

= Love Is a Camera =

" Love Is a Camera " is a song performed by English recording artist Sophie Ellis @-@ Bextor for her fifth album *Wanderlust* (2014) . Ellis @-@ Bextor co @-@ wrote the song with Ed Harcourt , who also produced the track . Its lyrics recount the story of a woman who takes photos of her victims and keeps their souls in the pictures . Musically , the song features piano , guitars , double bass , and influences of tango and baroque . " Love Is a Camera " was serviced to hot adult contemporary radio stations in the United Kingdom as the third single from *Wanderlust* . The song was released on 23 June 2014 .

Upon release , its lyrics and composition attained praise and ambivalence from music critics . To accompany the song 's release , Sophie Muller was enlisted as the director for the music video of " Love Is a Camera " , which was filmed in the Italian city of Florence . Its storyline features Ellis @-@ Bextor impersonating two characters , one being a " temptress " and the other being an unsuspecting woman . The former convinces a man who is attracted to her , and the latter , to take their picture ; the unsuspecting characters are ultimately trapped in their portraits . The track has been performed during Ellis @-@ Bextor 's gigs , for promoting her record *Wanderlust* .

= = Composition and reception = =

" Love Is a Camera " was the first song to be developed for Ellis @-@ Bextor 's fifth record , *Wanderlust* . Ellis @-@ Bextor co @-@ wrote the song with its producer Ed Harcourt . Harcourt produced the track . David Farrell of *PopMatters* described the track as a " plodding tango " , while *The Daily Telegraph* writer Neil McCormick deemed it an " elaborate baroque quasi @-@ ballad " . From *The Irish Times* , Louise Bruton called the song a " hectic slice of vaudevillian fun " . Its instrumentation comprises " florid " guitar chords , " stalking " pianos and a double bass played by Harcourt . Andy Gill of *The Independent* credited the first two instruments with providing " an Iron Curtain feel " to the track . The final part of the song ? characterised by *Time Out* reviewer Clare Considine as one of *Wanderlust* 's " more energetic moments " ? incorporates a " gypsy polka " sound . During that part , Ellis @-@ Bextor 's voice is paired with an " increasingly frantic piano " .

The song 's lyrics were influenced by Russian folklore . Ellis @-@ Bextor denoted her literary choices ? as a child and a student ? as influences for the song , listing Russian fairytales , folk stories and Emily Dickinson 's works as examples . She took inspiration from the humour and mystery from the serial drama *Twin Peaks* . " Love Is a Camera " narrates the story of a " spooky old " woman who lives " in a house on the hill " , and takes pictures of individuals , only to preserve their souls in the photographs " behind glass " . Farrell interpreted that the protagonist took their photographs to " preserve their memories " .

Farrell exalted the lyricism of the song , stating that " Sophie 's music has never sounded so lyrically rich " and her " storytelling skills " were visible in it . Considine named the song a " welcome break from lullabies (such as ' The Deer and the Wolf ') that risk monotony " on the album . Conversely , *AllMusic* 's Stephen Thomas Erlewine described " Love Is a Camera " as a " bogged down in pretension " moment in *Wanderlust* ; Erlewine went on to criticize the song 's " ceaseless pomp " . Kate Bennett of *musicOMH* wrote that " Love Is a Camera " was " more of the same " " heroine @-@ gazing @-@ forlornly @-@ into @-@ the @-@ distance . " She elaborated , " You 'd have to have a heart of cold , igneous rock not to enjoy [this track] just a little , but if you were never a member of your local youth theatre company the sticky @-@ sweetness of it all quickly becomes cloying . " The song peaked at number 32 on the UK Airplay Chart , while on the UK Indie chart it reached number 33 .

= = Release and promotion = =

As announced in a press release , " Love Is a Camera " was released as the third single of *Wanderlust* on 23 June 2014 . The song was serviced to hot adult contemporary stations in the United Kingdom ; it was included in the A @-@ List of BBC Radio 2 . A promotional Compact Disc

single was sent out to radio stations , including a shortened version of the song , dubbed its " radio edit " .

Sophie Muller directed the music video for " Love Is a Camera " , which was released on 30 May 2014 . The video commences with Ellis @-@ Bextor , who impersonates an " eerie temptress " dressed in a black " ankle @-@ length , lace @-@ trimmed " gown , walking and dancing slowly inside a classical mansion . Exploring the divisions of her house , she starts adjusting picture frames , which hold monochromatic photographs of individuals . One of those pictures depicts a short @-@ haired woman , dressed in white ? also played by Ellis @-@ Bextor ? who starts mimicking the song , whilst in the frame . The story of the woman in the frame is told throughout the video ? after crossing a field , she finds the mansion . Her photograph is taken by the dressed @-@ in @-@ black Ellis @-@ Bextor , and she is trapped in the frame . Whilst walking down a staircase , the " temptress " passes by a bearded man who stares at her interestingly . Both enter the mansion , where they drink ; the dressed @-@ in @-@ black Ellis @-@ Bextor holds his hand . She convinces him to take his photograph , and after realizing it is a trap , he tries to escape . However , the " temptress " finds him running and takes his photograph ; trapping him in a frame as well .

" Love Is a Camera " has been performed throughout Ellis @-@ Bextor 's 2014 tour in promotion of Wanderlust . Whilst singing the track , Ellis @-@ Bextor would reference her participation on Strictly Come Dancing and dance a " half @-@ hearted sway " , as musicOMH 's Helen Clarke described it . Reviewing her concert at the Bush Hall , James Lachno of The Daily Telegraph lauded Ellis @-@ Bextor 's performance of the song . Lachno stated , " [It was] one of the oddest , and best , songs of the night . " After attending Ellis @-@ Bextor 's concert at the Oran Mor , an anonymous writer for The Scotsman commented that the song " sounded grand in the live setting " .

= = Track listing = =

Promotional CD single

Details adapted from the liner notes of " Love Is a Camera " ' s CD single .

" Love Is a Camera " (Radio edit) ? 3 : 21

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Wanderlust .

Sophie Ellis @-@ Bextor ? lead vocals , songwriting

Ed Harcourt ? backing vocals , guitar , keyboards , piano , production , samples , synth

Arnulf Lindner ? double bass

Richard Woodcraft ? engineering , mixing

Miles Showell ? mastering

= = Weekly charts = =

= = Release history = =