

= Boy (I Need You) =

" Boy (I Need You) " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Mariah Carey , taken from her ninth studio album , Charmbracelet (2002) . It was written by Carey , Justin Smith , Norman Whitfield and Cameron Giles , and produced by the former and Just Blaze . The song was released as the album 's second single on November 26 , 2002 . Initially , " The One " had been chosen as the second single from the album , however , halfway through the filming of a music video for it , the singer decided to release " Boy (I Need You) " instead . Considered by Carey as one of her favorites , the track is a reworked version of rapper Cam 'ron 's song " Oh Boy " released earlier that year .

The song was met with generally mixed reviews from contemporary critics . Many praised Carey 's versatility and considered it as one of the stand @-@ out tracks of Charmbracelet for having a different production when compared to the others . However , the sample hook of the song was described as " annoying " . The single failed to make much impact on the charts around the world ; it reached number 68 on the US Billboard Hip @-@ Hop / R & B Songs chart and number 57 on the US Hot Singles Sales chart . Elsewhere , the song reached the top 20 in the United Kingdom , while peaking within the top 40 in Australia , the Netherlands , Ireland and New Zealand .

The music video , directed by Joseph Kahn , incorporates elements of Japanese culture and features Carey 's alter @-@ ego Bianca . It was also the first time that Carey worked with Kahn in a music video , which premiered on an episode of MTV 's Making the Video in 2003 . Following the release of " Through the Rain " , Carey embarked on several stateside , European and Asian promotional tours in support of Charmbracelet , as well as its accompanying singles . Carey performed " Boy (I Need You) " live on several television shows appearances around the world .

= = Background = =

After she received Billboard 's Artist of the Decade Award and the World Music Award for Best @-@ Selling Female Artist of the Millennium in 2000 , Carey parted from Columbia Records and signed a record @-@ breaking \$ 100 million five @-@ album recording contract with Virgin Records America America (EMI) . She often stated that Columbia had regarded her as a commodity , with her separation from Tommy Mottola exacerbating her relations with label executives . Just a few months later , in July , 2001 , it was widely reported that Carey had suffered a physical and emotional breakdown , and her relationship with the Latin icon Luis Miguel ended . In an interview the following year , she said , " I was with people who didn 't really know me and I had no personal assistant . I 'd do interviews all day long and get two hours of sleep a night , if that . " Carey began posting a series of disturbing messages on her official website , and displayed erratic behavior on several live promotional outings . On July 19 , 2001 , Carey made a surprise appearance on the MTV program Total Request Live (TRL) . As the show 's host Carson Daly began taping following a commercial break , Carey came out pushing an ice cream cart while wearing a large men 's shirt , and began a striptease , in which she shed her shirt to reveal a tight yellow and green ensemble . While she later revealed that Daly was aware of her presence in the building prior to her appearance , Carey 's appearance on TRL garnered strong media attention .

Only days later , Carey began posting irregular voice notes and messages on her official website : " I 'm trying to understand things in life right now and so I really don 't feel that I should be doing music right now . What I 'd like to do is just a take a little break or at least get one night of sleep without someone popping up about a video . All I really want is [to] just be me and that 's what I should have done in the first place ... I don 't say this much but guess what , I don 't take care of myself . " Following the quick removal of the messages , Berger commented that Carey had been " obviously exhausted and not thinking clearly " when she posted the letters . On July 26 , she was hospitalized , citing " extreme exhaustion " and a " physical and emotional breakdown " . News websites and programs began reporting how Carey threatened to commit suicide by slitting her wrists the night before , and how Patricia , Carey 's mother , hastily called for help . When questioned regarding Carey 's suicidal rumor , Berger claimed she had broken dishes out of desperation , and as a result ,

accidentally cut her hands and feet . Carey was inducted at an undisclosed hospital in Connecticut , and remained hospitalized and under doctor 's care for two weeks , followed by an extended absence from the public . Following the heavy media coverage surrounding Carey 's publicized breakdown and hospitalization , Virgin Records America and 20th Century Fox delayed the release of both *Glitter* , as well as its soundtrack of the same name .

Critics panned *Glitter* , as well as its accompanying soundtrack ; both were unsuccessful commercially . The accompanying soundtrack album , *Glitter* , became Carey 's lowest selling album to that point . The St. Louis Post Dispatch dismissed it as " an absolute mess that 'll go down as an annoying blemish on a career that , while not always critically heralded , was at least nearly consistently successful . " Following the negative cloud that was ensuing Carey 's personal life at the time , as well as the project 's poor reception , her unprecedented \$ 100 million five album record deal with Virgin Records America (EMI Records) was bought out for \$ 50 million . Soon after , Carey flew to Capri , Italy for a period of five months , in which she began writing material for her new album , stemming from all the personal experiences she had endured throughout the past year . Carey later said that her time at Virgin was " a complete and total stress fest [...] I made a total snap decision which was based on money and I never make decisions based on money . I learned a big lesson from that . " Later that year , she signed a contract with Island Records , valued at more than \$ 24 million , and launched the record label MonarC . To add further to Carey 's emotional burdens , her father , with whom she had little contact since childhood , died of cancer that year .

= = Recording and release = =

Carey started writing songs for then untitled *Charmbracelet* in 2002 , before she signed the record deal . She decided to concentrate on " getting some much needed rest " and traveled to Capri and moved into the studio , which she had reserved to record the album . While at Capri , Carey could focus on her writing and recording , without being subjected to any stress or pressure . According to her , she would write the songs in her apartment upstairs , and would record them at the studio downstairs , at night . Thus , most of the album was recorded in Capri although she traveled to Atlanta , New York and Philadelphia to record a few tracks . The result was that *Charmbracelet* was her " most personal album " she had ever made .

While Carey paved a lot of the album with slower and autobiographical ballads , she also attempted at making an album with a mixture of several different genres . According to Jon Pareles of The New York Times , the album showed off Carey 's musical and vocal versatility , especially when viewing the differences in the record 's first and second singles , " Ms. Carey is known for her voice , of course : she can hit high notes that barely sound human , and few singers leap around the octaves as gracefully as she does . But as she tries to regain her audience , her greatest weapon may be her versatility : Ms. Carey also knows how to make a hip hop hit by holding back and letting the beat shine . " Carey decided to work with Just Blaze after she heard the song " Oh Boy " he had produced for Cam 'ron . Together they produced " Boy (I Need You) " , a remake of " Oh Boy " , and " You Got Me " . Carey described the former as one of her favorites on the album . " It 's definitely one of my favorites , ' cause I love the original . It was cool to have him out there doing his thing in such a random environment , " she said . " Boy (I Need You) " was released as the second single from the album on November 26 , 2002 . Initially , " The One " was scheduled to be released as the second single and the music video was shot for the song . However , halfway through the filming , the track was changed to " Boy (I Need You) " .

= = Reception = =

" Boy (I Need You) " received mostly mixed reviews from contemporary critics . Jon Pareles of The New York Times complimented the track on its differences with most of the content on *Charmbracelet* . Entertainment Weekly writer Tom Sincalir said that " the herky jerky [track] , on which Cam 'ron guests , [adds] some welcome energy " to the album . Michael Paoletta of

Billboard considered it as one of Charmbracelet 's stand @-@ out tracks , while Slant Magazine 's Sal Cinquemani said " Boy (I Need You) " , along with " You Got Me " , " provide further evidence that Carey should keep her rappers on the remix . " Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic noted that Carey did not " completely abandon hip @-@ hop , but whenever it rears its head on Charmbracelet , it 's utterly jarring " citing the song as an example , while describing the sampled vocal hook as " annoying " . Erlewine , however , selected it as a Track Pick from the album review . The single failed to make much impact on the charts around the world ; it reached number 68 on the US Billboard Hip @-@ Hop / R & B Songs chart and number 57 on the US Hot Singles Sales chart . Elsewhere , the song reached number 17 in the United Kingdom , while peaking within the top 40 in Australia , the Netherlands , Ireland and New Zealand .

= = Music video and live performances = =

Described as " Speed Racer meets Hello Kitty meets me and Cam 'ron " by Carey , the video was directed by Joseph Kahn , stars actor Will Yun Lee and incorporates elements of Japanese culture and features Carey 's alter @-@ ego Bianca . When asked about the music video , Kahn replied , " To me , videos aren 't movies , they 're their own art form @-@ like poetry . If you 're a poet , you want to make poetry . " Carey also revealed that the music video marked the first time she worked with Kahn . The music video production and recording was shown in a MTV 's Making the Video episode in 2003 . The video was likened to a " clear extension of Janet 's " Doesn 't Really Matter " for its similar settings and theme of Japanese pop culture . Following the release of " Through the Rain " , Carey embarked on several stateside , European and Asian promotional tours in support of Charmbracelet , as well as its accompanying singles . Three days prior to the album 's stateside release , a one @-@ hour special titled Mariah Carey : Shining Through the Rain aired on MTV , in which Carey was interviewed and sang several songs from Charmbracelet and of her catalog . During the interview , Carey addressed rumors of her breakdown and its cause , as well as of the album and its inspiration , followed by a question and answer with fans . During the album 's month of release , Carey appeared on several television talk shows , launching her promotional tour on Today , where she performed a four song set @-@ list at Mall of America for a crowd of over 10 @,@ 000 . Carey also performed the song on Top of the Pops and on The Graham Norton Show .

= = Formats and track listings = =

CD single ? part 1

" Boy (I Need You) "

" Boy (I Need You) " [Remix]

" Boy (I Need You) " [Copenhaniacs Remix]

" Boy (I Need You) " [Enhanced Music Video]

CD single ? part 2

" Boy (I Need You) "

" Boy (I Need You) " [Street Remix]

" Boy (I Need You) " [Topnotch L8 Mix]

" Boy (I Need You) " [Topnotch Tox Mix]

12 " Vinyl "

" Boy (I Need You) " [Radio Edit]

" Boy (I Need You) " [LP Version]

" Boy (I Need You) " [Instrumental]

" Boy (I Need You) " [Acapella]

= = Charts = =