

= Dangerously in Love =

Dangerously in Love is the debut studio album by American recording artist Beyoncé . It was released on June 24 , 2003 by Columbia Records . During the recording of Destiny 's Child 's third studio album , Survivor (2001) , the group announced that they would produce solo albums to be released . Recording sessions for the album took place from March 2002 to March 2003 at several studios , during the hiatus of her then @-@ group Destiny 's Child . As executive producer of the album , Beyoncé took a wider role in its production , co @-@ writing a majority of the songs , choosing which ones to produce and sharing ideas on the mixing and mastering of tracks .

The tracks in the album are a mixture of uptempos and ballads , which are basically inspired by R & B and soul genres ; it also features elements of hip hop and Arabic music . Although Beyoncé remained discreet about her interpretation of the songs , its underlying meanings were attributed by music writers as an allusion to her intimate relationship with then @-@ boyfriend and well @-@ known music mogul Jay @-@ Z. Dangerously in Love received positive reviews from music critics upon its release , with critics praising Knowles ' " artistic leap " . The album also received numerous accolades , earning Beyoncé five Grammy Awards .

Dangerously in Love propelled Beyoncé in becoming a viable solo star , as well as one of the most marketable singers in the recording industry . It became a worldwide commercial success , earning multi @-@ platinum certifications in Australia , the United Kingdom , and the United States . The album debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 chart , selling 317 @,@ 000 copies in its first week , earning Beyoncé the highest debut sales among Destiny 's Child members ' solo albums . Dangerously in Love has sold over 5 million copies in the United States as of 2016 and an estimated 11 million copies worldwide as of 2011 , and has produced two number one Billboard singles and multiple top tens .

= = Background = =

Beyoncé launched her career as lead singer to R & B group Destiny 's Child in the late 1990s . According to Corey Moss of MTV News , " fans are eager to see " how Beyoncé , after years with the group , performs solo . While recording their third album , Survivor , in late 2000 , Beyoncé announced the group would be put on hiatus in order for the members to produce solo albums in the coming years , which they hoped would boost interest in Destiny 's Child . The idea of individual releases emanated from the group 's manager and Beyoncé 's father , Mathew .

With different types of music for each member to produce , the albums were not intended to compete on the charts . Destiny 's Child 's management strategically planned to stagger the release of each group member 's album to maximise sales . Michelle Williams was the first to release a debut solo album , Heart to Yours , in April 2002 . Meanwhile , Beyoncé debuted on the big screen , starring in the comedy film Austin Powers in Goldmember , and recorded her debut single , " Work It Out " , which is featured on the soundtrack to the film . Rowland collaborated with American rapper Nelly on the song " Dilemma " as a featured artist ; it became a hit that year , leading the label to advance the release date of her debut solo album , Simply Deep , in late 2002 . Beyoncé also starred in The Fighting Temptations and recorded another solo single . In August 2002 , she collaborated with boyfriend Jay @-@ Z as featured vocalist on the song " ' 03 Bonnie & Clyde " . The single earned Beyoncé credibility and paved the way for the release of Dangerously in Love .

= = Recording = =

Before Beyoncé began recording for Dangerously in Love , she selected the producers with whom she would collaborate . For two days , she held meetings with prospective producers from the West Coast across the East Coast , and had interviews with them . Beyoncé went to Miami , Florida to begin sessions with Canadian record producer Scott Storch , her first collaborator , and lived in a Miami hotel in the following months . As she wanted to concentrate on the album , Beyoncé took her time to avoid pressure build @-@ up , significantly different from the hasty productions of Destiny 's

Child .

As she did on Survivor , Beyoncé took a wider role in the production of Dangerously in Love , co-writing a majority of the songs , choosing which ones to produce and sharing ideas on the mixing and mastering of tracks . Although Beyoncé did not create beats , she came up with melodies and ideas she shared with the producers . With 43 songs completed ? 15 of which made it to the album ? Beyoncé is credited as co-writer and co-producer , as well as the album's executive producer alongside Matthew Knowles .

Beyoncé felt that recording an album without her group mates was " liberating and therapeutic " , coming into the studio and freely expressing her ideas with her collaborators . The dependency she developed with Destiny 's Child , however , meant it was harder " to be on [her] own creatively " . As she wanted to grow as an artist Beyoncé contacted other artists with a view to forming a collaborative partnership . When the collective finished writing several songs , she printed copies of each and sent them to prospective guest artists . She talked to them by phone for possible collaboration , eventually gaining their approval . Besides Jay-Z , Beyoncé was able to work with Jamaican artist Sean Paul , American rapper Missy Elliott , among others . In contrast , some artists sent copies of songs to Beyoncé , which were eventually produced . Additionally , Beyoncé also worked with Timbaland and Missy Elliott on a track titled " Wrapped Around Me " for the album . Eventually , however , for reasons unknown , the song failed to appear on the album .

Dangerously in Love was originally a song of the same title which Beyoncé had written for Survivor . The song was deemed too sophisticated compared to other songs on Survivor , and the group decided not to release it as a single off the album . After recording several tracks for Dangerously in Love , Beyoncé decided to add " Dangerously in Love " , after realizing that it fit the overriding theme of the album . Since the album's release date was postponed to capitalize on the success of " Dilemma " , Beyoncé had been offered the chance to further enhance the album . Although she was disappointed with the move , Beyoncé realized that " everything happens for a reason " , agreeing to return to the recording studio to work with other songwriters . This allowed her to record more songs , including the album's lead single , " Crazy in Love " . In late 2002 , Beyoncé paused working on Dangerously in Love for a holiday tour with Destiny 's Child . With a few weeks left for recording in March 2003 , Beyoncé was still collaborating with other guests on the album , including Sean Paul and P. Diddy .

= = Music and lyrics = =

Beyoncé 's mother's manager said that Dangerously in Love showcases her musical roots . While Williams and Rowland were on gospel and alternative pop , respectively , Beyoncé focused on recording R & B songs . Songs in the album are varied : from mid-tempo and club-oriented tracks in the first half , and ballads in the second half . Beyoncé commented : " My album is a good balance of ... ballads and ... mid-tempos with just ridin' -in your car feels , to a lot of ... up-tempo club songs , to really sexy songs , to songs that make you feel emotional . It's a nice mixture of different types of tracks . " Although the album contains high-energy songs like " Crazy in Love " and " Naughty Girl " , the album's focal mode , however , is slow and moody . Beyoncé said that she had written lots of ballads for the album . According to Beyoncé , she wanted to be understood as an artist and showcase her range , and by doing so , she blended various genres and musical influences in the album . The album incorporates R & B , hip hop , soul and reggae influences . The album took hip hop influences from Jay-Z , Outkast , and Lil ' Kim ; the reggae is from Sean Paul ; and courtesy of Storch , the album explores Arabic music . His personal study of that kind of music gave the album a Middle Eastern vibe . Beyoncé and the producers also used a wide array of instrumentations .

When " ' 03 Bonnie & Clyde " was released as a single in late 2002 , critics and the public had speculated that Beyoncé and Jay-Z were having a mutual affair . Despite widespread rumors , they remained silent about their relationship . According to critics , the title itself of the album sounded " more intriguing " with Beyoncé singing personal songs . Though love is the theme Beyoncé had incorporated in the album , " most the material is vague enough to be about any

relationship " ; however , there are songs that suggested affirmation of their relationship . In the song " Signs " , Beyoncé sings about being in love with a Sagittarius , which coincidentally is Jay @-@ Z 's zodiac sign . In response to the persistent rumors about them , Beyoncé stated , " People can come to whatever conclusion they like ... That 's the beauty of music ... I 'm a singer , I 'll talk about writing songs all you want . But when it comes to certain personal things any normal person wouldn 't tell people they don 't know , I just feel like I don 't have to [talk about it] . "

Beyoncé said that *Dangerously in Love* is lyrically similar to Destiny 's Child 's albums . But because she only had to write for herself , Beyoncé had the chance to compose personally deeper songs than her previous records with the group . With a theme that is based upon different stages of a romantic relationship , *Dangerously in Love* contains songs that speak of love and honesty . In addition , Beyoncé admitted that there are songs about love @-@ making . The personal content of the album , however , was not generally attributed to Beyoncé 's own experiences ? although some were based from hers ? instead , the theme kept recurring in her mind . Beyoncé later explained : " I wanted to have an album that everyone could relate to and would listen to as long as I 'm alive and even after ... Love is something that never goes out of style . It 's something everybody experiences , and if they are not in love , people usually want to feel that ... " While some songs merely focus on the " beauty of love " , the album also explores another side of love , with songs that " celebrate breakup " and songs that narrate a woman 's desire to have a degree of control in a relationship . The album 's hidden track , " Daddy " , is a tribute to Beyoncé 's father , Mathew Knowles , who fronted Destiny 's Child as their manager . The song is an account of Beyoncé wanting her future husband and child to possess qualities similar to her father 's . Originally , Beyoncé did not intend to include the track in the album , having thought its lyrics would make her appear immature . However , considering it one of the songs that reflected her life at that transitional moment , she instead relegated " Daddy " as the closing track .

= = Release and promotion = =

Beyoncé said that she had trouble convincing executives at Columbia Records to release the album . The singer recounted that it almost was not released : " In 2003 , I had my first solo album . But when I played it through for my record label , they told me I didn 't have one hit on my album . I guess they were kinda right , I had five . ' *Dangerously In Love* ' , ' *Naughty Girl* ' , ' *Me , Myself and I* ' , ' *Baby Boy* ' and ' *Crazy In Love* ' . " Since " *Dilemma* " was concurrently charting atop the Billboard Hot 100 , Beyoncé 's management released , " *Work It Out* " , one of the songs on the soundtrack to *Austin Powers in Goldmember* , instead of a single from *Dangerously in Love* to preclude it from possibly competing with the former .

From the original release date of October 2002 , the album was pushed to December in the same year , and to May in the following year . Beyoncé recorded a version of " *In da Club* " , and served its way to mixtapes before its original release date . The single failed to dominate as a " dancefloor favorite " ; Mathew Knowles , however , confirmed that it was just a " buzz cut " and was not included in the album . Nonetheless , it earned enough airplay to appear on the Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Singles & Tracks chart . While Beyoncé was wrapping up the album , several of its songs had leaked online . In efforts to prevent more tracks in the album from being spread illegally , as well as being a victim of bootlegging , Columbia Records , with high commercial expectations from the album , pulled the release of *Dangerously in Love* to June 24 , 2003 , two weeks ahead of the planned July 8 release .

Buyers who pre @-@ ordered the album online received links where they could download a song called " *I Can 't Take No More* " ; the promo lasted until the album 's release . On June 14 , 2003 , Beyoncé premiered songs from the album during her first solo concert and the pay @-@ per @-@ view TV special , " *Ford Presents Beyoncé , Friends & Family , Live From Ford 's 100th Anniversary Celebration in Dearborn , Michigan* " . By the night of the album 's release , Beyoncé 's concert was broadcast in more than twenty theaters across the United States . Kelly Rowland , Michelle Williams , Tyrese , Solange Knowles and girl group Ramiyah also performed in the show . Beyoncé also promoted the album by performing in television shows such as the *Saturday Night Live* , *Late Show*

with David Letterman , The Today Show , The Early Show , and The View .

By April 2003 , Beyoncé 's management was choosing the album 's lead single between two songs . Sent to clubs , the song that would receive positive reception would be considered the lead single . Finally , " Crazy in Love " was released as the lead single off the album . With commercial success that included crossover music markets , the single spent eight consecutive weeks at number one on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Baby Boy " followed , and received greater success than " Crazy in Love " . With its dominance on radio airplays , the single surpassed " Crazy in Love " ' s chart performance , remaining on the top spot for nine consecutive weeks . " Me , Myself and I " was released as the third single and " Naughty Girl " as fourth and last ; although the last two releases only reached the top five on the Hot 100 , they all attained immediate commercial success and helped the album earn multi @-@ platinum certifications .

= = Singles = =

" Crazy in Love " was released as the lead single in mid @-@ 2003 . It was lauded by critics who described it as " deliriously catchy " . The single reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 , the official US singles chart , based on heavy rotation alone . The same week the song reached number one , Dangerously in Love debuted on the Billboard 200 at number one as well . The substantial airplay and later retail sales of " Crazy in Love " facilitated it to dominate the chart , subsequently spending eight straight weeks atop the Hot 100 , making it Beyoncé 's first number @-@ one single in her solo career . According to Nielsen SoundScan , " Crazy in Love " was the most downloaded song in the United States for four consecutive weeks in July 2003 . It also became a success internationally reaching the top of the charts in Ireland and the United Kingdom . " Baby Boy " was released as the second single in August 2003 . It was well received by critics , who declared it a " high @-@ profile collaboration " that " bridges the gap between the genres of R & B and dancehall . " It ultimately reached the top of the Hot 100 . It reached the chart 's top spot eight weeks after its debut , and stayed there for nine consecutive weeks . It peaked in the top two in the United Kingdom .

" Me , Myself and I " was released as the album 's third single in October 2003 . It received generally positive response , being considered a typical sounding R & B ballad with a familiar theme , in which Beyoncé sings with passion . It reached the top ten in Canada and the United States . " Naughty Girl " was the fourth single from the album , released in March 2004 . The song was lauded by critics , who cited its sensual vibe and writing : " Beyoncé borrowed a portion of Donna Summer 's naughty classic " Love to Love You Baby " to create this celebration of sensual naughtiness . " Internationally , it became a top ten hit in the United States , Australia , Canada and New Zealand .

= = Critical reception = =

Dangerously in Love received generally positive reviews from music critics . At Metacritic , which assigns a normalized rating out of 100 to reviews from mainstream critics , the album received an average score of 64 , based on 16 reviews . Anthony DeCurtis of Rolling Stone viewed that it presents Beyoncé in two styles , one " far more flattering " than the other , and found the ballad @-@ oriented songs on the album least flattering , commenting that Beyoncé has " plenty of time " to develop the style maturely that would " [make] sense for her " . Entertainment Weekly 's Neil Drumming commented that the album validates Beyoncé 's " taste in innovation " . He also viewed that Beyoncé 's collaboration with various record producers explores new directions in contemporary music , doing more reinventing than revisiting . Like DeCurtis ' review , however , Drumming pointed out that " most of the disc 's missteps " are in its latter part . Slant Magazine 's Sal Cinquemani wrote that " [Beyoncé] is allowed more room to experiment vocally as a solo artist , exploring softer registers and lathering on the coquettish persona that was only hinted at on Destiny 's Child tracks like ' Bootylicious . ' " . Steve Jones of USA Today stated , " Beyoncé succeeds by showing greater depth as a songwriter and broader range as a singer " . Blender 's Ben Ratliff complimented Beyoncé 's performance and stated , " She ? s playing the cool @-@ hunter but covering the bases

with seraphic arrangements of multiple voices . Her reach is remarkable " . Mark Anthony Neal of PopMatters called it an " artistic leap " and wrote that it " finds Ms. B in the midst of a fully flowering womanhood and doing the best singing of her career " .

In a mixed review , Vibe magazine 's Jason King said that the album occasionally " sounds desperate to reach every demographic " . Kelefa Sanneh , writing in The New York Times , felt that it missed the harmonies Beyoncé had in Destiny 's Child records and that she is more effective " when she 's got a posse behind her " . Rob Fitzpatrick of NME called it " a cruel glimpse of a talent that occasionally blazes but is frustratingly inconsistent " . Uncut called its ballads " self @-@ pitying / self @-@ mythologising " , while Q stated , " She has good songs , but no great songs " . Los Angeles Times writer Natalie Nichols expressed that it " demonstrates vocal finesse [...] But , especially on the ballads , [Beyoncé] often drags things out with diva acrobatics " . The Guardian 's Adam Sweeting wrote that " the desperate urge to cover every musical base from dancefloor to soul @-@ ballad means that there is barely a track here with any distinctive identity or even a tune " . In his consumer guide for The Village Voice , Robert Christgau cited " Yes " and " Baby Boy " as the album 's highlights and quippedly remarked , " Dangerously in Love ... with her daddy , the bonus cut reveals ? as if we didn 't know . " He gave the album a one @-@ star honorable mention , indicating " a worthy effort consumers attuned to its overriding aesthetic or individual vision may well like . " In a retrospective review , Allmusic editor Stephen Thomas Erlewine commented that " the first half is good enough to make Dangerously in Love one of the best mainstream urban R & B records released in 2003 , and makes a strong case that Beyoncé might be better off fulfilling this destiny instead of reuniting with Destiny " .

= = Accolades = =

Dangerously in Love and its singles earned Beyoncé numerous awards and nominations . In 2003 , Beyoncé was recognized as New Female Artist and New R & B Artist , among the four awards she won during the Billboard Music Awards . At the 2013 American Music Awards , the album was nominated in the category for Favorite Soul / R & B Album . It also received a nomination in the category for Best Album at the 2003 MOBO Awards . At the 46th Annual Grammy Awards , Beyoncé won Best Contemporary R & B Album along with four other awards for the album 's songs . With that feat , she tied with Alicia Keys , Norah Jones , and Lauryn Hill for most Grammys won by a female artist in one night . At the 2004 Brit Awards , the album was nominated in the category for Best International Album but lost to Justin Timberlake 's Justified . However , the singer herself won in the category for Best International Female Solo Artist . Dangerously in Love was also nominated in the category for Best Album at the 2004 MTV Europe Music Awards .

The 1,000th issue of Entertainment Weekly , which celebrated " the new classics " in the entertainment industry in the period from 1983 to 2008 , ranked Dangerously in Love nineteenth in the Top 100 Best Albums of the past 25 years . The album also ranked at number 183 on the list " 200 Definitive Albums That Shaped Rock and Roll " according to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame .

= = Commercial performance = =

Dangerously in Love debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 chart , with sales of 317 @,@ 000 copies according to Nielsen SoundScan . In its second week the album slid to number two with 183 @,@ 000 sold , behind Ashanti 's Chapter II . Although the album 's first @-@ week sales failed to match that of Survivor , which sold 663 @,@ 000 units in its debut in 2001 , Beyoncé earned the highest among Destiny 's Child members ' solo albums by best weeks : Rowland sold 77 @,@ 000 copies for Simply Deep in its strongest week while Williams earned 17 @,@ 000 copies for Heart to Yours in its top week . The album has been certified four @-@ time platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . Dangerously in Love remains as Beyoncé 's best @-@ selling album to date , with cumulative sales of 5 million copies in the United States as of June 2016 .

Internationally , Dangerously in Love had similar commercial reception . On July 12 , 2003 ,

Beyoncé became the first female artist (and the fifth artist ever) to top both the singles ? with " Crazy in Love " ? and albums chart simultaneously in the United States and the United Kingdom , following The Beatles , Simon & Garfunkel , Rod Stewart , and Men at Work . As of June 2011 , the album had sold over 1 @, @ 150 @, @ 000 copies in the United Kingdom , and the British Phonographic Industry has since certified the album four @-@ times platinum for sales of more than 1 @. @ 2 million units . Dangerously in Love was the 15th @-@ best selling album of 2003 in the United Kingdom . It is her second best @-@ selling album in the UK . In Australia , it reached number two ; the album was certified triple platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association for sales of 210 @, @ 000 copies . In 2003 , Dangerously in Love was the 51st best @-@ selling album in Australia , and the 74th the following year . As of 2015 , the album has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide .

= = Legacy = =

With the release of Dangerously in Love and the combined commercial success of its singles , Beyoncé had established herself a viable solo artist . Rebecca Louie of the New York Daily News wrote that the success of Dangerously in Love brought Beyoncé into a " sultry solo star " who " blossomed from a girly group " , referring to Destiny 's Child . The album has also facilitated her to become one of the marketable artists in the industry . She appeared on the cover of numerous magazines , guested TV for promotions , and has signed lucrative commercial deals . Beyoncé signed to PepsiCo , a conglomerate beverage manufacturer , in 2003 , and appeared on several TV commercials for its products .

The creative output of the sessions for Dangerously in Love left several tracks ready for another album pressing . In late 2003 , Beyoncé planned to release a follow @-@ up album that would comprise left @-@ over songs from Dangerously in Love . The move was prompted when a P. Diddy @-@ collaboration called " Summertime " , a left @-@ over track from the album , was sent to radio stations and had received favorable response .

Meanwhile , the success of the album incited the public to infer that it signals Destiny 's Child to finally part ways , as had pop singer Justin Timberlake " could not go back to ' N Sync after tasting solo success " . However , Beyoncé said that their side projects were only " a brief diversion in the juggernaut that has become Destiny 's Child " . As time did not permit , Beyoncé 's musical aspirations were put on hiatus for her to concentrate on her Super Bowl performance , wherein she was slated to sing the U.S. national anthem , and the recording of Destiny 's Child 's fourth album , Destiny Fulfilled ; the group finally disbanded in 2005 .

After the group 's formal disbandment , Beyoncé recorded and released her second album , B 'Day , on September 4 , 2006 . The album gave Beyoncé her second number one in the United States , and its debut week sales exceeded that of Dangerously in Love , the former having sold 541 @, @ 000 units . Despite the album 's first two singles ' average commercial performance ? neither of which reached the peak of the Billboard Hot 100 ? its " handsome debut " was noted by Keith Caulfield of Billboard as having generated " by goodwill earned from the performance of [Beyoncé 's] smash first album Dangerously in Love . "

= = Track listing = =

Notes

^ a signifies a co @-@ producer

^ b signifies a vocal producer

" Crazy in Love " samples " Are You My Woman (Tell Me So) " (1970) by the Chi @-@ Lites

" Naughty Girl " contains interpolations from " Love to Love You Baby " (1975) by Donna Summer

" Baby Boy " contains interpolations from " Hot Stepper " (1990) by Ini Kamoze

" Be with You " samples " Ain 't Nothing I Can Do " (1979) Tyrone Davis and contains interpolations from " I 'd Rather Be with You " (1976) by Bootsy 's Rubber Band and " Strawberry Letter 23 " (1977) by the Brothers Johnson

" That 's How You Like It " contains interpolations from " I Like It " (1982) by DeBarge
" Gift from Virgo " samples " Rainy Day " (1974) by Shuggie Otis
" ' 03 Bonnie & Clyde " contains interpolations from " If I Was Your Girlfriend " (1987) by Prince
and samples of " Me and My Girlfriend " (1996) by 2Pac
" What 's It Gonna Be " samples " Do It Roger " (1981) by Roger Troutman

= = Personnel = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications and sales = =