

= Already Gone ( Kelly Clarkson song ) =

" Already Gone " is a song performed by American pop singer @-@ songwriter Kelly Clarkson from her fourth studio album , All I Ever Wanted . It is co @-@ written by Clarkson and Ryan Tedder , who also produced it . The song was released as the album 's third single in August 2009 . Lyrically , " Already Gone " is about the breakup of a relationship ; the music consists of an arrangement using a piano , drums , and string instruments .

The production and release of " Already Gone " have been surrounded in controversy . Clarkson claimed that Tedder re @-@ used the musical arrangement on the 2008 Beyoncé Knowles song " Halo " , and stated that the public would incorrectly assume that she had stolen it ; Tedder declared the accusations hurtful and false . After failing to prevent the song from being included on All I Ever Wanted because the track listing had already been finalized and the album was already being pressed , Clarkson then voiced her anger towards her record company bosses for subsequently deciding to release it as a single . The accompanying music video was directed by Joseph Kahn , who complained that he was not allowed to fully realize his vision , and stated he was unhappy with the final result . It features scenes of Clarkson dressed in a gold gown and expensive jewelry while lying on a chaise longue in an apartment . Shots of floating objects intersperse a second scene in which Clarkson , wearing a black dress , sings in a rehearsal room while surrounded by the instruments of an invisible orchestra .

Despite her dissatisfaction with the song 's release as a single , Clarkson began promoting it in July 2009 , performing it live on the Late Show with David Letterman and other talk shows . In the fall , she performed the song on VH1 Divas and at the American Music Awards . She included " Already Gone " in the encore set of her 2009 All I Ever Wanted Tour . Clarkson has also performed the song in tours after . The song has received much praise from music critics , and is regarded as one of the highlights of All I Ever Wanted . Critics have praised the song for its expressions of vulnerability , its emotional impact , and its successful use of the ballad form . It peaked at number 13 on the Billboard Hot 100 , and was certified Platinum in Canada and Gold in Australia .

= = Writing and composition = =

" Already Gone " was co @-@ written by Clarkson and OneRepublic lead singer Ryan Tedder . Tedder describes it as " an emotional , heartbreaking breakup song . " Tedder and Clarkson wrote six songs together for inclusion on Clarkson 's fourth studio album All I Ever Wanted , and " Already Gone " is one of three of those that appear on the track list .

" Already Gone " is a ballad . The music is described by Sarah Liss of CBC News as having " a pounding heartbeat , twinkly piano and swooping strings " , and by James Montgomery of MTV as having " somber piano , crashing drums and hand @-@ claps " . Eric R. Danton from The Hartford Courant explains that the piano and string arrangements " roll mournfully " over the percussion . The sheet music indicates that the song is set in common time and has a moderately slow tempo with a metronome of 74 beats per minute . It is written in the key of A major arranged in the chord progression of A ? Esus4 ? E ? F ? m ? D ? A ? Esus4 @-@ E ? F ? m ? D ? Bm ? D in the verses , and A ? Esus4 ? E ? F ? m ? E ? D ? E in the chorus . The vocal range spans from B3 to E5 .

The song 's narrative is in first person , and depicts Clarkson telling her lover that although he has done nothing wrong in their relationship , it was never meant to be and is destined for failure . She tells her partner that he " couldn 't have loved [ her ] better " , but to avoid hurting him in the future , he should move on , as she " is already gone " . Clarkson sings with what Danton describes as " layered vocals " .

= = Beyoncé similarities and Ryan Tedder feud = =

Before teaming with Clarkson to write " Already Gone " , Ryan Tedder had co @-@ written Beyoncé 's song " Halo " for her album I Am ... Sasha Fierce . Clarkson later heard " Halo " and noticed distinct similarities between the two songs , most notably in the melancholy piano , loud

drums , and handclaps in their backing tracks . She confronted Tedder about using the same arrangement , claiming that people would assume she had stolen it from Knowles . Clarkson tried to have the song removed from All I Ever Wanted , but it was too late to make any changes ; the album was already being pressed and it was not possible to make any changes to the track listing .

Tedder responded to the allegations with a statement posted on his MySpace account , arguing that the two songs are " entirely different " and that the criticism was " hurtful and absurd " . He told website Idolator that he was " absolutely livid " , and added , " If I was going around and selling the same track to the biggest artists in the world , how long would my career last ? It ? s ludicrous . [ ... ] I ? m not an idiot . I ? m not the kinda guy who ? s gonna bust my ass for ten years to try and pull a fast one on Beyoncé or Kelly . "

Clarkson fought with her bosses to prevent " Already Gone " from being released as a single , out of respect for Knowles . She wanted " Cry " to be released instead , but conceded that , " in the end , they ? re releasing it without my consent . It sucks , but it 's one of those things I have no control over ... At this point , the record company can do whatever they want with it . " Tedder , however , was pleased that the song was released , saying that he likes it more than " Halo " . The song was sent to radio airplay on August 11 , 2009 . In September 2009 , Clarkson told MTV that it was unfortunate the two songs sound exactly the same , but noted that they have different vocal melodies .

Clarkson continued feuding with Tedder in 2010 . In December 2009 , Tedder said that he was no longer angry over the accusations Clarkson made , but warned , " fool me once , shame on you ; fool me twice , shame on me . [ ... ] I don 't wanna get some crazy @-@ ass backlash or get my head snapped off for writing a hit song . " He later told The Denver Post that he had gotten over the situation and is working on new material for Clarkson 's fifth album . Clarkson , however , told the Daily Star that she is writing and recording new songs with new , low @-@ profile producers . " I don ? t like working with people who have worked with everyone . Sometimes I get blackmailed into doing so by my label , " she said , " but I prefer collaborating with people who aren 't on the grid . I don ? t want to sound exactly like other people 's records . " In May , an unreleased electro @-@ pop song by Clarkson called " Wash , Rinse , Repeat " was leaked on the Internet . The song contains auto tuned lyrics that Idolator say are likely written about Tedder : " I can 't take the pressure of new . Give me old , rip it off . / Let 's see if it sticks to the wall again . / Does it sound familiar ? Does it linger in your ear ? / Like something you remember from just last year ? " and " Music from the past , from the present , well , just last week / We will change a note and get away with it , wait and see . " Tedder said that he thinks the song was written about him , too , but admitted he likes the song . " I think Kelly speaks her mind regardless of anything . She 's great with lyrics , and I love that she is her own person . She 's no puppet . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Already Gone " received universal critical acclaim and is regarded as one of the musical and lyrical highlights of All I Ever Wanted . Ryan Brockington from The New York Post called the song a " mixture of old school Stevie Nicks and some Julia Roberts romantic comedy theme song , delivered together in true Clarkson fashion . " He continues , " she spits emotion and heart into a song that makes me want to curl up in a blanket and long for someone " . Ken Tucker from Entertainment Weekly said Clarkson " knows that the anguish she likes to sing about is enjoyed by millions of people as grandiose admissions of vulnerability . Yet the music that delivers that message is anything but vulnerable . There 's a reason they call them power ballads : a sad song blasted at full volume is a metaphor for finding strength in pain . " His point was echoed by Danton of The Hartford Courant , who stated that Clarkson " pours on the heartache " , and by Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune , who called the song an " extravagant ballad " .

Mike Ragogna added that it " already sounds timeless " in The Huffington Post . In the Houston Chronicle , Joey Guerra wrote that " ' Already Gone ' ... is a striking change of pace [ from the other songs on All I Ever Wanted ] . The tempo slows , and Tedder gives Clarkson ? s vocals a gauzy quality that synchs perfectly with the mournful lyrics . It ? s an emotive , emotional shot of electricity .

" Billboard likened Clarkson 's " ghostly delivery " to that of Sinéad O 'Connor . Jonathan Keefe from Slant Magazine said that " Ryan Tedder 's production on ' Already Gone ' is identical to Beyoncé 's ' Halo ' to the point of distraction , but [ Already Gone ] has a far stronger melody and Clarkson turns in one of her most evocative performances " . On March 5 , 2013 , Billboard ranked the song # 19 in its list of Top 100 American Idol Hits of All Time .

Not all reviews were positive , however . Jim Abbott of the Orlando Sentinel wrote that the lyrics are not unique or enlightening , and Tedder 's production on the track was disliked . Jon Caramanica from The New York Times thought that Tedder " drowns [ Clarkson ] under murky piano on ' Already Gone ' . "

= = Chart performance = =

In North America , digital sales of " Already Gone " resulted in it entering the Billboard Hot 100 and Canadian Hot 100 charts on March 28 , 2009 , at Number 70 . It dropped out of both charts the following week , and re @-@ entered them in August 2009 . It peaked at Number 13 on the Billboard Hot 100 , and Number 15 on the Canadian Hot 100 . The song peaked at Number 3 on the Hot Adult Contemporary Tracks chart , and spent a total of 51 weeks in the chart ; it reached Number 5 on Billboard 's Pop Songs chart , and it spent eight consecutive weeks at Number 1 on the Billboard Hot Adult Top 40 Tracks chart . By March 2013 , 1 @, @ 845 @, @ 000 copies of the single had sold in the US , and it was certified Platinum in Canada . Internationally , " Already Gone " had moderate success . It entered the Australian Singles Chart at Number 70 on July 13 , 2009 , peaked at Number 12 on September 13 , 2009 , and was certified Gold . In New Zealand , it peaked at Number 23 and spent eight weeks on the chart . It charted on the UK Singles Chart on August 9 , 2009 , at Number 153 and peaked at Number 66 in September . Elsewhere in Europe , the song charted in Austria , Belgium , the Netherlands , Sweden , and Switzerland .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Already Gone " was shot in Toronto , Canada , on June 20 , 2009 , at The Carlu , and was directed by Joseph Kahn , with whom Clarkson had previously worked on the videos for " Never Again " , " Walk Away " and " Behind These Hazel Eyes " . The video is set primarily in an apartment and a rehearsal room and features Clarkson " lounging on chaises and lolling around while zazzed [ sic ] out in the sort of gowns and jewels we 've yet to spot this girl @-@ next @-@ door pop star wearing in real life " . Clarkson explains that the video is a departure from her previous videos in that she is " completely glammed out . It 's the opposite of my everyday life . " The video begins with Clarkson alone in an apartment wearing a gold gown , sequined elbow gloves , and a large pearl necklace , while lying on a chaise longue . This scene alternates with a second location , where Clarkson wears a black dress , singing in a rehearsal room , surrounded by invisible members of an orchestra playing their instruments . As the video alternates back and forth between the two locations , the scenes are interspersed with slow @-@ motion shots of falling champagne glasses , floating pearls , and flying violins . It uses a shortened version of the song , cutting out the final chorus .

The video was uploaded to Clarkson 's official website on July 27 . Following its release , Kahn posted statements to his Twitter account that his vision of the video was not realized , and complained , " I don ' t think I won a single battle " . A review in Rolling Stone described the video as " boring stuff " , and Leah Collins of Dose said the video was uncontroversial , " unless there 's more meaning to those lingering shots on pearl necklaces than we thought " .

= = Live performances = =

Due to the controversy surrounding the album version 's similarity with " Halo " , and because Clarkson wanted to perform what she later called a " diva @-@ esque " version of " Already Gone " , she composed a new arrangement with her musical director Jason Halbert for performances during

her 2009 All I Ever Wanted Tour . She sings it as part of the concert 's encore . Danton was impressed by the acoustic arrangement when she performed on the first night of her tour in Uncasville , Connecticut , and Keith O 'Connor wrote in The Republican that it was one of the night 's highlights . Lori Hoffman of Atlantic City Weekly described Clarkson 's performance of the song as an " emotional wallop " and a stand @-@ out moment at Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City , New Jersey . Jocelyn Vena from MTV reported that Clarkson 's performance of the song was one of the fans ' favorite moments , and Rolling Stone noted that during her performance at Hammerstein Ballroom , New York , the audience sang " Already Gone " , and Clarkson " was happy to play cheerful conductor , holding up her mic stand to the crowd . " On October 31 , in St. Charles , Missouri , Clarkson mashed " Already Gone " with " Halo " .

Clarkson began promoting " Already Gone " on television by debuting it on the Late Show with David Letterman on July 13 , in a live performance in which she " belted out " the lyrics to the reworked arrangement . The same arrangement was used when she sang on VH1 Divas later in the year . Her performance of the song at the 37th Annual American Music Awards was graded as " B + " in the Los Angeles Times , which noted that she was " solid " and " sound [ ed ] terrific " . Jeremy Blacklow from Access Hollywood described it as " pitch @-@ perfect " .

= = Track listing = =

= = = European version = = =

= = = Australian version = = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Backing Vocals , Lead Vocals - Kelly Clarkson

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =

= = = Certifications = = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =

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= = Release history = =