

= Half of Me ( Rihanna song ) =

" Half of Me " is a song recorded by Barbadian recording artist Rihanna for her seventh studio album Unapologetic ( 2012 ) . It was written by Emeli Sandé , Naughty Boy and Stargate , with production done by the latter two . It is a chamber pop song that sees Rihanna deliver vocals in an " experimental " fashion . Its lyrics have been described as a " personal essay " , with lyrics that discuss Rihanna 's unrepentant attitude in letting people into her life . She references Oprah Winfrey in the line " You saw me on the television " . The song garnered positive reviews from music critics , some of whom felt that it is " heartfelt " and " psychedelic " . Upon the release of Unapologetic , the song charted in Canada , France , Ireland , Switzerland and the United Kingdom . It debuted at number 10 on the UK R & B Chart .

= = Background and production = =

" Half of Me " was co @-@ written by Scottish recording artist Emeli Sandé together with Shahid Khan , Mikkel S. Eriksen and Tor Erik Hermansen . Production of the song was helmed by Khan under his production name Naughty Boy as well as Eriksen and Hermansen under their production name StarGate . It was recorded by Eriksen and Miles Walker at Roc the Mic Studios located in New York City . Rihanna 's vocals were recorded by Marcus Tovar and Kuk Harrell at R Studios in Los Angeles , California , while it was mixed by Manny Marroquin at Larrabee Studios in Burbank , California . Harrell also handled production of Rihanna 's vocals . All instrumentation and programming was carried out by Eriksen , Hermansen , Khan and Sandé .

= = Composition and lyrical interpretation = =

" Half of Me " is a chamber pop song which lasts for a duration of three minutes and twelve seconds . The line " You saw me on the television " is a possible reference to her interview with Oprah Winfrey after her boyfriend , Chris Brown assaulted her . Christina Lee for Idolator thought that this is because of how Rihanna 's popularity and personal life combined with her " paparazzi @-@ documented interactions " with Brown has generated headlines and news stories around the world . " Half of Me " can be interpreted as a " personal essay " rather than just a song . Stacy @-@ Ann Ellis for Vibe noted that the singer appears to have improved her vocals with regard to " experimentation " , which she cites as being evident on " Half of Me " , as well as " Diamonds " and " Stay " . Ellis also noted that co @-@ writer Emeli Sandé 's " candid and immediate charm " is present on the song , and described it as the " perfect " ending to the album . Concluding her opinion of the song , Ellis wrote that " Half of Me " is delivered in a " firm and steady voice " which is filled with irony , as she feels that Rihanna is saying no one truly knows who she is and that is half the fun of working her out , but is in no way " remorseful " about letting people in completely :

You know me / I 'm the life of the party  
Beautiful people surround me / Everybody falling in love  
Oh , you know me / Everybody knows that I ? m crazy  
Sticks and stones , they never break me  
And I 'm the type that don 't give a fuck  
And that 's just the half of it .

= = Reception = =

Jim Farber for New York Daily News wrote that Unapologetic contains more ballads than what Rihanna 's previous albums have featured , and further noted that " Half of Me " " proves the star can be as evocative as she is provocative " . Christina Lee of website Idolator wrote that there are two songs on the album which show " how ubiquitous she ? s [ Rihanna ] become " , " Love Without Tragedy / Mother Mary " and " Half of Me " . A reviewer for Billboard was surprised at how many " heartfelt ballads " are included on the album , and listed " Half of Me " as one of the examples .

Michael Gallucci for PopCrush wrote that " Half of Me " , along with " Pour It Up " , are songs for the " haters " . He further wrote that the singer pushes the track as she has an " agenda " , but criticised the use of " fuck " , which he points out as being used in the majority of Unapologetic 's tracks . Upon the release of Unapologetic , " Half of Me " charted in several territories due to strong digital downloads . It debuted on the Irish Singles Chart at number 84 on November 22 , 2012 . On November 25 , 2012 , the song entered the UK Singles Chart at number 75 , and the UK R & B Chart at number ten . In Switzerland , the song debuted at number 46 . It also debuted at number 96 on the Canadian Hot 100 chart .

= = Credits and personnel = =

#### Recording

Recorded at Roc the Mic Studios , New York City .

Vocals recorded at R Studios , Los Angeles , CA .

Mixed at Larrabee Studios , Burbank , CA .

#### Personnel

Songwriting ? Emeli Sandé , Shahid Khan , Mikkel S. Eriksen , Tor Erik Hermansen

Production ? StarGate , Naughty Boy

Recording ? Mikkel S. Eriksen , Miles Walker

Vocal recording ? Marcus Tovar , Kuk Harrell

Vocal production ? Kuk Harrell

All instrumentation and programming ? Mikkel S. Eriksen , Tor Erik Hermansen , Shahid Khan , Emeli Sandé

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

= = Charts = =