

= Best Thing I Never Had =

" Best Thing I Never Had " is a song recorded by the American singer Beyoncé for her fourth studio album , 4 ( 2011 ) . It was released by Columbia Records on June 1 , 2011 , as the third single from the album . " Best Thing I Never Had " was composed by Patrick " J. Que " Smith , Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds , Symbolyc One , Caleb McCampbell , Antonio Dixon , Beyoncé , and Shea Taylor . The song was originally not written as a ballad , but was inspired by the drumming on Doug E. Fresh 's 1985 single " The Show " . Beyoncé said that anyone , regardless of gender , should be able to relate to the song .

A pop and R & B ballad , the subjects of " Best Thing I Never Had " are revenge and karma . Not wanting to feel broken @-@ hearted , the female protagonist sings that she feels happy to have left her lover , who did not recognize the potential for a happy life with her . The song was generally well received by contemporary music critics , who viewed it as a sequel to Beyoncé 's 2006 single " Irreplaceable " ? the two songs are thematically similar . They praised Beyoncé 's vocal delivery as well as the openness of the song 's message ; " Best Thing I Never Had " was deemed to have strong radio appeal . However , some lyrics , including " showed your ass " and " sucks to be you right now " , were criticized . The ballad was also likened to Vanessa Carlton 's 2002 single " A Thousand Miles " ( 2002 ) .

" Best Thing I Never Had " peaked at number 16 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart and at number four on the US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . It rose to number three on the UK Singles Chart and number two on the Irish Singles Chart among others . The song reached number one on the South Korea Gaon International Chart , the UK R & B Chart , and the US Hot Dance Club Play chart , and the top 30 in mainland Europe , Oceania , and Canada . It was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) and the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , and gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) .

The accompanying music video for " Best Thing I Never Had " was directed by Diane Martel . It shows Beyoncé getting ready for her wedding while she recalls her ex @-@ lover , who never gave her the attention she deserved . Critics generally wrote that Beyoncé looked stunning in the bridal suite , and commended her ability to sing directly to the camera when telling the subject of the song that she was the best lover he ever had . " Best Thing I Never Had " was promoted with several live performances by Beyoncé , notably at the 2011 Glastonbury Festival and on the televised ABC show The View . The song was also included on the set list for her concert 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé and other shows .

= = Writing and recording = =

Beyoncé and Patrick " J. Que " Smith wrote " Best Thing I Never Had " in collaboration with its producers Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds , Symbolyc One , Antonio Dixon , Shea Taylor , and Caleb McCampbell . According to Smith , " Best Thing I Never Had " is a ballad but was not originally written so ; early demos sounded like late 1980s hip hop material . The main inspiration for the song was the drumming of Doug E. Fresh 's song " The Show " ( 1985 ) . Smith told Gyant of Black Entertainment Television ( BET ) that he was initially intimidated at the prospect of working with Beyoncé . He was in Los Angeles when Tony Dixon telephoned him to say he and Edmonds were going to write some songs with Beyoncé . Smith was asked to join them in the studio and the trio wrote part of " Best Thing I Never Had " . After a few days , Dixon and Smith went to the studio again and completed the writing . The song was modified by Edmonds after hearing a demo ; he tweaked the lyrics and added a few more melodies .

Beyoncé 's vocals were recorded at the KMA Studio in New York City . When the trio played Beyoncé the demo of " Best Thing I Never Had " , she immediately approved it after making slight modifications . Smith says that Beyoncé was literally jumping up and down after hearing the demo . One hour later Beyoncé recorded " Best Thing I Never Had " and two other songs . Smith recalled that Beyoncé focused solely on the recording , ignoring hunger as she worked into the night . Beyoncé has stated that every man and woman can relate to the song 's subject matter because at

one point , almost everyone ends a relationship because of lack of commitment by his or her partner

= = Artwork and release = =

A private listening party for Beyoncé 's fourth studio album , 4 , was held on May 12 , 2011 . Beyoncé offered a select group of fans a preview of five songs from 4 , including " Best Thing I Never Had " . On May 20 , 2011 , a song called " End of Time " , featuring Beyoncé professing everlasting love , was leaked online , watermarked with the tag " internal use only " . Several websites , including MTV News reported that it might be released as the second single from 4 . However , these speculations were soon overshadowed by the release of " 1 + 1 " on May 25 , 2011 , a promotional single in the United States exclusively . Nevertheless , Columbia Records reported that " 1 + 1 " would not be released for airplay and that " Best Thing I Never Had " was favored as the second single from 4 , following " Run the World ( Girls ) " .

On May 27 , 2011 , Pittsburgh radio station 96 @.@ 1 Kiss FM received an email from Beyoncé 's management , informing them that " Best Thing I Never Had " would premiere on radio on June 1 , 2011 . The single debuted on US radio at 8 a.m. ( EST ) that day . Its cover artwork was also unveiled on June 1 , 2011 , on Beyoncé 's official website . It was photographed by Ellen von Unwerth and shows Beyoncé posing in a bathroom in front of a mirror while wearing a tight @-@ fitting dress designed by Lela Rae . She holds a tube of red lipstick , which has been used to write " King B " on the mirror . The song was digitally released in Australia , Canada , New Zealand , and the US on June 1 , 2011 , and in Europe on June 9 , 2011 . " Best Thing I Never Had " was released as a digital download in the UK on July 3 , 2011 , and as a CD single in Germany on July 29 , 2011 , and in the UK on August 2 , 2011 . A Digital EP containing four remixes of the song was released in Australia , New Zealand , Europe , and the UK on September 2 , 2011 .

= = Composition and lyrical interpretation = =

" Best Thing I Never Had " is a midtempo pop and R & B power ballad , which incorporates elements of gospel . The song is set in common time with a moderate tempo of 100 beats per minute , and is written in the key of G ? major . The introduction follows the chord progression of G ? ? C ? ? E ? m ? D ? , while the verses follow E ? m ? G ? sus4 ? G ? ? E ? m ? D ? 6 ? G ? sus4 ? G ? . Beyoncé 's voice spans from the low note of E ? 3 to the high note of G ? 5 . Layered female vocals provide a backing to Beyoncé 's occasionally aggressive vocals . The instrumentation includes a piano , stadium @-@ sized bass drums , and strings . " Best Thing I Never Had " is thematically a kiss @-@ off song ; it is in this respect similar to Beyoncé 's own songs " Irreplaceable " ( 2006 ) and " If I Were a Boy " ( 2008 ) .

Kyle Anderson of Entertainment Weekly wrote that elements of the ballad have emanated from Celine Dion 's " That ? s The Way It Is " ( 1999 ) , and Bruce Hornsby 's " The Way It Is " ( 1986 ) . Caryn Ganz of Yahoo ! Music wrote that " Best Thing I Never Had " resembles Vanessa Carlton 's 2002 song " A Thousand Miles " paired with Ryan Tedder 's thumping beat . Ryan Dombal of Pitchfork Media also noted that the song wouldn 't sound " out @-@ of @-@ place " on a Vanessa Carlton album . Priya Elan of NME noted that the ballad is reminiscent of Beyoncé 's own 2008 songs " Halo " and " Scared Of Lonely " , owing to its cascading piano work and drum beat . James Dinh of MTV News wrote that " Best Thing I Never Had " sounds like a song from a Broadway musical ; he attributed the comparison to Beyoncé 's collaboration with the band from Fela ! to gain inspiration from the play 's subject , Nigerian musician and composer Fela Kuti .

The song 's lyrics are about the breakdown of a relationship between Beyoncé and her lover , a situation that suits both of them . They also touch on revenge and karma , particularly the opening line , " What goes around comes back around " , the lines " Best thing I 've ever had " , " Best thing you 've never had " , and the closing line , " Sucks to be you right now " . Happy to have avoided heartbreak , Beyoncé continues to sing about her ex @-@ lover , who did not recognize the possibility of a happy relationship with Beyoncé until the relationship broke down . Beyoncé no

longer desires her lover after discovering his deceit ; as shown in the pre @-@ chorus and chorus lines , " When I think of the time that I almost loved you / You showed your ass and I saw the real you / Thank God you blew it , I thank God I dodged a bullet / I ? m so over you , so baby good looking out / I wanted you bad / I ? m so through with that / Because honestly / You turned out to be the best thing I never had / And will always be the best thing you never had . "

In the second verse , Beyoncé continues to dismiss her former lover as she sings , " So sad , you 're hurt / boo hoo ... " , over a tinkling piano riff and bass drums . She then chants the ascendant chorus , which this time features soaring strings and an uplifting aggressive piano accompaniment . Nadine Cheung of AOL Radio noted that though Beyoncé rips through the verses , she sings the chorus and bridge with restraint ; on the latter , she affirms that she has moved on in life . The song ends as Beyoncé repeatedly sings , " What goes around comes back around / I bet it sucks to be you right now " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Best Thing I Never Had " has garnered largely positive reviews from music critics who complimented Beyoncé 's vocals , the honesty in the song 's message , and its radio appeal . Gerrick D. Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times noted similarities between " Best Thing I Never Had " and Beyoncé 's previous singles including " Irreplaceable " and " If I Were a Boy " , and concluded that Beyoncé " certainly knows how to dump a man in style " . Matthew Perpetua of Rolling Stone wrote that " Best Thing I Never Had " could be " Irreplaceable Part Two " and noted that Beyoncé 's vocal performance brings depth to the song . Rich Juzwiak of The Village Voice wrote that the song is not as iconic as its reference point " Irreplaceable " , but " nor is it as shady " . He commended the optimism in the song 's lyrics . Consequence of Sound writer Chris Coplan commented that the ballad is a powerful moment of self @-@ realization , which is enhanced by Beyoncé 's vocal performance " as [ a ] wounded bird turned resilient lioness " . Choosing " Best Thing I Never Had " as the highlight of 4 , Andy Kellman of Allmusic described it as " a bombastic kiss @-@ off saved by Beyoncé 's ability to plow through it " . Kyle Anderson of Entertainment Weekly noted the moderate chart performance of " Run the World ( Girls ) " , and wrote :

" Best Thing I Never Had " finds Beyoncé mining the same kind of girl @-@ power imagery as she did on ' Run the World ( Girls ) ' . But there is something more direct and honest about the lyrics on the new single ( perhaps it 's the instant greatness of the line , ' When I think of the time I almost loved you / You showed your ass and I saw the real you ' ) . ' Best Thing I Never Had ' feels like the kind of crossover hit that will help 4 join the rest of Beyoncé 's discography in multiplatinum land .

Jessica Sinclair of Long Island Press noted that " Best Thing I Never Had " is different from " Run the World ( Girls ) " and that it shows a side of Beyoncé that listeners rarely see . Similarly , Joanne Dorken of MTV UK wrote that the song reveals " a more ferocious side to Beyoncé with it 's [ sic ] faster pace and aggressive piano backing " . Robert Copsey of Digital Spy commented that the " [ ' Best Thing I Never Had ' ] is a classic Beyoncé track waiting to happen " . Chad Grischow of IGN wrote that " the lush backing music and [ the ] soaring vocals " on the song sound suitable for an updated take on the Waiting To Exhale soundtrack album as Beyoncé is ecstatic that she ended a poor relationship before it was too late . Jon Caramainca of The New York Times commented that the " Best Thing I Never Had " has " optimistic , coffee @-@ commercial " pianos , which place Beyoncé directly in Lilith Fair territory . James Montgomery of MTV News wrote that it is one of the best ballads on the album 4 . James Dinh of the same publication added that the song has a radio @-@ friendly appeal and a catchy chorus . Similarly , Adam Markovitz of Entertainment Weekly and Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle praised the song 's radio nature , with the latter calling it " a return to form " with a " regal sound of a radio smash " . Jim Farber of Daily News wrote that the melodies and the clever lyrics of " Best Thing I Never Had " are likely to inspire significant airplay . Ricky Schweitzer of One Thirty BPM commented that even though the ballad sounds like a place @-@ filler on 4 , it remains largely superior " to the majority of the trash being churned out by Beyoncé ? s peers " .

" Best Thing I Never Had " also received a few mixed and negative reviews . Amos Barshad of New

York magazine wrote that the ballad borrows more heavily from Beyoncé 's own 2006 single " Irreplaceable " , and that " [ this ] can 't be a bad thing " . However , he noted that " this time in language ( ' Sucks to be you right now ' ) agreeable to a nation of tweens and in a manner agreeable to anyone who likes yelping along in unison to ascendant pop choruses . " David Amidon of PopMatters wrote that lines like " showed your ass " and " it must suck to be you " exemplify lame lyrics . He concluded that , " [ listeners ] are wondering how such lame lyrics could be sung with such earnestness . " Alexis Petridis of The Guardian wrote that the most interesting thing about " Best Thing I Never Had " is the curious image evoked by the chorus ' lyric , noting that everything seemed fine until " the protagonist 's former amorata ' showed your ass ' " . Music Week 's Ben Cardew commented that its 1980s sound is " not a highlight " . A negative review came from Al Shipley of The Village Voice who wrote that " Best Thing I Never Had " and " Party " were " among the album 's worst and most unrepresentative songs " .

== Recognition ==

" Best Thing I Never Had " received a nomination for Record of the Year at the 2011 Soul Train Music Awards . At the 43rd NAACP Image Award presented on February 17 , 2012 , " Best Thing I Never Had " received a nomination in the category for Outstanding Song . At the 2012 ASCAP Rhythm & Soul Awards , " Best Thing I Never Had " won in the category for Award @-@ Winning R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . The Guardian 's critic Dan Hancox placed the song at number four on his list of the 10 best songs of 2011 . On The Village Voice 's 2011 year @-@ end Pazz & Jop singles list , " Best Thing I Never Had " was ranked at number 604 .

== Chart performance ==

For the chart issue dated June 18 , 2011 , " Best Thing I Never Had " debuted at number 84 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart . The following week , the song climbed to number 75 ; the week her album 4 was released , it further moved from number 58 to number 29 on the Hot 100 chart dated July 16 , 2011 . Four weeks later , the ballad entered the top 20 , moving from number 25 to number 19 on the Hot 100 chart . For the week ending August 13 , 2011 , " Best Thing I Never Had " peaked at number 16 on the Hot 100 chart . It was last seen on the chart issue dated October 29 , 2011 , at number 67 , having spent 19 consecutive weeks on it . " Best Thing I Never Had " debuted at number 53 on the US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart issue dated June 18 , 2011 , where it was the highest debut that week . For the week ending September 24 , 2011 , the song reached number one on the Nielsen Broadcast Data Systems ( BDS ) urban airplay chart with 3765 spins , which were heard by 22 @. @ 033 million listeners . It stayed at number one for one additional week . " Best Thing I Never Had " eventually peaked at number four on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . The song reached number one on the US Hot Dance Club Songs chart , on the issue dated September 10 , 2011 . As of October 2012 , it has sold over 1 million paid digital downloads in the US .

For the week ending June 18 , 2011 , " Best Thing I Never Had " debuted at number one on the South Korea Gaon International Chart with digital sales of 85 @, @ 742 copies . The following week , it remained at number one and sold twice as many copies , amassing 174 @, @ 773 digital sales . As of October 2012 , the single has sold over 1 @. @ 1 million copies in South Korea .

On June 13 , 2011 , the ballad debuted at number 29 on the Australian ARIA Singles Chart . " Best Thing I Never Had " kept fluctuating on the chart for the next five weeks until it entered the top 20 on July 25 , 2011 , at number 18 . On August 1 , 2011 , the song peaked at number 17 on the singles chart and at number six on ARIA 's urban singles chart . It was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) , denoting shipment 70 @, @ 000 copies . " Best Thing I Never Had " debuted on the New Zealand Singles Chart on June 26 , 2011 . On its fifth week on the chart , it peaked at number five . On August 14 , 2011 , the song was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) , denoting shipment 7 @, @ 500 copies .

Before the song 's official release in the United Kingdom , " Best Thing I Never Had " debuted at

number three on the UK Singles Chart and number two on the UK R & B Chart on July 4 , 2011 , selling 51 @, @ 365 copies that week . Music Week 's Alan Jones attributed the high sales to Beyoncé 's performance at the 2011 Glastonbury Festival . It became Beyoncé 's sixteenth top 10 UK single as a solo artist , and her highest charting UK single since " If I Were a Boy " peaked at number one in November 2008 . On July 17 , 2011 , " Best Thing I Never Had " reached number one on the UK R & B Chart , and the UK Airplay Chart the following week , amassing 71 @. @ 58 million listener impressions . It became Beyoncé 's fourth single as a solo artist , and seventh , including her singles with Destiny 's Child , to reach number one on that chart The song was last seen in the top 100 of the UK Singles Chart on January 8 , 2012 , having spent 28 weeks on the chart . " Best Thing I Never Had " debuted at number 35 in the Irish Singles Chart on June 16 , 2011 . Although the song fell to number 42 the following week , it began to continually climb the chart as from June 30 , 2011 , and entered the top 20 four weeks later . On July 14 , 2011 , " Best Thing I Never Had " entered the top 10 at number six , and peaked at number two the following week , becoming Beyoncé 's fourteenth single as a solo artist to peak inside the top 10 on the Irish Singles Chart .

= = Music video = =

= = Background and concept = = =

The music video for " Best Thing I Never Had " was directed by Diane Martel , and filmed in Westchester County on June 15 , 2011 and in Fort Greene , Brooklyn , on June 16 , 2011 . On June 20 , 2011 , it was reported that Beyoncé would not play the prom queen in the video . Beyoncé said that not being prom queen in the video reminded her of how she never wore the coveted tiara at her own high school dance . She added that she felt strange because her father , Mathew Knowles , did not escort her down the aisle in the wedding scene , as he had when she married Jay @-@ Z in April 2008 . The wedding scene was filmed at Sleepy Hollow Country Club on June 15 , 2011 . In July 2011 , Beyoncé was interviewed by Access Hollywood , where she said of the video 's set :

It was a little strange . And definitely when I walked down the aisle I was like , ' This is kind of creepy ? there ? s some other man standing there ! ' It was really beautiful . People were all really excited like it was really my wedding . My mother was even like , ' Aww ' , and I was like , ' Mom , it 's a video . This is not my dress . This is not the real wedding . ' But I think it ? s just one of those moments that every woman kind of fantasizes and relives .

Beyoncé said that the wedding dress she wears in the video was a Baracci one , which she saw in a shop window a year ago when she was at the 52nd Grammy Awards . She added that the dress was " just like a beautiful fantasy , so we called and they still had the dress " . Beyoncé also wears a tiara designed by Lorraine Schwartz , who converted it from a necklace . Beyoncé said that the wedding outfit made her feel " like royalty ... like a queen " . She added that the music video wedding was more chaotic than her real wedding in 2008 , " This may have been a little more crazy , actually . I had to sing at the same time ! " The ivory draped V @-@ neck gown which Beyoncé wears in the video was designed by the Chinese @-@ American fashion designer Vera Wang . The video premiered online at 8 pm ( EST ) on July 7 , 2011 . It was available for digital download on June 9 , 2011 .

= = Synopsis = = =

The music video begins with Beyoncé preparing herself for her wedding ceremony . She is in her boudoir wearing a lacy corset and a lingerie combo with garters . As the song begins , Beyoncé looks towards the camera , addressing the viewer while affirming the subject of the song that she was the best he ever had . The video moves from Beyoncé playing with a tiara , a veil and tulle netting on a bed , to various stages of getting dressed . Between scenes , flash back scenes of Beyoncé in high school are shown . Beyoncé is seen with a high school boyfriend at their senior

@-@ prom night on May 16 , 1998 . As Beyoncé and her boyfriend dance , he becomes interested in another girl , leaving Beyoncé alone on the dance floor . The video then returns to the present , with Beyoncé in her final preparations before her marriage . She is shown wearing a white gown and singing at sunset atop a grassy hill , followed by a scene of her walking down the aisle and exchanging vows . Her former lover is shown at the prom , deep in thought , with his prom king crown askew on his head . Beyoncé and her new husband are seen celebrating at a happy and well @-@ attended reception . The groom removes the bride 's garter with his teeth and they start dancing with their younger family members . The final scene features Beyoncé looking into the camera looking happy and satisfied . She walks off confidently to rejoin her wedding party and new husband , and then the screen fades to black .

= = = Reception = = =

Entertainment Weekly 's Adam B. Vary wrote that Beyoncé was " at her peak ? in voice , in looks , in taste in opulent wedding gowns " . A Rolling Stone 's critic commented Beyoncé was looking stunning in a bridal suite , adding that the most disarming thing about the clip is that she sings directly to the camera . The review concludes that , " the video hits all of its marks perfectly , conveying all of the nuances in the lyrics while providing a lovely , memorable visual . " The Washington Post 's Sarah Anne Hughes wrote Beyoncé is " extravagantly dressed " in the video adding that the only downside is that there is no dance in the tradition of " Single Ladies ( Put a Ring on It ) " ( 2008 ) . Kara Warner of MTV News called " Run the World ( Girls ) " and " Best Thing I Never Had " , " as different as night and day " adding that the same thing happened with their music videos . Werner further praised Beyoncé ' " gorgeous " dress and added that it " will likely land on a few style blogs soon , given its embroidered and jeweled details , not to mention the silk bows and ruching on the sides " . A writer of The Huffington Post described the video as a transition to the one for " Run the World " . Cristina Everett of Daily News noted that the look of satisfaction and happiness on her face make the video the best revenge for her ex @-@ lover . Pitchfork Media 's Tom Breihan noted that Beyoncé was looking " makeup @-@ commercial @-@ flawless " . He also wrote that if country singer Kellie Pickler remade the video shot @-@ for @-@ shot , it would never leave CMT rotation for it is " a perfect CMT video " .

Andrea Magrath of Daily Mail compared Beyoncé with Maria von Trapp in the video . Erika Ramirez of Billboard magazine praised the video , " What better way to show your ex they 're the best thing you never had than with saying ' I Do ' to someone bigger and better in a Baracci Beverly Hills wedding gown . " Jason Lipshutz of the same publication described it as a " smile @-@ inducing clip with a dream wedding " . A writer of Rap @-@ Up praised the video 's " fairytale " ending . Gordon Smart of The Sun described the white corset that Beyoncé wore in the video as sexy and wrote that " her ex will be feeling a bit of a mug watching it when he remembers what he 's missing out on . " Ashleigh Rainbird of the Daily Mirror found Beyoncé , " looking sexy in white lacy undies and garter ? and later in a Big Fat Gypsy Wedding @-@ style frock " . Amos Barshad of New York magazine commented , " To just full @-@ on hammer down the whole ' mature and settled down and happy ' thing , Mrs. Hova saunters around with the most irrepressible smile you 've ever seen , shimmying amazingly ( note the moves at 3 : 30 ) as home footage of that jerk she threw away like a parking ticket cuts in and out . " The music video peaked at number one on the UK TV Airplay Chart , logging 634 plays on July 24 , 2011 .

= = = Alternate video = = =

On July 26 , 2011 , Beyoncé announced plans to make an alternative music video for " Best Thing I Never Had " . She asked her fans to send pictures from their weddings or prom day experiences , which would be included in a re @-@ edited version of the video . This alternate video was scheduled for release in September 2011 . However , it premiered on October 11 , 2011 , on Celebuzz . Charli Penn of Essence magazine praised the alternate video for " Best Thing I Never Had " calling it a " must @-@ see " video and adding that " it has already become a huge hit with

fans " .

= = Live performances = =

Wearing a pink fringe dress , Beyoncé performed " Best Thing I Never Had " live for the first time during her concert at Palais Nikaia in Nice , France on June 20 , 2011 . She then sang the ballad on June 26 , 2011 , at the 2011 Glastonbury Festival , where she was the closing act , and the first major solo female headliner to appear on the Pyramid stage in over twenty years . She was wearing a low @-@ cut and sequined gold jacket while performing . Beyoncé 's performance of " Best Thing I Never Had " at the Glastonbury Festival was broadcast in the US during the 2011 BET Awards later the same day . On June 28 , 2011 , she performed the song during the finale of X Factor France , dressed in a Roman @-@ style dress . On July 1 , 2011 , Beyoncé gave a free concert , including on Good Morning America as part of its Summer Concert Series . Wearing a yellow fringe dress and gold stilettos , she sang " Best Thing I Never Had " . Dressed in a black gown , Beyoncé sang the ballad at Macy 's 35th Annual July 4 Fireworks Spectacular to an audience , which included serving members of the armed forces .

Beyoncé performed " Best Thing I Never Had " on The View and on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon . During the performance on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon , she was dressed in white dress and backed by house band The Roots . Brad Wete of Entertainment Weekly wrote that Beyoncé " flipped the track three ways ? first " as she performed it in its piano @-@ driven as heard on the album , then adopted a funky style to chant the second verse , before ending in jazzy fashion on the bridge . Caroline Shin of New York magazine described Beyoncé 's performance as powerful . She performed " Best Thing I Never Had " on August 14 , 2011 during the 4 Intimate Nights with Beyoncé revue , held at the Roseland Ballroom , in New York City . Wearing a gold dress , Beyoncé sang it to an audience of 3 @,@ 500 , and was backed by her all @-@ female band as well as her backing singers , called the Mamas . Maura Johnston of The Village Voice wrote that the fans who attended the show , " were able to watch her bask in their singing the supremely confident ' Irreplaceable ' and ' Best Thing I Never Had ' as fearlessly as they might at home . " Jon Caramanica of The New York Times wrote that the performance " hums beautifully but not powerfully " , and added that Beyoncé was " practically in earth mother mode , a healer curing her minions " . During the ITV special A Night With Beyoncé which aired on December 4 in the United Kingdom , Beyoncé performed the ballad to a selected crowd of fans . She was dressed in a corseted gown with a long leather train .

= = Other versions and cover versions = =

Smith posted the original version of the song on his website , The Super Random , on July 28 , 2011 . On August 18 , 2011 , rappers and producers Lil Jon and Shawty Putt revealed their DJ Kontrol Remix of " Best Thing I Never Had " . The song was remixed to incorporate elements of funk and hip hop genres , according to Rap @-@ Up . Lil Jon mixed Beyoncé 's vocals over a sample of The Gap Band 's 1982 single , " Outstanding " . This remix features percussive beats and a rap verse by Putt .

The Horrors , an English new wave band , performed a cover version of " Best Thing I Never Had " during an edition of the Live Lounge on BBC Radio 1 . Chris Coplan of Consequence of Sound wrote , " [ ... ] reworking the song from fierce anthem to a decidedly Smiths @-@ ian weep @-@ fest , the lads struck the perfect balance between the sass of the original and their own depressing sound . " Krissi Murison of NME commented that their cover was " undoubtedly the greatest song psychedelic shoegaze never had " . " Best Thing I Never Had " was also covered by The X Factor contestant , Craig Colton , during the second week of the competition , in accordance with the theme ' Love and Heartbreak ' .

= = Formats and track listings = =

Digital download

" Best Thing I Never Had " ? 4 : 12

German CD single

" Best Thing I Never Had " ? 4 : 13

" Run the World ( Girls ) " ( Kaskade Club Remix ) ? 5 : 03

Digital Remixes EP

" Best Thing I Never Had " ( Gareth Wyn Remix ) ? 6 : 33

" Best Thing I Never Had " ( Olli Collins & Fred Portelli Remix ) ? 6 : 23

" Best Thing I Never Had " ( Billionaire Remix ) ? 4 : 40

" Best Thing I Never Had " ( Moguai Remix ) ? 6 : 17

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from 4 liner notes .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =