey took to Europe to perform on several programs . She began with an interview on the British radio station , BBC Radio 1 , and continued onto a live rendition of " Touch My Body " on both The Sunday Night Project and The Paul O 'Grady Show . Similarly , Carey performed the song live on the popular German talent show , Deutschland sucht den Superstar (Germany searches for the superstar) , in April 2008 .

On August 8 , 2008 , Carey performed a mash @-@ up of the song at the 2008 Teen Choice Awards . She began with her single at the time , " I 'll Be Lovin ' U Long Time " , and worked into the bridge of " Touch My Body " , before reverting to the former song . At the Fashion Rocks ceremony in 2009 , Carey performed " Touch My Body " and her current single , " Obsessed " , as well as the remix to her 1995 song " Fantasy " . During the set @-@ list , Carey was accompanied by six men in black ties , who hoisted her into the air in front of over 6 @,@ 000 people during " Obsessed " , and rigorous dance routines throughout " Touch My Body " . Following the release of Carey 's twelfth studio album Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel (2009) , she held four concerts at The Pearl Concert Theatre , where she included the song on the set @-@ list . Similar to the performance at the Fashion Rocks ceremony , Carey was hoisted into the air several times by four to six male dancers , each of whom circled her with intricate dancing throughout the song . Carey featured similar choreography for the song during her Angels Advocate Tour (2009 ? 2010) , where it was included throughout the entire span of the tour .

= = Cover versions = =

R. Kelly , portraying " The Remix Killer " , released an unofficial remix of the song in April 2008 . During most of his section of the song , Kelly sings of shining , drinking and two @-@ stepping in a club , and he promises to kiss any place on Mariah 's body she wants : " Girl , if you let me , I 'm gonna touch it / But if I touch it , I 'm gonna wanna hit it . " Later , he mimics Carey 's bridge : " If some honies up in here that want me to touch her body / Touch it / Let me hear you say , ' I @-@ i @-@ i @-@ i do . ' " According to Kelly , the remix is unofficial , and his lyrics are freestyle rap .

During a concert in Washington , D.C. , soul singer Aretha Franklin performed a live rendition of the song . Following a piano introduction for her song , " The House That Jack Built " , Franklin segued into " Touch My Body " , and jokingly referred to the lyrics , telling the audience " As far as I 'm concerned , what starts on the floor stays on the floor . " A writer from Rap @-@ Up commented on the performance , calling it " absolutely priceless " . Similarly , a writer from the Chicago Tribune complemented Franklin 's live rendition of " Touch My Body " , calling it " simple , enjoyable and sweet " .

Producer Cyril Hahn released a remix / cover version of " Touch My Body " in 2012 that garnered positive critical attention .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for E = MC ² adapted from the album 's liner notes .

Mariah Carey ? songwriting , producer , vocals , background vocals

Terius Nash ? songwriting , producer

Christopher Stewart ? songwriting , producer

Crystal Johnson ? songwriting , producer

David Pensado ? audio mixing

Jaysen Joshua ? audio mixing

Bernie Grundman ? mastering

= = Charts and certifications = =