

= I Am Your Leader =

" I Am Your Leader " is a song recorded by Trinidadian @-@ American recording artist Nicki Minaj for her second studio album *Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded* (2012) . The song features additional rap vocals from hip hop artists Rick Ross and Cam 'ron . Production of the song was handled by Fernando Garibay & Chauncey " Hit @-@ Boy " Hollis , with writing coming from Minaj , Garibay , Hollis , Ross , and Cam 'ron . Musically , " I Am Your Leader " is a midtempo hardcore hip hop and electro hop song that contains sparse beats , minimal instrumentation , repetitive , high @-@ pitched , off @-@ pitch synth hooks , and a booming , static bass . Lyrically , Minaj " dishes boast @-@ heavy verses about how she ? s better than all these other bitches " , according to Adam Fleischer of XXL Magazine .

" I Am Your Leader " garnered praise from contemporary music critics , with the majority praising the songs production , Minaj 's vocal delivery , and the appearances of Cam 'ron and Ross . To promote the song , an accompanying music video for the song was released on August 24 , 2012 . It features Minaj inside a brightly colored playhouse dressed in eccentric clothing , while sequences show Minaj , Ross and Cam 'ron in different rooms such as the bathroom , the staircase , and the dining room . Fellow rapper Tyga also makes a brief cameo appearance . Despite not being released as a single , " I Am Your Leader " peaked at number 71 on the US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . Minaj briefly performed a part of the song on The Today Show 's summer concert series .

= = Background = =

Following the success of Minaj 's debut album , *Pink Friday* , Cash Money co @-@ CEO , Brian " Birdman " Williams announced to Billboard that Minaj was aiming to release her second album within the first quarter of 2012 . In November 2011 , Minaj announced on Twitter that the album would be released on February 14 , 2012 , though it was later delayed to April 3 , 2012 . The album focuses on Roman Zolanski , one of Minaj 's alter egos that was first featured on *Pink Friday* . On May 24 , 2012 , a poll was posted on Minaj 's official website asking fans to choose the next single (s) . The poll was divided into three categories : The second category asked fans to choose between " Champion " , " HOV Lane " , and " I Am Your Leader " . " Champion " had the most votes and won the poll ; " HOV Lane " came in second , and " I Am Your Leader " came in third . On June 6 , 2012 , Minaj announced through her official Twitter that " Champion " would be the next urban single .

= = Composition = =

" I Am Your Leader " is a hardcore hip @-@ hop and electro @-@ hop song that runs for three minutes and thirty @-@ three seconds . The production consists of a " chilled @-@ out , humming beat punctuated on the chorus with a blunted fake @-@ horn hook ? halfway between classic @-@ era Neptunes and *Look At Me Now* " according to Andrew Unterberger of Popdust . It also contains repetitive , high @-@ pitched , off @-@ pitch synth hooks , and a booming , static bass . " I Am Your Leader " makes use of sparse beats , frills , minimal instrumentation , and allows Minaj ? s rhymes to be the focal point , all of which gives the song " something of a mixtape feel " according to Joe Rivers of No Ripcord . In his review of the song , Unterberger of Popdust noted Hit @-@ Boy 's modern hip hop production , saying " Diplo and Bangladesh might have to watch their back after the up @-@ and @-@ comers contributions to this album . " Adam Fleischer of XXL said " Nicki dishes boast @-@ heavy verses about how she ? s better than all these other bitches . "

= = Critical reception = =

" I Am Your Leader " gained positive reviews . Andrew Unterberger of Popdust gave it a 4 @-@ star rating , complimenting Minaj 's rapping as well as the guest verses of Cam 'ron and Rick Ross . However , Unterberger felt that Minaj was overshadowed by the guest verses . Andrew Hampp of

Billboard echoed Unterberger 's sentiments , saying " The nostalgia of Cam 's return trumps the overall catchiness of the song . " XXL Magazine stated that " Though many of the early songs [on the album] lack real substance , the records remain generally exciting - ? I Am Your Leader , ? alongside Rick Ross and Cam ? ron , ? Beez In The Trap ? with 2 Chainz , and the triumphant ? Champion ? featuring Nas , Drake and Young Jeezy are all memorable moments " . Joe Rivers No Ripcord praised " I Am Your Leader " along with " Beez in the Trap " for being " thrilling " and making " good use of cameos " . Stephen Deusner of Paste Magazine said that " On the nursery rhyming ? I Am Your Leader , ? [Minaj] spits yet another dick joke like a playground jeer , slyly undermining hip @-@ hop ? s traditionally male @-@ centric braggadocio . She ? s not only participating in phallocentric boasting ; she ? s also inflating the convention with a Swedish penis pump until it ? s just shy of bursting " .

David Jeffries of Allmusic listed it as one of the best tracks on the album . Matthew Cole of Slant Magazine stated that " ' I Am Your Leader ' and ' Beez in the Trap ' [are] two excellent tracks which manage to sound both bubbly and heavy as Minaj delivers her most effortlessly entertaining shit @-@ talk to date " . Ryan Dombal of Pitchfork called " Come On A Cone " and " I Am Your Leader " " two brilliantly off @-@ kilter songs " . Tom Ewing of The Guardian said that " On " I Am Your Leader " , [Minaj] drops a couple of octaves to gleefully pompous effect " . Kevin Ritchie of NOW Magazine named it the top track of the album . Kyle Anderson of Entertainment Weekly named it one of the best tracks on the album along with " Champion " .

= = Promotion = =

= = = Music video = = =

The video begins with a pink mailbox with the song 's title on the front written in different fonts . The video is set in a playhouse esque brightly coloured house . Minaj spits her first verse in a spacious room filled with antler heads and wacky windows , Minaj is seen standing on a zebra print carpet . Minaj 's second appearance saw her in a bathtub , partially clothed - wearing only Alexander McQueen ? Armadillo ? jewel encrusted 12 @-@ inch stiletto shoes . She also wore a green , Marilyn Monroe inspired wig . There is also a scene with all three rappers . After the hook , Rick Ross is seen sitting at a gold banquet table reciting his rap , shirtless , whilst gold maniquins ascend behind him . For Cam 'ron 's verse the scene is located on a staircase of moving photos of the three rappers . Nicki 's Young Money labelmate , Tyga also made a brief cameo appearance in the video . The video garnered positive reviews from critics , noting its high energy , fun and wackiness . MTV 's Rob Markman gave the video a positive review saying , " Only in a Nicki Minaj video can you find two of rap 's hardest street figures performing in such a wacky setting , but it 's the juxtaposition that " I Am Your Leader " offers which makes it so fun . "

= = = Live performances = = =

Minaj performed the song for the first time on The Today Show 's summer concert series on August 14 , 2012 .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at : Conway Studios in Los Angeles , California .

Personnel

Credits adapted from Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded liner notes .

= = Charts = =

