

= California King Bed =

" California King Bed " is a song by Barbadian singer Rihanna from her fifth studio album , Loud (2010) . The sixth single from the album , it was released on May 13 , 2011 , by Def Jam . Priscilla Renea and Alex Delicata wrote the song with its main producers , Jermaine Jackson and Andrew Harr of The Runners . Its recording took place in 2010 in the studios We The Best in Miami and Burst HQ in Wisconsin . Released digitally on iTunes Store May 13 , 2011 , it began to be played on April 4 in Australian radios and May 31 in the US . Later , after their impact on radio areas , the song was also issued on CD single format in Europe and also an extended play (EP) digital with nine remixes from the original track .

The song had a moderate effect on music charts , leading the tables Slovakia , Poland and reaching the five best @-@ selling bands in Germany , Australia , Austria , New Zealand and Portugal , while on the Billboard Hot 100 reached the 37th position .

= = Background and composition = =

On March 1 , 2011 , Rihanna asked fans to help her choose the next single from Loud using Twitter , saying that she would film a music video within the next couple of weeks . After an influx of suggestions , the singer said she had narrowed the options down to four songs : " Man Down " , " California King Bed " , " Cheers (Drink to That) " and " Fading " . On March 12 , she confirmed that " California King Bed " had been selected as the next international single . However , the releases were switched , and " Man Down " was sent to rhythmic and urban radio stations in the United States on May 3 ? before the May 13 release of " California King Bed " ? making " Man Down " and " California King Bed " the fifth and sixth singles from Loud .

" California King Bed " is a rock and R & B song , and is set in common time in the key of G major (F major for live performances) with a moderately slow tempo of 85 beats per minute . The song follows a chord progression of G / B ? C2 for the verses , and G ? D ? Em ? C in the chorus . Rihanna 's vocal range in the song spans from the low note of E3 to the high note of C5 . Both Ryan Burlenson of the website Consequence of Sound and James Reed of The Boston Globe compared the song with Taylor Swift 's material . Emily Mackay of NME wrote that the song was a " inevitable big ballad with acoustic guitar (complete with audible string scrapes) soft piano keys and intimate melancholy , building into a massive power @-@ balladish chorus " which she also compared with " If I Were a Boy " (2008) by American singer Beyoncé Knowles .

= = Critical reception = =

Andy Gill of The Independent and Ryan Dombell from Pitchfork Media both noted that the song embodies all the elements of a big power ballad , with the former stating that it is " Rihanna 's best vocal performance " and the latter concurring , labeling the song as a " ' I Don 't Want to Miss a Thing ' type power ballad genetically engineered to soundtrack a bi @-@ coastal Kate Hudson rom @-@ com . " Daniel Brockman of Boston Phoenix writer perceived the song as an " innocuous soft jam . " Slant Magazine 's Sal Cinquemani called " California King Bed " a " slushy acoustic ballad whose clever metaphor is all but suffocated beneath the song 's cheesy production choices " Andy Gill of The Independent , gave a positive review for the song saying that it contained Rihanna 's best vocal performance to date . However , Robert Copsey of Digital Spy criticized her vocals , stating that " She [Rihanna] belts out in a range well beyond her natural vocal ability . "

Scott Shetler of Popcrush commented that it was refreshing to see Rihanna release a down @-@ tempo ballad , instead of a continuous flow of up @-@ tempo dance songs , saying " Though ? California King Bed ? follows a routine pop ballad arrangement , the song is a nice change of pace for the Barbadian hitmaker . As much as we love Rihanna ? s dance club hits , it ? s refreshing to hear a song built around her impressive voice . " Stacey Anderson of Spin magazine explained the lyrical meaning behind the song , saying , " ' California King Bed ' is a wrenching ballad about the waking death of a relationship , the stage of limbo before the final crash ; it 's so well @-@ delivered

, in fact , that it 's hard to hear . " Robert Copsey of Digital Spy gave the song four out of five stars , saying " The fourth single proper from Loud may pull in the reins as far as the hectic dance beats and sado @-@ masochistic lyrics go , but it 's no less beefy and extravagant . Lilting acoustic guitars metamorphose into ' 80s rawk ones as she sings about the kind of separate @-@ togetherness felt moments before a break @-@ up . She belts out in a range well beyond her natural vocal ability . " Thomas Conner of Chicago Sun @-@ Times concluded that " The acoustic strums of ' California King Bed ' build to a cinematic , Diane Warren @-@ sized breakup chorus . "

Entertainment Weekly 's Kyle Anderson gave a mixed review of the song saying : " she [Rihanna] doesn 't have the chops to be a balladeer , which made the torch @-@ song quality of ' California King Bed ' land with a thud . " Similarly , Henry Goldblatt of the same publication graded the song with a B + and gave a critical review of the title saying that it was borrowed from Pottery Barn . However , Goldblatt praised the irresistible heartbreak in the song and added that Rihanna 's voice demonstrates more range and power than her older material . Andy Kellman of Allmusic and Emily Mackay of NME were more critical of the song in their review , with the former calling the song an " overwrought rock weeper " and the latter saying it is a " howler of a ballad , with shlocky acoustic intro , trite piano and a faux @-@ Slash solo . "

= = Chart performance = =

Before being officially released , " California King Bed " debuted on the Australian Singles Chart at number sixty @-@ one on April 11 , 2011 and peaked at number four for two consecutive weeks . The song has since been certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , for shipments of 70 @,@ 000 copies . The song also made an appearance on the New Zealand Singles Chart before its official release , debuting at number eighteen on April 18 , 2011 , before eventually peaking at number four for two consecutive weeks . The song has since been certified Gold for sales of over 7 @,@ 500 copies . In the United Kingdom , the song reached a peaked of number eight on the UK Singles Chart on June 5 , 2011 as well as reaching a peak of number three on the UK R & B Chart on June 11 , 2011 . In the United States , the song made its debut on the week ending June 4 , 2011 at number eighty on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart and reached a peak of number thirty @-@ seven , becoming Rihanna 's 25th top forty hit on the chart . " California King Bed " ranked at number 47 on Billboard magazine 's best @-@ selling Dance / Clubs songs of 2011 .

= = Music video = =

= = Background and synopsis = =

The music video for " California King Bed " was shot on March 17 , 2011 and was shot by Anthony Mandler , who has frequently worked with Rihanna . Mandler directed the videos for other singles from Loud including " Only Girl (In the World) " and " Man Down " . The creative director , Ciarra Pardo , fabricated a custom made eighteen foot long bed , which was designed with a special feature to transport Rihanna the full distance from one side to the other . On May 4 , 2011 , Rihanna posted a picture of the video which showed her laying on a man while looking in the camera . She also tweeted " Bout to tweet u sumn I cud get in trouble for ! But I know ur anxious . " The full video premiered Monday , May 9 , 2011 on Rihanna 's official website and her VEVO account . In an interview with Jocelyn Vena of MTV News , Mandler spoke of his and Rihanna 's long collaborative history , saying :

I think it 's something that is so unique about Rihanna whatever she 's doing , whatever character she 's playing , whatever side of herself she 's showing , she 's in it 1 @,@ 000 percent ... And I think the song and the theme of this song , she wanted to obviously show a softer side , a lighter side , one that 's caught in maybe a tumultuous relationship ... There 's so much variety with her and it 's been such a journey with her .

Almost the whole video set is made in tropical and romantic setting . The video begins with a shot of Rihanna herself laying down in grass . Then scenes of Rihanna walking on the beach and Rihanna curling up on the chair are shown . This is followed by her own and her partner holding each other closely in bed , sitting on different sides of a large bed , and other scenes featuring Rihanna singing through sheer curtains and drapery . In the video there are also black @-@ white scenes showing Rihanna touching to a stone wall .

= = = Reception = = =

As stated by Jason Lipshutz of Billboard , in this video , Rihanna returned to nature as in her video for her previous single , " Only Girl (In the World) " , which features nearly the same colors as the " California King Bed " video . Lipshutz also commented that Rihanna 's just rolled @-@ out @-@ bed appearance is completed by the modest , cream @-@ colored attire in the airy , light @-@ filled clip . Brad Wete of Entertainment Weekly gave a positive review of the video , writing : " Instead of being in complete control , here she is ? vulnerable , open , and unsure . The video captures the feel of ' King Bed , ' not that it 's a difficult one to grasp . " Jessica Sinclair of Long Island Press was also positive about the video , praising the sensual side of Rihanna . A writer of The Huffington Post concluded : " In the video for her new video , ' California King Bed , ' the Barbadian pop star slows it down and shows her sensitive side , holding notes and bearing her soul over a troubled relationship . Set entirely in a gorgeously pink @-@ palletted open air room overlooking the beach , the winds swirl and blow the curtains dramatically around the heart broken singer . " The writer finished the review saying that " Not much happens in the video ? but then , that 's the point . " Amber Katz of MTV Buzzworthy compared the video with Fergie 's " Big Girls Don 't Cry " saying , that they " Both are midtempo , ballady and filmed in a soft @-@ focus domestic setting . " Katz also complimented the bed in the video saying that it " evoke [s] a very Caribbean vibe , a shout @-@ out to Rihanna 's native Barbados , no doubt . " A writer of Daily Mail complimented Rihanna 's looks in the video , saying that it showed her " most sultry " side . Both Nicole Eggenberger of OK ! and Eleanor Young of Marie Claire commented that the video uses a lot of sex appeal which was a departure from Rihanna 's older videos .

= = Live performances = =

Rihanna performed the song for the first time alongside Sugarland front woman Jennifer Nettles , at the ACM Awards held by the Academy of Country Music on April 3 , 2011 . She was also a special guest star on the tenth season of American Idol on April 14 , 2011 . The performance featured Rihanna in a floor @-@ length , heavily textured rose @-@ colored gown , which she adorned as she appeared from behind flowing ceiling height curtains . Kara Warner of MTV News complimented the performance , saying " the 23 @-@ year @-@ old rocked the house with an ethereal performance of her ballad ' California King Bed . ' " A writer of Rolling Stone wrote : " It 's a classy , laid @-@ back performance with Rihanna in a lovely gown , backed up by interpretative dancers caressing large pieces of fabric that are probably meant to evoke bed sheets , but look a bit more like giant strips of toilet paper hanging from the ceiling . But either way , this is quite nice . " In March 2011 , Rihanna was appointed spokeswoman for the " 100 Years of Skin Care " Nivea Commercial campaign , which featured " California King Bed " as the song used in the commercials . As part of promotion for the campaign , Rihanna performed the song at private events in several European cities in May 2011 , including Hamburg , Milan and Paris . The song was also performed on NBC 's Today show on May 27 , 2011 , as part of their Summer Concert Series . The set also featured Rihanna performing her previous US Billboard Hot 100 number @-@ one hits from Loud ; " Only Girl (In the World) " , " What 's My Name ? " and " S & M " . The song is included on the set @-@ list of the Loud Tour (2011) .

= = Other versions = =

Pia Toscano and Stefano Langone , contestants of the tenth season of American Idol , covered the song during one of the nights . American rapper Snoop Dogg , released an unofficial remix of the song along with a music video . In his version of the song he sings the lines " California dreamin ' , schemin ' , you got me gleamin ' / I need you on my team ' n you get my meanin ' / It sound crazy but it 's amazing / Lay down with me so we can make some babies . " The accompanying music video a girl which looks like Kim Kardashian waiting him at the hotel , while the official video of the song is played on TV screens .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Loud , Def Jam Recordings , SRP Records .
Personnel

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Radio and release history = =