

= Who Is It (Michael Jackson song) =

" Who Is It " is a song by American recording artist Michael Jackson . It was released by Epic Records on August 31 , 1992 , as the fifth single from Jackson 's eighth studio album , Dangerous (1991) . The song was written and composed by Jackson , and produced by Jackson and Bill Bottrell . The song 's lyrics pertain to despair over being left by someone you love ; some critics noted a comparison to the lyrics of the song to Jackson 's single , " Billie Jean " , from the album Thriller . As part of the promotion for the song , two music videos were released in 1992 . The song was not performed by Jackson on any of his world concert tours . He did , however , perform a small segment of the song in his interview with Oprah Winfrey in early 1993 . An instrumental portion of the song was supposed to be used during the This Is It comeback concerts in London , which were canceled due to Jackson 's death .

= = Background and composition = =

" Who Is It " was recorded by Michael Jackson in 1990 for his eighth studio album , Dangerous , which was released the following year . Jackson wrote and composed the track , and produced it with Bill Bottrell . It was released as the fifth single from Dangerous on August 31 , 1992 , by Jackson 's record label , Epic Records . The lyrics of the song tell of a man who is left in despair when his lover suddenly leaves him . He learns that she was unfaithful to him and wants to know with whom the person was that she cheated .

= = Reception = =

Several music critics compared " Who Is It " to Jackson 's 1983 single " Billie Jean " . Jon Pareles , a writer for The New York Times , described " Who Is It " as an " imitation " of " Billie Jean " . Chris Willman of the Los Angeles Times claimed that the track " recaptures some of the slinky , insinuating feel of ' Billie Jean . ' " Jonathan Bernstein , a writer for Spin , wrote that " Who Is It " was " close skin to " Billie Jean " . Alan Light of Rolling Stone noted that unlike his previous efforts , it is about betrayal .

" Who Is It " was commercially successful worldwide , generally peaking within the top 30 positions on national music charts . The song peaked at number 14 on the United States ' Billboard Hot 100 chart , while peaking at number six on Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , as well as topping the Billboard Hot Dance Club Play . Internationally , " Who Is It " reached the top 20 in several countries . The song debuted on the United Kingdom music chart at number 12 on July 25 , 1992 , and the following week reached its peak position , number 10 . It remained within the top 100 positions for seven consecutive weeks from July to September 1992 . In France , the track peaked at number eight on August 29 . " Who Is It " reached its lowest peak position at number 34 in Australia .

In Austria , the track debuted at its peak position , number five ; the song remained within the top 30 chart positions from August to October . " Who Is It " debuted in Switzerland on August 2 , at number 40 , and peaked at number 14 two weeks later . The song debuted at number 94 in the Netherlands , and the following week moved up 60 positions , eventually peaking at number 13 . In Sweden , the track entered the country 's music chart at its peak position , number 24 and , after four weeks , fell out of the top 50 . In Norway , the track debuted at its peak position , number 10 on the 30th week of 1992 ; the song charted at its peak position for two weeks before falling off the chart . The song also peaked at number 16 in New Zealand . After Jackson 's death in June 2009 , his music experienced a surge in popularity . " Who Is It " re @-@ entered the Switzerland music charts for the first time in over 17 years , hitting number 49 on July 12 , 2009 .

= = Music video = =

Directed by David Fincher , the music video for " Who Is It " was released in 1993 .

It begins with Jackson in what seems to be a hotel , singing about his girlfriend . He is distressed because he found a silver card in with the name " Alex " on it . To him , it implies that " Alex " is another man who his girlfriend is with ; thus , she is cheating on Jackson . However , as the story in the video unfolds , this is not true , because the girl takes on different identities (I.e. Eve , Diana , etc .) for her job as a high class call girl . " Alex " (which is also a girl 's name) , just happens to be one of them . The video alternates scenes from where Jackson is singing about his pain , to where the girl is being changed into her different identities and taking care of her jobs (mostly meeting with other men and even some women and sleeping with them) . Towards the end of the video , Jackson has packed up his bags to leave town , because of his distress . A helicopter comes to pick him up from his house . The girl comes to Jackson 's house and she asks his assistant (who knows the situation and aided Jackson in his departure) to let her in . The assistant shakes his head , implying that he left . When she asks why , he drops a flutter of silver nameplates (including the one that said " Alex ") from a slot in the door . After that scene , Jackson is seen sleeping and smoke floats out the side of the screen . The girl regrets and takes off her makeup to quit what she was doing .

This version did not initially air in the USA but was included on the video albums : Dangerous : The Short Films and Michael Jackson 's Vision .

Another version of the video features footage from past music videos and live performances . This is the version that first aired in the USA .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

= = Chart performance = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =