

= Porcelain (song) =

" Porcelain " is a song by American electronica musician Moby . It was released as the sixth single from his fifth studio album *Play* on June 12 , 2000 . Its melancholy lyrics describe a break @-@ up and were written by Moby ? who also performs lead vocals on the track ? based on his experiences with an unidentified woman . An electronic song , it also incorporates reversed string samples (from the song " Fight for Survival " from the *Exodus* soundtrack) and piano rhythms into its instrumentation . While Moby initially expressed disdain over the song and its production , he was eventually talked into including it on *Play* .

The song was well received by music critics , who praised its arrangement and named it a standout track on *Play* . It became one of the most successful singles from the album upon release , becoming a top five hit in the United Kingdom and managing to chart highly in several other countries . Moby later licensed " Porcelain " , along with the remainder of *Play* , for use in several forms of media . Two different music videos were produced for the song , directed by Jonas Åkerlund and Nick Brandt . The song has received remixes by Rob Dougan , Futureshock , Torsten Stenzel & Force Mass Motion .

= = Background and composition = =

" Porcelain " was written and produced by Moby for his fifth studio album *Play* (1999) and recorded in his Little Italy , Manhattan apartment . He found the inspiration to compose the song from his experiences with an unidentified woman ; speaking to *Billboard* , he explained : " I was involved with this really , really wonderful woman , and I loved her very much . But I knew deep in my heart of hearts that we had no business being romantically involved . So , it 's sort of about being in love with someone but knowing you shouldn 't be with them . " Moby initially disliked the track , criticizing his production as " mushy " and his vocals as " really weak " . He had dismissed " Porcelain " as " average " and later recalled that he " couldn 't imagine anyone else wanting to listen to it " ? however , he was eventually talked into including it on *Play* .

Featuring vocals performed by Moby , " Porcelain " is a mid @-@ tempo , downtempo and electronica song . The song 's introspective , wistful lyrics describe " loving someone , but having to break up with them anyway . " Composed in the key of E @-@ flat major and running at a tempo of 96 beats per minute , " Porcelain " follows a constant four @-@ chord progression (Gm ? B ? ? Fm ? A ?) in the B ? mixolydian mode , with the exception of a bridge midway through the song . Its instrumentation incorporates reversed string samples and piano rhythms . " Porcelain " also makes use of the drum machine and includes several layered elements , including vocal samples , synthesizer chords and a cello line . Pilar Basso performs additional vocals on the song .

= = Critical reception = =

" Porcelain " received generally positive reviews from music critics . Alexandra Marshall of MTV called the song a " lush little snippet which sounds like a basement tape from a Magnetic Fields EP . " A writer for the *Birmingham Evening Mail* wrote that its " sweeping melody and atmospheric vocals " create a " distinctive soundscape " . Brent DiCrescenzo of Pitchfork Media remarked that the song " tenderly glides down throats like lithium . " While commenting that *Play* " need [s] of a bit of pruning " , David Browne of *Entertainment Weekly* cited " Porcelain " as an exception and praised it as " gorgeous " . In their " Chartslot " feature , the *Daily Record* described the song as " ideal for chilling out to on a summer 's evening . " Jim DeRogatis of the *Chicago Sun @-@ Times* characterized the *Play* songs " Honey " and " Porcelain " as " emotional and gripping " and wrote that if " [they] didn 't move you (in every sense of the word) , then you probably had no pulse . " Playloder named " Porcelain " the twenty @-@ sixth best single of 2000 , calling it the album 's " most crushingly heavenly track " and praising its combination of piano melodies with Moby 's " hauntingly haunted " vocals . The song ranked at number fifty @-@ six on *The Village Voice* 's annual Pazz & Jop critics ' poll . Q placed " Porcelain " at number 253 on their list of the 1 @, @ 001

Best Songs Ever .

= = Commercial performance = =

The song was released as the sixth single from *Play* on June 12 , 2000 . Like all other songs from its parent album , it was licensed for use in several commercials , television programs and films . English film director Danny Boyle featured " Porcelain " in his 2000 film *The Beach* , with Moby crediting its inclusion in the film for raising awareness of the record . Other notable uses include commercials for the Volkswagen Polo , Bosch and France Télécom . " Porcelain " became one of the most successful singles from *Play* upon release ? Moby has since referred to it as the " most signature song " on the album . It debuted at number five on the UK Singles Chart and spent a total of six weeks on the chart . The single became a top thirty hit in Ireland and Poland , where it peaked at numbers 26 and 14 respectively . " Porcelain " also managed to chart in several other European countries , including France , Germany , the Netherlands and Switzerland . In North America , it peaked at number 50 on the Canadian RPM singles chart and charted on the United States Billboard Adult Pop Songs , Alternative Songs and Hot Dance Club Songs charts . Liana Jonas of AllMusic wrote that the song 's commercial success " helped bring electronica music into the limelight " , calling it a " groundbreaking recording " .

= = Music videos = =

Two separate music videos were produced for " Porcelain " . The first version , directed by Jonas Åkerlund , is primarily a simple close @-@ up of a human eye ; various images are reflected onto the eye throughout the course of the video , including Moby performing the song , people smiling and a piano being played .

The second video , directed by Nick Brandt , features Moby sitting in the back seat of a moving car without a driver as it drives through a city , on a highway where an oncoming car with a girl in the back , looking at Moby , had to go in the other lane when the DeVille drifted into their lane . The car then left turns into a field and drives through a forest , past cattle , and finally down the hills going into the distance . The Åkerlund @-@ directed version only aired in European markets and was not released in the United States until its inclusion on the video album *Play : The DVD* .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =