

= City Girl (song) =

" City Girl " is a song by the Irish alternative rock musician Kevin Shields . It is the second track from the soundtrack to the 2003 film *Lost in Translation* and was released as a standalone single in June 2003 . Recorded during summer 2002 with *Lost in Translation* 's music co -ordinator Brian Reitzell , " City Girl " was among the first original material released by Shields since *My Bloody Valentine* 's second studio album , *Loveless* (1991) ? on which he was the main composer , musician and producer .

Produced by Shields , " City Girl " has been described as a mid -tempo garage -influenced alternative rock song and since its original release , critics have drawn comparisons between it and songs from *Loveless* . An accompanying music video for " City Girl " was directed by Sofia Coppola , the director of *Lost in Translation* . " City Girl " was well received upon its release , and its inclusion on the *Lost in Translation* soundtrack , and earned Shields nominations for a number of awards ; these include a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) award for Best Film Music , an Irish Film and Television Academy (IFTA) award for Best Music in a Film and an Online Film Critics Society award for Best Original Score .

= = Origin and recording = =

" City Girl " is one of four songs Kevin Shields composed for Sofia Coppola 's 2003 film , *Lost in Translation* . Shields became involved with the film 's original score after being contacted by the film 's music co -ordinator Brian Reitzell in Tokyo , Japan . Reitzell and Shields began impromptu jam sessions in London , United Kingdom during summer 2002 , where Shields composed " City Girl " . The duo " adopted a late -night recording schedule " that consisted of them recording between midnight " and seven in the morning " . According to Shields , " it was [their] productive time . It 's basically as though the world 's disappeared . "

Describing the song 's origins in an interview with National Public Radio (NPR) , Shields said that the writing and recording of " City Girl " was " very simple , in the sense that it was just me teaching Brian the chord structure and Brian just jamming along to it . " The duo recorded an instrumental rehearsal version of the song , after which Shields said there was " no point in rerecording it . " He later wrote lyrics and recorded vocals for the song but emphasised that there was no need for " elaborations [or] overdubs . " Shields described this method of recording as a " slapdash approach " , noting that there was no " point in labouring over something ? because you don 't know what 's going to work " .

= = Music and lyrics = =

" City Girl " has been described as " mid -tempo , with an unusual repeating melody and a two -note chorus . The guitar is simple and rough , a bit garage -rock , bouncing over characteristically buried drums that seem an afterthought . " Rolling Stone noted that the song ? and other tracks Shields contributed to the *Lost in Translation* soundtrack ? feature " *My Bloody Valentine* 's ethereal sensibility , but they are more fragile in their construction , without Shields ' furious sheets of guitar . "

Shields has referred to " City Girl " 's composition as " average and vulnerable " and said of the lyrics : " It 's kind corny words , like ' I love you ' and ' you 're beautiful ' and the kind of corny , simple things that people tend to think when they actually get infatuated with somebody . " According to Rolling Stone , the song 's lyrics " aptly reflects the quiet nature of the film " and Shields has said that both he and Reitzell were " under the influence of the film " while Shields composed the song .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " City Girl " was directed by *Lost in Translation* director Sofia Coppola . The video was filmed in Tokyo , Japan ? where *Lost in Translation* is based ? and features the use of

handheld cameras , production techniques such as jump cuts , and " blurry visuals " of the city . Coppola used footage from *Lost in Translation* that was not included in the final cut alongside selected sequences from the film to create the video .

Critic Geoff King said that the " *City Girl* " music video , like others Coppola directed around the same time period , " offer little else to go on for an auteurist account . " He noted the contrast between Coppola 's direction and overall quality in the " *City Girl* " video and her music video for " *I Just Don 't Know What to Do with Myself* " by The White Stripes , which was released the same year . The music video for " *City Girl* " was included as a bonus feature on the *Lost in Translation* DVD , released on 3 February 2004 . A high definition version of the video was later included as a bonus feature on the Blu-ray release of the film , released on 7 December 2010 .

= = Release and reception = =

" *City Girl* " was released as a one-track promotional CD single in June 2003 on the Australian independent record label , Inertia . It was later released in the United States as a split 7" single with The Jesus and Mary Chain song " *Just Like Honey* " , which was also featured on the *Lost in Translation* soundtrack . The split single was a limited edition release and pressed on yellow and clear vinyl . " *City Girl* " was later included as the second track on the *Lost in Translation* soundtrack , released in August 2003 on V2 Records , alongside three other songs Shields composed for the film : " *Goodbye* " , " *Ikebana* " and " *Are You Awake ?* "

Upon its release , " *City Girl* " received moderate critical acclaim . Pitchfork Media writer Mark Richardson said that " on first listen it sounds like a demo of a pre-*Loveless* track , possibly from the *You Made Me Realise* era " and while there was " no exploration on that front ? the melody and voice are familiar and welcome . " Writing for *Stylus Magazine* , Andrew Unterberger called " *City Girl* " " a worthy opener " and added that " [the song is] where Kevin 's at right now ? making pretty pop songs . There is so little to this song that it 's almost enough to make you think Kevin 's lost his mind . " Unterberger summarised the song as " gorgeous , and definitely has that sighing quality to it that makes the film so delectable . " *Exclaim !* journalist Michael White noted that it was " the indisputable highlight of the soundtrack " and *AllMusic* 's Heather Phares described " *City Girl* " as an " open-ended piece " and " naïve [and] guitar-driven " but added that it did not compare to Shields ' compositions on *Loveless* (1991) .

" *City Girl* " was among the material that earned Shields nominations for a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) award for Best Film Music , an Irish Film and Television Academy (IFTA) award for Best Music in a Film , and an Online Film Critics Society award for Best Original Score in 2003 .

= = Track listings = =

= = Personnel = =

All personnel credits adapted from *Lost in Translation* : Original Soundtrack 's liner notes .

Performers

Kevin Shields ? vocals , guitar , production , engineering

Brian Reitzell ? drums , engineering

Technical personnel

Bryan Mills ? engineering

James Brown ? engineering

Rob Kirwan ? engineering