

= The Silence (song) =

" The Silence " is a song by British singer Alexandra Burke from her debut studio album Overcome (2009) . The song was written by Bilal Hajji and Savan Kotecha , along with the song 's producer Nadir " RedOne " Khayat . The song was released as a promotional single in anticipation of the re @-@ release of Overcome (2010) . Burke stated that the song was written when her aunt told the singer about how she and her partner were experiencing troubles in their relationship , and that they were not telling each other how they felt . In response , Burke asked her aunt why he was letting the silence in their relationship do the talking instead of them discussing it . " The Silence " is an R & B and pop @-@ influenced power ballad and instrumentation consists of a piano , a guitar and drums . The lyrics of the song feature the protagonist asking why the other person in the relationship remains silent about their difficulties instead of talking about them .

The song garnered positive reviews from music critics , who praised Burke 's vocal performance . It also received comparisons to songs by Bonnie Tyler , Beyoncé Knowles and Leona Lewis . Upon the release of Overcome , the song debuted at number 95 on the UK Singles Chart on the strength of digital download sales . A year later when released as a promotional single , it peaked at number 16 on the chart . It peaked inside the top thirty on the singles charts in Hungary , Ireland and Scotland , and peaked at number 66 in Switzerland . An accompanying music video was directed by Nzingha Stewart and shot in black and white . It features Burke in a variety of different stylized sets in different outfits and dresses . The singer has performed the song on The Paul O 'Grady Show and The X Factor . It was included on the set list of her All Night Long Tour (2011) .

= = Background and release = =

After the release and success of the lead single " Bad Boys " from her debut album Overcome in October 2009 , the singer released " Broken Heels " as the second single in January 2010 , with the intention of releasing " The Silence " as the album 's third single . However , a remix single version of " All Night Long " featuring Pitbull was released as the third single from the album instead in May 2010 . On 25 October 2010 , Burke announced via Twitter that " The Silence " would be the final song to be released from Overcome , writing " Some of you might be surprised at my choice of next single and some of you guys will hopefully be really happy . " The song was re @-@ recorded with a new vocal for inclusion on the re @-@ release of the album , entitled " The Silence (New Single Mix) " . In an interview with Eamonn Holmes for Sky News Sunrise in December 2010 , Burke stated that " The Silence " was released as a promotional single for the re @-@ release of Overcome and for Christmas . During an interview talking about the song for Virgin Media in December 2010 , Burke stated that " The Silence " is a " very special song " and that despite it being a " very emotional song to sing " , it is one of her most favourite songs on Overcome .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" The Silence " is a power ballad , which lasts for a duration of three minutes and 35 seconds . It draws influence from the music genre of R & B and pop , while instrumentation consists of a piano , a guitar and drums . The song is written in the key of A minor and is set in simple time with a metronome of 76 beats per minute . Burke 's vocal range in the song spans from the low note of F3 to the high note of F5 . In an interview with Peter Andre on The Paul O 'Grady Show on 3 November 2009 , Burke explained the meaning of the songs lyrics , saying " I 'm sure everyone has been in that situation where you are in a relationship , it might not be going so well and you kinda want your other half to speak out and say what is on their mind , and I 've had relationships like that . " Burke continued to explain that when she was in the recording studio with RedOne , her Aunt was experiencing problems in her relationship which related to the lyrics in " The Silence , " and that she felt that her Aunt 's partner should not " let the silence do the talking ? Why doesn 't he let you know how he feels ? , " and that " The Silence " was written as a result . The songs begins with the lyrics " Oh , you lift me up . "

= = Response = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

" The Silence " garnered positive reviews from music critics . Al Fox for BBC Music described the song as " a gargantuan power ballad " and that it displays Burke 's " rich and emotive vocals . " Fox also compared the song to the work of Bonnie Tyler and Beyoncé Knowles . Nick Levine for Digital Spy wrote that Overcome features ballads which are reminiscent to songs performed by previous X Factor winner Leona Lewis , with regard to " The Silence " and the title track " Overcome . "

= = = Chart performance = = =

Upon the release of Overcome , " The Silence " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 95 in the chart issue dated 31 October 2009 . Upon its release as a promotional single in December 2010 , it re @-@ entered the singles chart at number 126 on 11 December 2010 , and leaped to its peak of number 16 the following week . In the chart issue dated 25 December 2010 , the song fell twenty positions to number 36 . " The Silence " leaped from number 125 to number 13 on the UK Digital Chart . The following week , it dropped to number 35 . In Scotland , the song peaked at number 16 on the Scottish Singles Chart on 18 December 2010 . The following week , it descended to number 37 . " The Silence " debuted and peaked at number 30 on the Irish Singles Chart on 9 December 2010 . The following week , it dropped to number 35 . The song debuted and peaked on the Swiss Singles Chart at number 66 on 12 December 2010 , and fell to number 69 the following week . A month later , the song re @-@ entered the chart at number 72 on 23 January 2011 for one week . In Hungary , the song peaked at number 26 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " The Silence " was directed by Nzingha Stewart before the video for " All Night Long " was shot . The video was shot in black and white , and features Burke in different outfits and dresses , as well as in a variety of sets with props . It begins with a couple of establishing shots of Burke of her posing with a balloon wearing and in another set where she is sitting on music speakers . Throughout the video , Burke is visibly in a studio with different backdrops , where she is preparing to be photographed . During the first verse , Burke is shown in the two sets while she sings the lyrics . Prior to the first chorus , a new set is introduced of Burke wearing a black dress which exposes all of her back while sitting on the floor next to a stereo . During the first verse , all three sets show Burke carrying out different tasks with he props , as well as a new set where she sits in front of a white backdrop in a plain white oversized shirt . As the second verse begins , the set of Burke sitting on the floor next to a stereo changes to that of her standing up in front of a microphone singing the lyrics , with the backdrop of a city skyline . During the second verse , another set is introduced of Burke posing against a stuffed animal . During the bridge , Burke sings the lyrics standing in front of the camera without any props surrounding her ; prior to sustaining a long note , Burke has her back to the camera and is nude from the waist up . During the final verse , Burke 's anger and desperation is shown to be heightened , as she sings to her herself in the mirror and places more emphasis on her movement . The video ends with the singer nude from the waist up and facing the camera , covering herself with her arms crossed over her chest .

= = Live performances = =

Burke performed the song for the first time on MTV Push upon the release of Overcome . Burke then performed the song on 3 November 2009 on The Paul O 'Grady show , where she gave an interview about her experience on The X Factor and how the lyrics for " The Silence " were

conceptualised . Upon the announcement that the song and music video were going to be released , Burke included the song on her set list of the Jingle Bell Ball concerts around the country , where other artists including Nicole Scherzinger , Olly Murs and The Wanted also performed . During the performance at The O2 Arena in London , Burke was moved to tears and apologised to the audience , saying " I 'm sorry for getting emotional , but that song means way too much to me . " Burke performed the song on the semi final of the seventh series of The X Factor on 5 December 2010 . At the end of the performance , Burke was lifted into the air on a harness . The song was also included on the set list of Burke 's All Night Long Tour (2011) .

= = Track listings = =

2009 standard edition

" The Silence " ? 4 : 01

2010 deluxe edition

" The Silence " (New Single Mix) ? 3 : 35

= = Credits and personnel = =

" The Silence " (2009) credits adapted from the liner notes of Overcome , and " The Silence " (New Single Mix) (2010) credits adapted from the deluxe edition of Overcome .

= = Charts = =