

= Material Girl =

" Material Girl " is a song by American singer Madonna from her second studio album Like a Virgin ( 1984 ) . It was released on November 30 , 1984 by Sire Records as the second single from the album . It also appears slightly remixed on the 1990 greatest hits compilation , The Immaculate Collection , and in its original form on the 2009 greatest hits compilation , Celebration . The song was written by Peter Brown and Robert Rans , while Nile Rodgers produced the track . Madonna explained that the concept of the song was indicative of her life at that time . She felt that " Material Girl " was provocative in its content and was attracted to it .

" Material Girl " consists of synth arrangements with a robotic voice repeating the hook . The lyrics identify with materialism , with Madonna asking for a rich and affluent life , rather than romance and relationships . Contemporary critics have frequently identified " Material Girl " along with " Like a Virgin " as the songs that established Madonna as an icon . " Material Girl " was a commercial success , reaching the top @-@ five in Australia , Belgium , Canada , Ireland , Japan and United Kingdom . It reached the number two position on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States , becoming her third top @-@ five single there .

The music video was a mimicry of Marilyn Monroe 's performance of the song " Diamonds Are a Girl 's Best Friend " from the 1953 film Gentlemen Prefer Blondes . The mimicked scenes are interspersed with scenes of a Hollywood director trying to win the heart of an actress , played by Madonna herself . Discovering that , contrary to her song , the young woman was not impressed by money and expensive gifts , he pretended to be penniless and succeeded in taking her out on a date . She has performed the song in five of her world tours ; most of her performances of the song on tour are mimicries of the song 's music video .

" Material Girl " has been covered by a number of artists , including Britney Spears , The Chipettes and Hilary and Haylie Duff . It has appeared in the films Moulin Rouge ! ( 2001 ) and Bridget Jones : The Edge of Reason ( 2004 ) . Madonna has often remarked that she regrets recording " Material Girl " as its title became a nickname for her in the mainstream media . The song has been labeled an empowering influence for women , and was the subject of debates .

= = Background = =

" Material Girl " was written by Peter Brown and Robert Rans , while Nile Rodgers produced the track . In 1986 , Madonna told Company magazine , that although she did not write or create the song , the lyrical meaning and concept did apply to her situation at that point of time . She elaborated , " I 'm very career @-@ oriented . You are attracted to people who are ambitious that way , too , like in the song ' Material Girl ' . You are attracted to men who have material things because that 's what pays the rents and buys you furs . That 's the security . That lasts longer than emotions . " During a 2009 interview with Rolling Stone , Madonna was asked by interviewer Austin Scaggs , regarding her first feelings , after listening to the demos of " Like a Virgin " and " Material Girl " . Madonna responded by saying , " I liked them both because they were ironic and provocative at the same time but also unlike me . I am not a materialistic person , and I certainly wasn 't a virgin , and , by the way , how can you be like a virgin ? I liked the play on words , I thought they were clever . They 're so geeky , they 're cool . "

= = Composition = =

" Material Girl " consists of synth arrangements , with a strong backbeat supporting it . A robotic male voice repeats the hook " Living in a material world " . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Publishing , the song is set in the time signature of common time , with a tempo of 120 beats per minute . It is set in the key of C major , with Madonna 's voice spanning from the tonal nodes of C4 to C5 . The song has a basic chord progression of F ? G ? Em ? Am @-@ F @-@ G @-@ C in the chorus , while the verses are based on the C mixolydian mode , giving a hip , swing @-@ like mood . The bassline in the song with the post @-@ disco origins is reminiscent of

The Jacksons ' " Can You Feel It " , which appeared on their 1980 album Triumph . Furthermore , the strophes remind of the refrain from Melissa Manchester 's hit " You Should Hear How She Talks About You " ( 1982 ) .

The lyrics explain that what Madonna wants is money , good clothes , the perfect life and men who are able to supply those materialistic things . A cross @-@ reference to the 1960 song " Shop Around " by The Miracles is also present . The lyrics also portray relationships in terms of capitalism as commodities , and romance becomes synonymous to trading stocks and shares . The title was a polysemy like the lyrics . It deduced Madonna as the desired and most respected woman .

= = Critical reception = =

Following the song 's release on November 30 , 1984 , as the second single from Like a Virgin , " Material Girl " received mixed reviews from music critics . Author Rikky Rooksby , in his book The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna , compared the song with those of Cyndi Lauper because of Madonna 's shrill voice in the song . He added that the song was a " pungent satire on the Reagan / Thatcher young @-@ guns @-@ go @-@ for @-@ it era . Which just goes to show that pop music and irony don 't mix . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine from Allmusic said that " Material Girl " was one of the songs that made Madonna an icon , the other being " Like a Virgin " from the same album , both remaining as a definitive statement . He added that both tunes overshadow the rest of the record , " because they are a perfect match of theme and sound . " Debby Miller from Rolling Stone , felt that the song portrayed Madonna as a more practical girl than previous female singers . Dave Karger from Entertainment Weekly , while reviewing the album in 1995 , felt that the song came off a bit repetitious and immature when compared to the present context . Jim Farber from Entertainment Weekly felt that the song provided then critics a way to criticize Madonna 's work . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine commented that Madonna had " defined a generation with hits like ' Material Girl ' . " Alfred Soto from Stylus Magazine compared the song with " Everything She Wants " by Wham ! . Michael Paoletta from Billboard commented that the song sustained a " fevered dance @-@ rock momentum . " Nancy Erlick from Billboard said that " singer and team conquer once more with their irresistible assembly of new and used pop hooks . " In 2003 , Madonna fans were asked to vote for their Top 20 Madonna singles of all time for a special issue of Q magazine dedicated to Madonna . " Material Girl " was allocated the 15th spot on the list .

= = Chart performance = =

The song debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 during the week of February 9 , 1985 , at position 43 , when " Like a Virgin " was descending out of the top ten . The single climbed the Hot 100 quickly , jumping 13 spots to number five the week of March 9 , 1985 , and eventually spent two weeks at number two , held off by REO Speedwagon 's " Can 't Fight This Feeling " and Phil Collins ' " One More Night " . The week when the song slipped to position three , her upcoming single " Crazy for You " reached number four , giving Madonna two simultaneous top @-@ five hits . " Material Girl " reached the top of the Hot Dance Club Songs but was less successful on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , failing to enter the top 40 and peaking at number 49 . It was placed at number 58 on the year @-@ end chart for 1985 , with Madonna becoming the top pop artist for the year . In Canada , the song debuted on the RPM Singles Chart at number 76 , on the issue dated February 16 , 1985 . After five weeks , it reached a peak position of four on the chart and was present on the chart for a total of 21 weeks . It was ranked at number 46 on the RPM Year @-@ End chart for 1985 .

In Australia , the song reached the top five and peaked at number four . In the United Kingdom , " Material Girl " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 24 on March 2 , 1985 and reached a peak position of number three . It was present for a total of ten weeks on the chart . The song was certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry , for shipment of 250 @,@ 000 copies of the song . According to the Official Charts Company , the song has sold 405 @,@ 000 copies there . Across Europe , the song reached the top @-@ ten in Austria , Belgium , Ireland , Netherlands ,

Spain and the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles , while reaching the top 40 of Germany , Italy and Switzerland . In New Zealand and Japan , the song reached the top @-@ five .

= = Music video = =

The music video was inspired by Madonna 's admiration of Marilyn Monroe and mimicked the latter 's performance of the song " Diamonds Are a Girl 's Best Friend " from the 1953 film *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* . It also featured actor Keith Carradine , who played Madonna 's love interest . The video was the first to showcase Madonna 's acting ability , as it combined the dance routines of " Diamonds Are a Girl 's Best Friend " with the storyline of a man who impresses Madonna with daisies , rather than diamonds . In a 1987 interview with *New York Daily News* , Madonna said :

Well , my favorite scene in all of Monroe 's movies is when she does that dance sequence for ' Diamonds Are a Girl 's Best Friend ' . And when it came time to do the video for the song [ *Material Girl* ] , I said , I can just redo that whole scene and it will be perfect . [ ... ] Marilyn was made into something not human in a way , and I can relate to that . Her sexuality was something everyone was obsessed with and that I can relate to . And there were certain things about her vulnerability that I 'm curious about and attracted to .

The music video was shot January 10 and 11 , 1985 , at Ren @-@ Mar Studios in Hollywood , California , and was directed by Mary Lambert , who worked with Madonna in the videos for " *Like a Virgin* " and " *Borderline* " . It was produced by Simon Fields with principal photography by Peter Sinclair , editing by Glenn Morgan and choreography by Kenny Ortega . Actor Robert Wuhl appeared in the video 's opening . Much of the jewelry is sourced from the collection of Connie Parente , a popular Hollywood jewelry collector . The music video was at the same time an exegesis and a critique of the lyrics and Madonna herself . It was on the set of the video that Madonna met her first husband , actor Sean Penn .

The video opens with two men watching a rush in the screening rooms of a Hollywood studio . On the screen , an actress played by Madonna sings and dances to " *Material Girl* " , dressed like Monroe from " *Diamonds Are a Girl 's Best Friend* " . One of the men , played by Carradine , is a director or a producer and is immensely rich . He falls in love with the actress and wants to express his passion for her . He tells his employee , played by Wuhl : " She 's [ Madonna ] fantastic . She could become a star . " The employee answered : " She could be . She could be great . She could be a major star . " The former then concludes by saying : " She is a star , George . " Madonna is in a pink strapless gown and has her hair in blond locks ala Monroe . The background is a reconstruction of the Monroe video , complete with staircase , chandeliers and a number of tuxedo clad chorus boys . Madonna dances and sings the song , while she is showered with cash , expensive jewellery , furs and is carried by the men over the stairs . At one time , she alludes herself from the men , by dismissing them with her fan . As the producer tries to impress Madonna , he comes to know that she does not like material things , but rather prefers simple romance . He pretends to be penniless , and brings her hand @-@ cut flowers while paying a poor man a large amount to borrow ( or possibly buy ) his dirty truck to take her on a date . His plan seems to work , because the final scene shows him and Madonna kissing in the truck in an intimate position .

It was in the video of " *Material Girl* " that Madonna began to accept and utilize herself being compared to Monroe . However , she established a safe distance from those comparisons and developed inside the same pastiche . Details like the usage of different gloves or different fans in the video brought forth the connections between these women , but Madonna alluded to herself in subtle ways . The fan in Monroe 's hand for the original video was an iconography of the Sudarshana Chakra ( wheel ) held by the Indian idol Vishnu . Scholar Georges @-@ Claude Guibert , who wrote Madonna as postmodern myth : how one star 's self @-@ construction rewrites sex , said that the fan symbolized fiery desire aroused by Monroe as well as ritual sacrifice , eerily foreshadowing her untimely death in 1962 . Madonna 's fan , which appeared at the end of the video , signified that Madonna ? while paying her tribute to Monroe ? was signaling that she had no intention of being a victim like her , and that she was on the path of becoming a feminist post @-@ modern myth . Author Nicholas Cook commented that the video promoted Madonna 's identity as

the song suggested , with the purpose of shifting " Madonna 's image from that of a disco @-@ bimbo to authentic star . " Lisa A. Lewis , author of Gender , Politics and MTV said that with the video , Madonna achieved the rare distinction of being accepted as a literature medium by the music authors . " Material Girl " was nominated for best female video at the 1985 MTV Video Music Awards but lost to Tina Turner 's " What 's Love Got to Do with It " . The video was ranked at position 54 on VH1 's 100 Greatest Videos .

= = Live performances = =

" Material Girl " was performed by Madonna on five of her world tours . She ended The Virgin Tour ( 1985 ) with a self @-@ parodying performance of the song . She wore a white tube top and a tight white skirt and carried a bunch of notes in her left hand . At the end of the performance she asked the audience " Do you really think I 'm a material girl ? ... I 'm not ... Take it [ Throwing fake money ] ... I don 't need money ... I need love . " As she began to strip off more clothes , she was apprehended and marched offstage by an extra posing as her father . In Detroit , Tony Ciccone himself did the honors . The performance was included in the VHS release Madonna Live : The Virgin Tour .

In the Who 's That Girl World Tour of 1987 , Madonna performed it as a medley with " Dress You Up " and " Like a Virgin " . She wore an elaborate costume , inspired by Dame Edna Everage . It consisted of a hat strewn with fake fruits , flowers and feathers , jeweled batwing spectacles with heavy , black frames , a ruffled skirt , a bodice covered with objects like watches and dolls and fishnets . Author Carol Clrek stated that the dress was more " ludicrous for Madonna , than humorous . " Two different performances of the song on this tour can be found on the videos : Who 's That Girl : Live in Japan , filmed in Tokyo , Japan , on June 22 , 1987 , and Ciao Italia : Live from Italy , filmed in Turin , Italy , on September 4 , 1987 .

For the Blond Ambition World Tour in 1990 , Madonna and her supporting dancers Niki Haris and Donna De Lory were dressed as old women in fluffy dressing gowns with dollar signs and curling pins in their hair . Singing the song with a strong mid @-@ western accent , they got up and revealed a frivolish pink dress underneath their gown , in which they danced around . On some dates Madonna replaced the words " experience has made me rich " with " experience has made me a bitch " . After singing , she produced dollar bills out of her corsage and threw them up in the air for the audience to catch . Two different performances were taped and released on video , Blond Ambition : Japan Tour 90 , taped in Yokohama , Japan , on April 27 , 1990 , and Blond Ambition World Tour Live , taped in Nice , France , on August 5 , 1990 . During the Re @-@ Invention World Tour of 2004 , a general setlist was decided where the show rehearsals would start with " I 'm So Stupid " from American Life , " Dress You Up " and " Material Girl " . But " Dress You Up " and " I 'm So Stupid " were later dropped from the show . Hence " Material Girl " was transferred as the closing song of the military segment of the show , and was re @-@ arranged as an electric guitar version . Madonna wore military themed clothes and sang the song while standing in front of a microphone and playing an electric guitar . The backdrops displayed mathematical equations along with DNA helixes rushing through the screens . Minimal elements of the song were included in the live performance of " Girl Gone Wild " on The MDNA Tour .

" Material Girl " was included in the final section of the Rebel Heart Tour ( 2015 ? 16 ) . For this section , Madonna worked with designer Jeremy Scott for party inspired costumes . She wanted a " Harlem @-@ flapper @-@ meets @-@ Paris @-@ in @-@ the @-@ Twenties " look , and Scott came up with the final dress adorned with thousands of Swarovski crystals . Following the jazz rendition of 2000 single " Music " , Madonna 's started performing " Material Girl " , in a similar theme like the music video . Towards the end , Madonna changed the choreography , and made her dancers who posed as suitors , to fall down the stairs instead . The performance ended with the singer walking down the catwalk in a bridal veil and carrying a white bouquet , which she eventually throws into the crowd . Utilizing the stage as both stairs as well as video backdrop , the stairs rose up and down during the song .

= = Cover versions = =

Cantopop singer Sally Yeh covered the song in Cantonese under the title " Two Hundred Degrees ( 200? ) " . The children 's show Sesame Street did a loose parody of the song in 1989 with completely different lyrics called " Cereal Girl " . The " music video " was about a monster girl who loves cereal after tasting a bowl of it . The Chipettes performed a cover version on the 1985 Alvin and the Chipmunks episode " Sisters " . In 1998 the song was sampled for the number @-@ two dance hit " If You Buy This Record ( Your Life Will Be Better ) " by The Tamperer featuring Maya . Industrial band KMFDM covered the song for the 1999 Virgin Voices : A Tribute To Madonna : Vol 1 tribute album . The same year , Britney Spears performed the song during her ... Baby One More Time Tour , calling Madonna and Janet Jackson her biggest inspirations . Deathgrind band Exhumed covered the song as part of a limited edition bonus CD for their 2004 album Platters of Splatter . Richard Cheese and Lounge Against the Machine covered the song in lounge music style on his 2004 album I 'd Like a Virgin .

Sisters Hilary and Haylie Duff recorded a cover of the song for the film Material Girls ( 2006 ) , in which they both starred . Their cover was to be produced by Lil Jon , with the released version being produced by the Dead Executives . According to Haylie , the song was to be released as a single but there was no time to shoot a music video . Icelandic singer Hafþís Huld performed the song at The Secret Garden Festival and The Big Chill in the summer of 2007 . On her sold out May 16 , 2009 , concert at the National Auditorium of Mexico City , Mexican Latin Pop singer , Yuridia performed a cover version of " Material Girl " . An avant @-@ garde / folk rock cover of the song by Mountain Party was included on the 2007 Madonna tribute compilation Through the Wilderness . The song " Marteria Girl " by the German rapper Marteria samples Madonna 's version in its chorus .

" Material Girl " was part of the " Sparkling Diamonds " medley in the 2001 film Moulin Rouge ! . In the 2004 movie Bridget Jones : The Edge of Reason , the song was used for the scene where Bridget gets out of a Thai jail . The 2006 Nintendo DS rhythm @-@ action game Elite Beat Agents contains a cover version of the song for one of the game 's levels . The level follows two celebutantes trapped on a deserted island . It also appears in the video game Karaoke Revolution Party and in Nintendo 's Wii Music , a 2008 music video game for the Wii . In 2010 , Elton John performed a cover version of " Material Girl " at the Rainforest Fund Benefit Concert .

= = Legacy = =

After the song 's release , the phrase " material girl " became another nickname for Madonna . She often remarked that " Material Girl " is the song she most regrets recording , as it became a label that has been attached to her for decades . She also said if she had known this , she probably would never have recorded it . After making the video , Madonna said she never wanted to be compared to Monroe , despite posing as the Hollywood icon and recreating many of Marilyn 's signature poses for various photos shoots , most notably a 1991 issue of Vanity Fair . Reflecting on the song , Madonna told author J. Randy Taraborrelli :

I can 't completely disdain the song and the video , because they certainly were important to my career . But talk about the media hanging on a phrase and misinterpreting the damn thing as well . I didn 't write that song , you know , and the video was about how the girl rejected diamonds and money . But God forbid irony should be understood . So when I 'm ninety , I 'll still be the Material Girl . I guess it 's not so bad . Lana Turner was the Sweater Girl until the day she died .

Academics analyzed the usage of the term material as odd because , according to them , materialistic is the correct word . However , that would have posed problems of versification for Madonna and songwriter Brown . Guilbert commented that " material girl " designated a certain type of liberated women , thus deviating from its original coinage which meant a girl who is tangible and accessible . Cook said that the meaning and impact of " material girl " was no more circumscribed by the video , rather by its song . Its influence was seen later among such diverse groups such as female versus male , gay versus straight , and academic versus teenage .

In 1993 , a conference was held at the University of California at Santa Barbara , with the subject as Madonna : Feminist Icon or Material Girl ? . The conference pondered on the duality of Madonna as both of them and deduced that the question of Madonna 's feminism is not easy to decide . Some of the feminists left the conference , citing that they had not been able to make up their minds . As the New Age concept became popular in the U.S. in the late 1990s , Madonna tried to shun the " material girl " tag , and embarked on a spiritual quest of her own . Journals like The Times and The Advocate declared her as " the Ethereal Girl " and " Spiritual Girl " respectively .

= = Track listing = =