

= Crawl ( Chris Brown song ) =

" Crawl " is a song by American recording artist Chris Brown . It is the second single from his third studio album Graffiti , released as a digital download on November 24 , 2009 . The song was produced by The Messengers and was written by Nasri Atweh , Adam Messinger , Luke Boyd , and Brown . The song is about yearning to rebuild a failed relationship and was interpreted by critics as being about Brown 's former relationship with Barbadian singer Rihanna . However , Brown has stated the song is not about any of his previous relationships .

The song received positive to mixed reviews . It charted in the top twenty in Japan and New Zealand , and the top forty in the United Kingdom and Ireland . It peaked in the United States at number fifty @-@ three . The accompanying music video features Brown and American R & B singer Cassie as his love interest . In the video , he yearns for their relationship on a winter night in a city and in a desert scene . Brown performed the song on his 2009 Fan Appreciation Tour , and on BET 's SOS : Help for Haiti Telethon , which benefited victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake .

= = Background = =

The song was leaked to internet on October 21 , 2009 , one day after ex @-@ girlfriend Rihanna 's ballad " Russian Roulette " was also leaked . The song , which has been described as " melancholy " , sees Brown singing about a relationship that has slipped out of his hands with its chorus calling for an " incremental reconciliation " of the unspecified relationship . Jayson Rodriguez of MTV News noted that both " Crawl " and Rihanna 's " Russian Roulette " would inevitably be interpreted as being about Brown and Rihanna 's relationship .

In an interview with MTV News , Brown stated that the song is not about Rihanna or any of his previous relationships . He called the message of the song " universal " , and not just about love but " any type of heartache . " About the track he said , " When I heard the whole concept and everything I was like , ' Yo , this is crazy . So being able to express the feelings , it was like , probably one of the best [ records I 've done . ] But it was more than me trying to do a record that meant crawl to love , crawl back to love . Meaning whether it 's from your negative situations , whether it 's from any problems you 've dealt with , like anybody 's situation . " Although he stated his concept for the song was about love , he said for anybody , the song could be " inspired as far it being the war or a death in the family , whether it 's anything , anybody just crawl back to love . "

= = Critical reception = =

The song received mixed to positive reviews . Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune said the song was one of several on parent album Graffiti that " flirt with a public apology . " Kot went on to state that a " funeral organ " hovers over the song , and " the narrator longs for a second chance : " ' So where do we go from here / With all of this fear in your eyes ? ' " Jon Caramanica of The New York Times said that both " Crawl " and another song from Graffiti , " So Cold " , come off as " thoughtful , even if they 're not quite mea culpas " and further suggested that " In these moments Mr. Brown is pining , mildly apologetic . " Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly called the song a " genuinely affecting second single " , and stated that " Less forgiving listeners " looking for " signs of contrition " may find them on the track . Dan Gennoe of Yahoo ! Music UK said that , of the six tracks on the album 's deluxe edition that could be interpreted as dealing with Brown 's relationship with Rihanna directly , " Crawl " is " by far the most catchily contrite . " Rap @-@ Up said that the song shows Brown " taking baby steps back to love and into the spotlight , " and said that it found Brown " longing to mend a broken relationship " as in his 2008 Jordin Sparks collaboration , ? No Air ? .

= = Chart performance = =

After the song 's premiere on Brown 's MechanicalDummy.com website , " Crawl " made its official debut on the R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart at number ninety @-@ nine . After its release for

digital download on November 23 , 2009 , it later peaked at fifty @-@ nine . On the week ending December 12 , 2009 , " Crawl " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at sixty @-@ eight and peaked at fifty @-@ three .

On December 19 , 2009 , " Crawl " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at seventy @-@ six . In February , the song re @-@ entered the chart at eighty @-@ five , and debuted on the UK R & B chart at twenty @-@ five . On the week of February 27 , 2010 , the song reached its peak of number thirty @-@ five on the singles chart , and eventually peaked at number eight on the R & B chart . The song debuted and peaked on the New Zealand Singles Chart at number sixteen on the week beginning February 1 , 2010 . The song debuted and peaked at number thirty @-@ nine on the Irish Singles Chart , and reached number eight on the Dutch singles chart . It peaked at number twenty on the Japan Hot 100 , and ninety @-@ seven on the European Hot 100 .

= = Music video = =

The music video was edited by David Blackburn and directed by Joseph Kahn , who also worked with Brown on the " I Can Transform Ya " and " Forever " videos . The video features American R & B singer Cassie as Brown 's love interest . Kahn had previously directed the video for Britney Spears 's 2008 ' comeback ' song , " Womanizer " , after her public breakdown . In an interview with MTV News , Kahn said , " I seem to be the guy that record companies go to when they need help , " he joked . " I truly feel [ Brown ] is remorseful . You don 't drop people just because they made a mistake ( even if it was a big mistake ) . "

Kahn said that the entire idea for the video was Brown 's : " It 's an interesting video for me , because it 's so rare that music videos ever try to achieve anything emotional . Chris just basically told me a story of what he felt this video was going to be , with his heart glowing and how he 's , like , cold . It is a very personal story . But it 's told in such a graphic manner that I fell in love with the idea . It 's Chris ' story . Period . I am the pencil that put it down on the paper . " When comparing the song 's video to that of " I Can Transform Ya " , the director said , " ' Crawl ' is my favorite one , because ? gosh , I 'm going to let you in on this ? ' cause it 's probably his most personal thing he 's ever done . " He went on to say , " I mean , everything that 's happened to him in the year , I think this is going to be his big statement , in terms of what he 's feeling and what he 's living through right now . " When talking about the ideas and concepts of the video , Kahn said that the video , his first ballad with Brown , should speak for itself through the ideas that he had and the " genesis " of what that idea was .

On November 2 , 2009 , several stills from the video were released onto the internet . The photos focused on two sets of the video , a desert location , and a snow and puddle @-@ spotted alleyway . In both settings , Brown wears the same thick black glasses , brown leather trench coat , white t @-@ shirt , and fingerless gloves , among other attire . Cassie appears in a photo from the alleyway scenes , as the desert scenes show Brown in " deep contemplation " . The video first aired on The Wendy Williams Show on Friday , November 13 , 2009 , when Brown was a guest on the show . The video opens with Brown sitting on an edge of a bed wearing a plain white t @-@ shirt . As the music begins and he starts singing , his heart is shown lit up red and beating in his chest . The singer then walks into an alleyway on a winter 's night , revealed in the air as he breathes . Brown walks past several storefronts , seeing images of Cassie broadcast on television . He then sees paparazzi taking photos of her , but she does not notice him . Brown is shown in a desert scene , and then returns to the winter night scene as Cassie sees him and they walk towards each other meeting face @-@ to @-@ face . They gather close , but Brown does not reel her in as the video ends . The music video ranked at forty @-@ eight on the BET : Notarized Top 100 Videos of 2009 countdown .

= = Live performances = =

Brown performed the song on his 2009 Fan Appreciation Tour , and on Black Entertainment Television 's SOS Saving Ourselves : Hope for Haiti Telethon , to raise money for the country after the 2010 earthquake that devastated the area . Eric Ditzian of MTV News noted that although the

song was rumored to be about Rihanna , " the lyrics also at times seemed to fit the evening 's focus , like when Brown sang , " If we crawl till we can walk again / Then we 'll run until we 're strong enough to jump . "

== Track listing ==

Digital download

" Crawl " ? 3 : 57

Germany Digital download

Crawl - 3 : 56

Graffiti - 5 : 12

== Credits and personnel ==

Songwriting - Chris Brown , Nasri Atweh , Adam Messinger , Luke Boyd

Production - Adam Messinger , Nasri Atweh

Background vocals - Adam Messinger , Nasri Atweh

Vocal recording - Brian Springer

Mixing - Manny Marroquin , assisted by Christian Plata & Erik Madrid

Source

== Charts and certifications ==

=== Weekly charts ===

== Release history ==