

= Birthday Cake (song) =

" Birthday Cake " is a song by Barbadian recording artist Rihanna , from her sixth studio album , Talk That Talk (2011) . After it leaked onto the internet , fans expressed interest in the track being included on Talk That Talk , but it was later revealed that the 1 : 18 (one minute , 18 seconds) length that leaked was in fact the final cut and was not being considered for inclusion on the album . Due to a high level of fan interest , the song was included on the album as an interlude . The full length version , also known as the official remix of the track , featuring Rihanna 's ex @-@ boyfriend Chris Brown , was premiered online on February 20 , 2012 , to coincide with Rihanna 's 24th birthday . The song peaked in the top fifty .

The lyrics to " Birthday Cake " express the desire to have spontaneous sex . Music critics were divided on " Birthday Cake " , with the majority both praising and criticising the song 's sexual lyrical content . Several critics compared the song to the previous track on the album " Cockiness (Love It) " , which also consists of sexually explicit lyrics . Upon the release of Talk That Talk , the song debuted on the lower regions of the singles charts in South Korea , the United Kingdom , and the United States .

= = Background and development = =

" Birthday Cake " was written by The @-@ Dream , Rihanna , Marcos Palacios , and Earnest Clark , with production helmed by Da Internz and The @-@ Dream . The interlude was recorded in room 1306 of the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel in Copenhagen , Denmark . In an interview for The Boom Box , producer The @-@ Dream answered a question about fans being disappointed that " Birthday Cake " would not be featured on Talk That Talk (2011) after it leaked online before the album 's November 2011 release ; the producer explained that only an interlude had been produced , and that a full length version of the song would be released at some point during the Talk That Talk era , saying :

I was just talking to Rihanna about that , because she [originally] made [just] an interlude . I was like , ' Your fans are going to be so mad at you . ' As soon as I said that , I got back , and I guess she released a piece of it , and they saw how long it is . Man , they tore me up on Twitter ! So I hit her on the phone . I was like , ' Yo , your fans , they 're going crazy on me right now , like I could make you do something . ' So ' Birthday Cake ' is on there . It 's going to turn into a whole song because the fans are ganging up on me , and I don 't want to be murdered by the Rihanna Navy ! .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Birthday Cake " is an interlude which lasts for one minute and 18 seconds , appearing as the sixth track on the album . The instrumentation of " Birthday Cake " consists of a heavy bass , schoolbells , engine sounds , claps , and electro beats . The track also consists of hoover synths , synth handclaps , an Eastern @-@ inspired tone and chants . In the song , Rihanna adopts a sensual tone in her vocals , as she chants the song 's provocative and sexually explicit lyrics . The majority of the interlude is rapped by Rihanna . A reviewer for Flavour described the singer 's vocal performance in " Birthday Cake " as " sultry " . Nathan S. of DJ Booth concurred that Rihanna sounds " sultry " as well as " playful " on the song .

The lyrical content of the interlude is spare and largely revolves around Rihanna chanting , " cake cake cake cake cake . " Aside from the repetitive chant of " cake " , the interlude consists of multiple sexual metaphors . The lyric " I know you wanna bite this / It 's so enticing / Nothing else like this , I 'ma make you my bitch / And it 's not even my birthday / But you wanna put your name on it " is a metaphor referring to a vagina . Rihanna sings about the desire to have spontaneous sex . Rihanna promises her lover that she will make him do whatever she pleases , singing " I 'mma make you my bitch . " T 'Cha Dunlevy of The Montreal Gazette described the lyric as a " promise " , with Rihanna intending to act upon her desires . The interlude ends mid @-@ verse and mid @-@ lyric with a fade at 1 : 18 . Katherine St. Asaph of Popdust described the fade as " ungraceful " , as well

as writing that it makes the track appear as though it is not finished . Upon the fade , Rihanna puts forward the line " Ooh , I wanna fuck you right now . " Dunlevy and St. Asaph were critical of the final line , with the former labelling it as " blatant " , and the latter noting that " cursing makes everything obvious . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Birthday Cake " garnered mixed reviews from music critics . Jayson Lipshutz of Billboard praised the interlude , writing " We 're all for birthday @-@ themed naughtiness in pop music form , but only 78 seconds of ' Birthday Cake ' is just not enough of a celebration ! " Lipshutz continued to compare the song 's lyrical message to Jeremih 's " Birthday Sex " . Sam Lansky of MTV Buzzworthy was complimentary of " Birthday Cake " , writing , " The only misstep on the album ? not because it 's not amazing (it is !) , but because it 's only 78 seconds long . ' Birthday Cake ' is more decadent Rihanna filth , this time courtesy of sensual R & B @-@ master The @-@ Dream . Have any Rihanna Navy members made an hour @-@ long mix yet ? We need to keep the bump ' n ' grind going all night . " Pip Ellwood of Entertainment @-@ Focus noted that " Birthday Cake " , along with " Cockiness (Love It) " , " leave you under no misunderstanding that Rihanna is as sexual as she 's ever been throughout her career . " Melissa Maerz of Entertainment Weekly wrote that " Birthday Cake " , along with " Cockiness (Love It) " , were the most provocative songs on the album , describing them as " I @-@ like @-@ it @-@ rough tracks " , but criticized them for being album fillers designed to get the listener out of the bedroom and on to the dance floor .

Adrian Thrills of the Daily Mail wrote that after listening to " Cockiness (Love It) " and then " Birthday Cake " , " the double entendres have grown tiresome " after having listening to the latter . Giovanni Caquias of CultureBlues expressed distaste for " Birthday Cake " , calling the track " horrendous " , but referred to it being " only a minimal waste of time " due to its short length . Mike Diver of BBC Music was equally critical , writing that " Birthday Cake " is a " wholly pointless minute @-@ something in the company of star producer The @-@ Dream , wasted on the boring profanities of Birthday Cake . " A reviewer for Flavour had a mixed reaction to the lyrical content , writing , " I can 't exactly say it is a bad song . In fact , I will probably be singing it over the next few weeks . But at this point its like , ' we get it ? you like sex . ' Chill out about it and sing about education or something ? your younger fans need more SUBSTANCE . " [sic] Nathan S. of DJ Booth noted that the song resembles a real life " quickie " , continuing to write that the overtly sexual lyrics in the song earned Talk That Talk the Parental Advisory sticker . Randall Roberts of the Los Angeles Times commented that the lyrics on " Birthday Cake " " wouldn 't seem out of place on Spinal Tap 's ' Smell the Glove ' . " Roberts continued to note that " Birthday Cake " appeared to be an afterthought , writing ,

The hottest lines on the album come nearly as an afterthought on the all @-@ too @-@ brief ' Birthday Cake , ' produced by The @-@ Dream . ' I know you wanna bite this / It 's so enticin ' / Nothin ' else like this / I 'mma make you my bitch , ' she sings . But as if the network censors had let the song run before realizing their mistake , a little over a minute into it the music fades out , just as it 's getting dirty , leaving us wondering whether Rihanna really believes what she 's selling on " Talk That Talk . "

= = Chart performance = =

Upon the release of Talk That Talk , " Birthday Cake " debuted on several world charts . The song entered the South Korea Gaon International Chart at number 67 on November 26 , 2011 , with sales of 6 @,@ 661 digital downloads . In the United Kingdom , " Birthday Cake " debuted at number 172 on December 3 , 2011 . In the United States , the song charted at number 22 on the US Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , which represents the 25 songs which failed to chart on the Billboard Hot 100 . On March 3 , 2012 , " Birthday Cake " made its first appearance on the US Digital Songs chart at number 62 , following the release of the official remix featuring Brown , and has peaked at number 30 . Due to strong airplay spins , the interlude of " Birthday Cake " peaked at number 4 on

the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . " Birthday Cake " was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , denoting shipments of over 500 @,@ 000 units .

= = Live performance = =

Rihanna performed the song for the first time on May 5 , 2012 , on Saturday Night Live , as part of a medley with " Talk That Talk " . The performance started with the original interlude version " Birthday Cake " and featured Rihanna in an all black outfit with a giant spiders web as the backdrop behind her . After she performed a short section of the song , it transitioned into " Talk That Talk " , where she performed her part of the song in full , without the rap vocal by Jay @-@ Z. The remix of the song was included on her Diamonds World Tour as part of her first act in 2013 .

= = Track listing = =

Album version

" Birthday Cake " ? 1 : 18

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Radisson Blu Royal Hotel , Room 1306 , Copenhagen , Denmark .

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Talk That Talk , Def Jam Recordings , SRP Records .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Remix featuring Chris Brown = =

" Birthday Cake " was remixed with vocals from American recording artist Chris Brown , and is a full length version of the interlude which was originally included on Talk That Talk . It was sent to radio as the fourth US single from the album on March 6 , 2012 . At first , it was rumored that Christina Aguilera would feature on the remix version after Rihanna posted a message on Twitter saying that she wanted someone " Dirrrty " on the re @-@ recording , a supposed reference to Aguilera 's 2002 song " Dirrrty " . However , the singer later tweeted that she wanted a male vocalist , not a female vocalist , to accompany her on the remix via Twitter with a tweet reading ' No girls allowed on # CAKE ' . It was later revealed that Brown was the featured artist on the full length version . Despite receiving negative attention regarding Rihanna 's choice of collaborator from the media and fans alike , the singer defended her decision saying that it is simply music .

The remix of " Birthday Cake " ' s lyrics are similar to the interlude , but with new lyrics provided by Brown . Critical reception of the collaboration was met with a mixed response from music critics , many of whom were shocked at the fact that Rihanna and Brown had collaborated on a song together despite their relationship history , but cited the remix as an improvement upon the original interlude . The remix peaked at number 24 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , and number two on the R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . American rappers Fabolous , Rick Ross and Busta Rhymes appeared on additional remixes of the song .

= = = Background = = =

Due to the high level of demand by the singer 's fans to release a full length of " Birthday Cake " ,

Rihanna posted a message via her official Twitter account , promising that it was at the top of her agenda to record and release it . Despite fans wanting to hear the updated version , Katherine St. Asaph of PopDust criticized the notion , writing " Honestly , at this point Rihanna and Def Jam would be better off just calling ' Birthday Cake ' an interlude , not an incomplete version , because otherwise that 's saying the album is released but essentially unfinished . " Beck Bain of Idolator noted that the release of the full length song is " doubtful " , writing " the song is already too dirty in its current minute @-@ and @-@ twenty @-@ second version . But if ' S & M ' could be a single , is anything [sic] too risqué for the radio these days ? "

In February 2012 , it was speculated that Christina Aguilera would appear as the featured artist on the release after Rihanna posted a message on Twitter saying , " I need somebody # DIRRRTY [sic] on my Birthday # CAKE [sic] , " a supposed reference to Aguilera 's 2002 song " Dirty " , which contains lyrical content relating to various sexual activities . The singer later confirmed that she did not want a female artist to feature on the collaboration , stating , " No girls allowed on # CAKE . [sic] " On February 15 , 2012 , Kosine of Da Internz , who produced the interlude , revealed that the featured collaborator will " shock the world , " and that the full length version would premiere between February 16 , and February 20 , 2012 .

= = = Development = = =

On February 16 , 2012 , it was speculated that former boyfriend Chris Brown was the featured artist on the full length version . Reports surfaced after the pair were photographed leaving Westlake Recording Studios in Los Angeles at separate times and Brown being invited to Rihanna 's birthday party . Rumors were also fueled when Rihanna and Brown spent time together at the 2012 Grammy Awards on February 8 , 2012 . The reports gained worldwide media controversy , because Brown and Rihanna were involved in a physical altercation on the evening of the 2009 Grammy Awards . The full length version , eventually revealed to feature Brown , was released on Rihanna 's birthday , February 20 , 2012 . In an interview with Billboard , The @-@ Dream stated that he believed Rihanna and Brown 's past together should not be judged and that " Birthday Cake " is simply a song , saying , " For me , it 's just music - two talented people doing a record together , doing two records together , and that 's what it was . It wasn 't about an incident that happened . The true thing really is to forgive , and you want to believe in people . " " Birthday Cake " impacted US Urban contemporary radio on March 6 , 2012 , serving as the fourth U.S. single from Talk That Talk .

On March 15 , 2012 , Rihanna explained her collaboration with Brown to Ryan Seacrest during his morning show : " The first song that came about was ' Birthday Cake ' . I mean , we ended up recording them at the same time and executing them together . But I reached out to him about doing ' Birthday Cake ' because that ? s the only person that , really , it made sense to do the record . Just as a musician , despite everything else , that was going to be the person . You know I thought about rappers , and I ? ve done that so many times , and the hottest R & B artist out right now is Chris Brown . So I wanted him on the track , and then in turn he was like , ? Why don ? t you do the remix to my track ? ? and it was a trade @-@ off . We did two records . One for my fans , one for his fans , and that way our fans can come together . There shouldn ? t be a divide . You know ? It ? s music , and it ? s innocent . " In March 2012 , American rapper Fabolous released his own verse to the " Birthday Cake " remix . The following month , Rick Ross also released the track featuring an added rap verse from himself , along with the previously incorporated Chris Brown verses . Busta Rhymes released his own freestyle to the song along with rapper Reek da Villian .

= = = Composition = = =

Brown 's verse begins with the lyric " Girl , I wanna fuck you right now , " which is the antithesis of how Rihanna concludes the original interlude , sing " Ooh , I wanna fuck you right now . " Brown 's verse continues with " Been a long time I 've been missing your body / Turn the lights down / When I go down it 's a private party . " Brown delivers his vocals in an aggressive and manipulative manner as he sings " Give it to her in the worst way , can 't wait to blow her candles out . " At the end of the

song , Rihanna performs new lyrics which were not included on the original 1 minute and 18 second interlude ; " Remember how you did it / If you still wanna kiss it / Then come and get it . " According to Ben Rayner of the Toronto Sun , the instrumentation of " Birthday Cake " consists of " snaky , slurpy , bass @-@ droppin ' beats . " The song 's lyrics revolve around sadomasochistic sexuality and dominance over men , and consists mainly of oral sex metaphors , including the lyric " Doggy want the kitty . "

= = = Critical reception = = =

Beth Hardie for the Daily Mirror wrote that the remix came as a shock , because of how Brown " beat her virtually senseless in a car three years ago just before the Grammys , " and noted that Rihanna would face harsh criticism from journalists and fans alike for not setting a good example to younger girls . Hardie continued to state that although the collaboration came as a surprise , " We have to admit , it ? s a pretty amazing stroke of genius in terms of publicity and messing with people ? s minds . " Regarding the collaboration on the remix Jo Usmar from Daily Mirror compared the collaboration to the physical altercation between Rihanna and Brown at the 2009 Grammy Awards , writing " In case you 've been living in a cave for the last two years this is extraordinarily controversial as Brown was convicted of assaulting Rihanna in 2009 and there was a restraining order issued against him . " Ben Rayner for the Toronto Sun was complimentary of the remix , writing that it was an improvement upon the original interlude , " What was empty , unfinished titillation before , then , has become empty , overstated , boardroom @-@ written pseudo @-@ pornography for the pop charts . "

Jon Caramanica for The New York Times commented that the remix of " Birthday Cake " , as well as the original , was " very much so " a good song . However , Caramanica was critical of the collaboration itself , due to Rihanna and Brown 's history , writing " You want to forget ? Fine . But don ? t forgive . " Caramanica continued to explain his distaste , writing " It displays an advanced understanding of marketing and an understanding of moral obligations and ethics that 's not much more than rudimentary . It is a woman publicly accepting her abuser - nothing more , nothing less . " J. Bryan Lowder for The Huffington Post labelled the song as " innuendo @-@ iced " with regard to the song 's explicit lyrics . Lowder provided an explanation for what he thought the reason was behind Rihanna asking Brown to collaborate on " Birthday Cake " , writing :

Even though we know that collaborations like this are almost always commercial in motivation , we like to imagine that the artist 's choice of a creative partner gives us some kind of access to their private , emotional world . Collaboration suggests a personal relationship , and our eavesdropping on that interplay conjures up a feeling of intimacy between audience and artist that is very powerful . We feel like we know what 's really going on with Rihanna and Chris Brown because we are virtually present in the studio with them , and here , the thing we 're meant to know is that everything 's OK now . The problem is , the strategy won 't work ; because of an infamous leaked photograph , we were also virtually present in the car that night three years ago when Brown beat Rihanna till her face was bruised and bloodied . And that kind of terrifying intimacy is not easily forgotten .

= = = Live performance = = =

Rihanna performed " Birthday Cake " Remix at Radio 1 's Hackney Weekend on May 24 , 2012 , as the fifth song on the set list . She performed the remix in its entirety , and sang Brown 's lyrics . The song was later included on her Diamonds World Tour in 2013 during the first act .

= = = Chart performance = = =

The remix version of " Birthday Cake " debuted at number 20 on the US Billboard R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart on chart issue dated March 10 , 2012 , and received both the Airplay and Greatest Gainer honours . The following week , it ascended to number 17 . In its third week on the chart , the song ascended to number seven , and received the Airplay Gainer honor . The song ascended to

number four the following week , and was awarded with the Airplay Gainer honor again . It has so far reached a peak of number two . It debuted at number 63 on the US Billboard Hot 100 on the chart issue dated March 10 , 2012 . In its fourth week on the chart , the song climbed to number 39 and became the fourth top forty single from Talk That Talk . " Birthday Cake " (Remix) has reached a peaked of number 24 . The remix of " Birthday Cake " debuted at number 73 on the Radio Songs chart , generating a 372 % increase in spins , on the chart issue dated March 10 , 2012 . It has so reached a peak of number 16 .

= = = Charts = = =

Weekly Charts

Year @-@ end charts

= = = Premiere and radio history = = =