

= It 's Better If You Don 't Understand =

It 's Better If You Don 't Understand is the first extended play ( EP ) and debut release recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter and music producer Bruno Mars . Its title comes from the final lyrics of one of its songs , " The Other Side " . The EP consists of four tracks and incorporates pop , pop rock , and rap music genres . The record was made available for digital download on May 11 , 2010 through Elektra Records in the United States , and on August 11 , 2010 through Atlantic Records in France . The song " Count on Me " was not featured on the track list of the latter release . To promote the album , Mars released a home video for the recording " The Other Side " . All of the material on the EP was produced by The Smeezingtons members Mars , Philip Lawrence and Ari Levine , with the closing track being co @-@ produced by Jeff Bhasker .

It 's Better If You Don 't Understand received generally rave reviews from music critics ? AllMusic 's David Jeffries praised the album as showcasing Mars ' songwriting abilities and a genre that " leans towards " pop , while About.com 's Bill Lamb viewed the EP positively as " music that should be on your radio " , calling it a " pop pleasure " . All of the songs from It 's Better If You Don 't Understand were later included on Mars ' debut studio album , Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans ( 2010 ) , and , with the exception of " Somewhere in Brooklyn " , were performed on the tour of the same name . The EP peaked at number 99 on the Billboard 200 in the United States , and at number 97 on the UK Albums Chart . As of 2011 , it has sold 27 @,@ 000 copies in the US . " The Other Side " peaked on the UK Singles Charts at number 117 . In an interview , with Los Angeles Times , Mars ' admitted he regrets to have " wasted " the title of this record .

= = Background = =

In an interview with Rap @-@ Up , Mars explained that the song " Somewhere in Brooklyn " is dedicated to his father who is from Brooklyn , adding that : " everyone can agree that New York is a special place " . Lyrically , a girl is the subject of Mars ' attention . After they met briefly , he tries to find her again somewhere in Brooklyn .

Ari Levine talked in an interview with Sound on Sound about producing some of Mars ' songs . " The Other Side " , whose production was re @-@ arranged , was intended for somebody else , and several people wrote parts of the track . Concerning the lyrics ' concept Mars said that they describe : " the lifestyle you end up living as an artist " . He also explained that the title of the record came from the final lyrics of one of its songs , " The Other Side " .

In the same interview , Levine explained that " Talking to the Moon " took a long time to record , while he , Mars , and Lawrence decided which drums to use . As a result , the song was arranged and produced " in four different ways " . When the team started composing the track , they " only had the first verse and the horns " . However their gut told them they were onto something . At one point the team : " had three different bridges and [ they ] spent a lot of time trying to find out which one was the best " . Jeff Bhasker also collaborated on the track 's composition . " Talking to the Moon " was the first song written for Mars ' debut release once the three of them finished working with other artists and focused on the EP .

= = Composition = =

It 's Better If You Don 't Understand is composed of four songs employing pop , pop rock , and rap genres . Mars explained that the EP is hard to classify since : " I just write songs that I strongly believe in and that are coming from inside . There 's no tricks . It 's honesty with big melodies . And I 'm singing the s \* \* \* out of them " . A romantic soft and smooth recording , the opening track , " Somewhere in Brooklyn " , was composed by The Smeezingtons . It features " an emo @-@ pop backing " beat , " electronic pops and bleeps " , a piano and synthesizers . Lyrically , the tune is about Mars chasing the " perfect woman " who got away , and wishing to find her again . Mars ' vocals have been highly praised in this track . The second release , " The Other Side " , features a vocal collaboration with Cee Lo Green and B.o.B. , and is considered the best on the EP by several

critics . The track has been described as incorporating 60 's and 70 's soulful feeling . Its instrumentation uses guitar , organ and a : " drum and bass pace that slowly builds through the verse and into the chorus " . It is reminiscent of compositions by Daniel Merriweather and Chris Isaak ? s " Wicked Game " . " The Other Side " addresses the " excitement of courting " sung in a falsetto voice .

The two final tracks were described as " bittersweet ballads " , with the third being called a " slow burner " . " Count On Me " draws from the works of Jason Mraz and David Cook , featuring a laid back groove , tropical vibes , " Elvis @-@ esque adlibs at the beginning " and Mars " roots in Hawaii " . Pardalis of 411mania.com found its hook " simple but effective " . The vocals were described as powerful , " yet pleasant " . It conveys the message of comfort found in a friend and shows Mars ' " soft side " . The closing track , " Talking to the Moon " , was described as a pop song with power ballad influences . It was met with mixed reviews , with some reviewers calling it " the weakest because the heavy production threatens to overwhelm Mars ' singing " , and others feeling that " the song just gets better " . The recording features a " soft piano " , " layers of synthesizers " , " beautiful vocals " on a chorus with a " phenomenal hook " and " perfect balance " culminating in an " over the top production " . The track 's sentiment has been highly praised , with some saying that " anyone could feel it " . Its lyrics describe Mars trying to reach his " lost former lover " hoping that his words reach their destiny .

= = Release and promotion = =

It 's Better If You Don 't Understand was released exclusively for digital download on May 11 , 2010 by Elektra Records in the US , and in France , on August 11 , 2010 by Atlantic Records ; this edition did not feature " Count on Me " on the track list .

" The Other Side " was released as the first single from the EP in July 2010 . The song featured guest vocals by Atlanta @-@ based rappers Cee Lo Green and B.o.B. The home video for " The Other Side " was directed by Nick Bilardello and Cameron Duddy , and premiered on MTV 's website on August 23 , 2010 . " The Other Side " , " Count on Me " , and " Talking to the Moon " were later included on the standard edition of Mars ' debut studio album , Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans ( 2010 ) . " Somewhere in Brooklyn " was included as a bonus track on the deluxe version of the record . All of the songs were featured on the set list of Mars ' Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans Tour , with the exception of " Somewhere in Brooklyn " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

Upon its release , It 's Better If You Don 't Understand received rave reviews from music critics . 411Mania 's Dan Pardalis complimented the EP by calling it " pop music at its finest " , noting the song " Somewhere in Brooklyn " was " good " , describing the other three as " great " . He added that the four tracks tell " one love story " . Pardalis complement not only Mars ' " extraordinary versatility , pop sensibility , and appeal " , but also his talent at creating " memorable vocal melodies and his naturally emotive writing " , easily making a connection with the audience . Bill Lamb of About.com labelled the EP a " pop pleasure " , further praising the record by saying " with justice in the pop music world , this is the music that should be on your radio " , rating It 's Better If You Don 't Understand four and a half out of five stars . Writing for Allmusic , David Jeffres called the EP 's four songs a " sparse effort that leans towards pop " and drew attention to " the man ? s songwriting " . He also deemed the album a " short set of easy , breezy tunes " , which doesn 't necessarily leave people " begging for more , but it will make most pop fans open to the idea " . Harris Decker of the website The Truth About Music also gave the EP a positive review , calling the record " impressive " and Mars " talented " . Nevertheless , he felt the release was " rushed " since it was made : " in order to capitalize on the success of the mainstream singles " .

== Chart performance ==

It 's Better If You Don 't Understand failed to achieve commercial success . It debuted at number 99 on the Billboard 200 , the week of May 29 , 2010 , where it remained for only one week ; it peaked at number thirteen on the Billboard Digital Albums chart . As of 2011 , it has sold 27 @, @ 000 copies in the United States . It 's Better If You Don 't Understand reached number 97 on the UK Albums Chart on the week of August 28 , 2010 , while " The Other Side " charted on the UK Singles Charts at number 117 .

== Track listing ==

Credits adapted from It 's Better If You Don 't Understand liner notes .

^ a signifies a co @-@ producer

== Charts ==

== Weekly charts ==

== Personnel ==

Credits adapted from It 's Better If You Don 't Understand liner notes and AllMusic .

== Release history ==