

= Fighter (song) =

" Fighter " is a song recorded by American singer and songwriter Christina Aguilera for her fourth studio album , Stripped (2002) . The song was written by Aguilera and Scott Storch , and produced by the latter . It was released by RCA Records as the third single from Stripped on March 13 , 2003 . Inspired by Guns N ' Roses ' song " November Rain " , " Fighter " was characterized as a hybrid of rock and R & B that incorporates elements of arena rock and rock and roll . The track sees Aguilera thanking a man who had done wrong to her for making her a " fighter . "

" Fighter " received mostly positive reviews from music critics , who praised Aguilera 's vocals and the song 's empowering lyrics . The single peaked at number 20 on the US Billboard Hot 100 and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . As of September 2014 , " Fighter " has sold 1 @. @ 184 million copies in the United States . Elsewhere , the song reached the top ten of several national music charts , including those in the United Kingdom , Canada , Australia , and the Netherlands .

A music video for " Fighter " was directed by Floria Sigismondi . Aguilera performed the track on three of her major concert tours : Justified and Stripped Tour (2003) , The Stripped Tour (2003) , and Back to Basics Tour (2006 ? 08) . " Fighter " has been covered by several artists , including Jordin Sparks and Darren Criss .

= = Background and composition = =

In the book Chicken Soup for the Soul : The Story Behind the Song , Aguilera revealed the occasion , theme and meaning of " Fighter " . She talked about her " very chaotic and abusive " home , where she did not feel " safe " . In school , Aguilera was picked on and alienated because of her musical passion . However , it made her become " smarter and stronger " . To release herself , Aguilera started to write songs at the age of 15 , both music and lyrics ; and it was the way how she found her voice . The writing process of " Fighter " began during her promotion for her debut album in 1999 , when she was " a part of the big craze pop phenomenon " . According to Aguilera , her debut album helped her a lot to develop the process . She wanted to make an " emotionally rich and positive empowering " song , especially for women , in order for them to speak for themselves be strong . About the idea of the track , she revealed , " I was coming up with titles and ideas and deciding what I wanted to write about . I had to sit down and make sense of my feelings and experiences . I learned a lot from the first record that helped me to develop . I took the good and the bad and considered some of the choices I made and became better because of it .

Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine characterized " Fighter " as a hybrid of R & B and rock . Meanwhile , a reviewer of Billboard described the song as arena rock @-@ influenced , and AOL Music 's Nana @-@ Adwoa Ofori noted the elements of rock and roll . However , Nick Levin from Digital Spy detailed " Fighter " as an arena rock piece . The song was inspired by band Guns N ' Roses ' song " November Rain " (1992) . Written in the key of E minor , " Fighter " has a moderate tempo of 96 beats per minute . Brian Hiatt from Entertainment Weekly and Chuck Taylor for Billboard likened the track 's musical style to that of Janet Jackson 's " Black Cat " . Aguilera 's vocals on the track span from the low @-@ note of G2 to the high @-@ note of F ? 5 ; Taylor labelled Aguilera 's vocals " tornado of a vocal . "

At the beginning of " Fighter " , the guitar sound was arranged in the chord progression of Em ? G / D ? D ? C ? Em / B ? B ? Am ? C / G ? G ? B7 . Aguilera speaks the lyrics , " After all you put me through , you 'd think I 'd despise you / But in the end , I wanna thank you , ' cause you made me that much stronger " on the guitar theme by Dave Navarro . Lyrically , Aguilera wants to thank the man who did her wrong rather than insult him , because he helped make her stronger and work harder , thus making her a fighter . At the chorus , she sings , " ' Cause it makes me that much stronger / Makes me work a little bit harder / Makes me that much wiser / So thanks for making me a fighter " . The chords in the guitar part are E5 ? F ? 5 ? G5 ? A5 ? B5 ? C5 ? B5 ? A5 ? G5 ? F ? 5 ? E5 . She continues , " Made me learn a little bit faster / Made my skin a little bit thicker / Makes me that much smarter / So thanks for making me a fighter " . The lyrics of " Fighter " have been

recognized as " empowering " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical reception = = =

David Brownie from Entertainment Weekly called it " spunkier than one would expect from a dance @-@ floor strumpet who loves to flaunt her lung power . " Chuck Taylor writing for Billboard complimented " Fighter " for demonstrating that Aguilera " [has] got the goods to rise above what so many lesser acts depend on for celebrity . " On behalf of the same publication , Andrew Unterberger wrote that " Fighter " and " Can 't Hold Us Down " are two tracks that helped " expand audience expectations of her image and sound . " Digital Spy 's Nick Levine named it a " strutting arena rock " song , while Nick Butler from Sputnikmusic simply called it " great . " The New York Times editor Kelefa Sanneh positively viewed the track 's theme as " fearless " and " full of mildly rebellious rhetoric . " On a less positive side , BBC Music 's Jacqueline Hodges called the song " hilarious " , while Jancee Dunn from Rolling Stone wrote that the song " is a sterile foray into rock . "

= = = Chart performance = = =

In the United States , " Fighter " debuted at number 61 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart on April 12 , 2003 , becoming the week 's best @-@ debuting single . In the following week , it jumped to number 56 . On the issue dated April 26 , 2003 , the single charted at number 46 . In its fourth week charting , " Fighter " raised to number 38 . The single grew ten positions , charting at number 28 on May 10 . On May 17 , 2003 , it charted at number 22 . " Fighter " finally peaked at number 20 in its seventh week charting , becoming Aguilera 's ninth top @-@ twenty hit on the chart . On the Pop Songs chart , it peaked at number five . The single also peaked at number 28 on the Adult Pop Songs . On November 1 , 2003 , " Fighter " was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for shipping more than 500 @,@ 000 copies in the country . As of August 2014 , the single has sold 1 @,@ 184 @,@ 000 million digital units in the United States . On the Canadian Singles Chart , it peaked at number three .

Throughout Europe , " Fighter " also attained moderate success on charts , peaking within the top 15 in most of the countries where it charted . It reached number 11 in Belgium (Flanders) and Switzerland , number 12 in Norway and Sweden , number 13 in Germany , and number 15 in Denmark , Italy and Spain . In Hungary , it peaked at number 8 on the Mega Top 100 Singles . The single also reached the top five in the Netherlands . On the UK Singles Chart , " Fighter " was a commercial success , peaking at number three and remained there for 13 weeks , becoming the longest @-@ running single from Stripped on the chart . As of February 2013 , " Fighter " has sold 159 @,@ 000 copies in the United Kingdom . The single also garnered success in Australia and New Zealand , peaking at number five and 14 respectively in the two regions . Due to its chart success in Australia , the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) certified " Fighter " gold for its shipments of 35 @,@ 000 copies there .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Fighter " was directed by Floria Sigismondi , who revealed that it would display Aguilera " like I don 't think she 's been portrayed before " . The video was filmed in Los Angeles , California and was inspired by the director 's signature dark theatrics and the life cycle of moths . Sigismondi explained the theme and plot of the clip to MTV News :

" The song is sort of about transformation , so I took that in a nature kind of way , the way nature deals with transformation . It 's basically about coming from a very poisoned place to an empowerment , a place of strength . I 've always had this fear of moths , and I subconsciously wrote this thing with these moths in it , so I guess I have to deal with it . They 're furry and they carry dust .

I found out in old mythology they are supposed to represent the soul . I think that 's very appropriate " .

The video begins with Aguilera wearing a black velvet kimono , with a pale complexion and long black hair , refers to a larva . Three pins are lodged in her back , making her hunch . Initially , she is trapped in a glass box , and her kimono is billowing like a balloon . Three Gothic ballerinas eat fruit and then collapse . Aguilera then breaks free from the box by pounding on it until it breaks . She tosses aside her kimono after furiously removing the pins on her back and throwing them away . A tattered , white , moth @-@ covered dress is revealed , symbolizing her metaphoric evolution from the larva to a pupa . In addition , her hair becomes white , and moths fly around her . Near the end , Aguilera wears an Elvira @-@ type spider dress , again proclaiming that she is a " fighter " .

The music video for " Fighter " garnered numerous awards . At the 2003 Belgian TMF Awards , the clip won Best Video International . It garnered Aguilera and Sigismondi a Juno Award for Video of the Year at the 2004 ceremony , which was held at Rexall Place in Edmonton , Alberta , Canada . It also earned four MVPA Awards for Best Pop Video , Best Cinematography , Best Make @-@ Up and Best Styling in a Video in 2004 , held at Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles , California .

= = Live performances = =

Aguilera performed " Fighter " on a number of shows . The singer performed the song for the first time at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards , held at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on August 28 , 2003 , in a medley with " Dirrty " . The performance featured Redman as a featured artist , and Dave Navarro as the guitarist . There , she also performed with Madonna , Britney Spears and Missy Elliott a medley of Madonna 's songs " Like a Virgin " and " Hollywood " , and Elliott 's " Work It " . " Fighter " was also performed on Aguilera and Justin Timberlake 's 2003 summer tour Justified and Stripped Tour , in order to support Stripped and Timberlake 's album Justified . In late 2003 , Aguilera performed the track during the tour 's extension , The Stripped Tour , which happened without Timberlake . The performance is included on her first full @-@ length DVD Stripped Live in the U.K. (2004) . On June 1 , 2007 , during the promotion of Back to Basics , Aguilera performed " Fighter " along with " Ain 't No Other Man " , " Hurt " and " Candyman " at the 2007 Muz @-@ TV Awards . Later , during her 2006 ? 07 Back to Basics Tour , the track was performed as the last song in the encore . Barry Walters for Rolling Stone labelled the performance of " Fighter " " ended the show on a hard @-@ rocking high " . It is included on the video release Back to Basics : Live and Down Under (2008) .

On June 8 , 2010 , the singer sang the track with four other songs , " Bionic " , " Not Myself Tonight " , " Beautiful " and " You Lost Me " on The Today Show . Selected as the opener of the show , James Dinh for MTV News named it " aggressive " , while Erika Brooks Adickman for Idolator called the performance a " hot @-@ mess show wardrobe " . On June 11 , 2010 , Aguilera performed " Fighter " , " You Lost Me " , " Not Myself Tonight " along with a medley of " Genie in a Bottle " and " What a Girl Wants " on The Early Show . Later that year , on June 13 , she performed all of her biggest hits on VH1 Storytellers , including " Fighter " . Before performing the song , Aguilera revealed to the crowd , " When I was younger there were a lot of people , as I mentioned before , that were sort of around me for the wrong reasons . There 's always a positive to those negative times because throughout it you come out so much stronger and wiser " . During the Justin Timberlake & Friends benefit show ? held by Justin Timberlake on October 24 , 2010 in Las Vegas , Nevada ? Aguilera was invited to perform several of her hits , including " Beautiful " , " Fighter " and " Ain 't No Other Man " . On April 16 , 2012 , Aguilera performed " Fighter " again on the second season of US reality show The Voice , on which she is one of the judges and coaches , with her " Team Xtina " and Crenshaw High School choir . Jonathan Hofmann called the performance " insane and bizarre as it sounds " .

= = Legacy = =

Since its release , " Fighter " has been recognized as one of Aguilera 's most empowering songs for

women due to its lyrics . It was also featured on several shows . On April 6 , 2003 , a 90 @-@ second music video featuring Aguilera preparing for a center court performance at the Staples Center in Los Angeles was premiered for National Basketball Association (NBA) ' s " Love It Live " promotional section . The clip also featured several NBA famous acts , including Michael Jordan , Kobe Bryant , Shaquille O 'Neal , and Yao Ming . " Fighter " was also included in the American reality show , The Biggest Loser , which aired by NBC .

" Fighter " has been covered on numerous occasions . On May 23 , 2007 , singer Jordin Sparks covered " Fighter " during the season finale of the sixth season of US singing contest American Idol , which made her the winner . On May 26 , 2010 , five female contestants of the ninth season of American Idol : Lacey Brown , Didi Benami , Katie Stevens , Siobhan Magnus and Crystal Bowersox performed a medley of Aguilera 's hits " Beautiful " and " Fighter " , where Aguilera also performed her 2010 single " You Lost Me " . " Fighter " was also covered by her team 's contestants on the second season of The Voice , where she is one of the coaches as well as one of the performers , on April 16 , 2012 .

During the second blind auditions of The Voice UK , which was aired on March 31 , 2012 , Denise Pearson (credited as Denis Pearson) covered " Fighter " . She was selected to Sir Tom Jones team as a result . American actor Darren Criss , portrayed as his fictional character Blaine Anderson , performed the song on the episode " Big Brother " of US popular TV show Glee , aired on April 10 , 2012 . The version peaked at number 58 on the Hot Digital Songs and at number 85 on the Canadian Hot 100 . Singer CeCe Frey , a participant of the second season of US show The X Factor , made a cover of the song . Sylvia Yacoub from Aguilera 's team on the third season of The Voice also recorded a version of the song .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from " Fighter " CD single liner notes
Studios

Recorded at The Enterprise Studios in Burbank , California

Recorded at Conway Studios in Hollywood , Los Angeles , California

Mixed at The Record Plant , Los Angeles , California

Mastered at Bernie Grundman Mastering

Personnel

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =