

= Today Was a Fairytale =

" Today Was a Fairytale " is a song written and recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift . Produced by Swift and Nathan Chapman , it was released on January 22 , 2010 by Big Machine Records as a single from the corresponding soundtrack for the 2010 film Valentine 's Day , which she acted in . Swift had previously written the song and offered it to producers for the film 's soundtrack . Musically , " Today Was a Fairytale " is pop @-@ influenced and , lyrically , speaks of a magical date .

It received generally positive reception from contemporary critics , some who deemed it the best song on the soundtrack , and enjoyed commercial success by reaching the top ten in three countries . In Canada , " Today Was a Fairytale " became Swift 's first number @-@ one song . The song debuted and peaked at number two on the Billboard Hot 100 . Swift promoted " Today Was a Fairytale " at several venues and included it on a revised set list for the continuation of her Fearless Tour in 2010 .

= = Background = =

Swift solely penned " Today Was a Fairytale " in the summer of 2008 and stored it away for a while . After being cast as Felicia Miller on Valentine 's Day , Swift offered the song to the film producers for the soundtrack as she did not believe it fit on her upcoming album . " When this movie opportunity came about , I reached back into my pocket and thought , ' I think this is perfect for the soundtrack . I hope it 's perfect for the soundtrack ' " , Swift told The Tennessean . " Today Was a Fairytale " was released as a single from the Valentine 's Day soundtrack on January 22 , 2010 , exclusively through the iTunes Store . The single was re @-@ released on February 15 , 2011 .

= = Composition = =

" Today Was a Fairytale " has a length of four minutes and two seconds . It is set in common time and has a ballad tempo of 80 beats per minute . It is written in the key of G major and Swift 's vocals span a little more than one octave , from G3 to C5 . It follows the chord progression G ? C ? Em ? D . Jody Rosen and Jonas Weiner of Slate magazine noted that although Swift typically sings country pop , " with the possible exception of that woodsy acoustic guitar " in the song 's introduction " Today Was a Fairytale " displays no aspects of country music in either its instrumentation or vocals . " Taylor 's vowels have gotten flattened and Yankee @-@ ified , " commented Rosen , though Weiner pointed out that Swift 's pop @-@ heavy music was the primary reason for her success . Melanie Bertoldi of Billboard believed Swift 's vocals displayed a newfound maturity . There are two different versions of the song 's intro : the first one having much more electronic production while the second one is only accompanied by an acoustic guitar .

The song 's lyrics describe a magical date . Like many of Swift 's songs , the lyrics invoke princess imagery with lines such as " Today was a fairytale / You were the prince / I used to be a damsel in distress . " Bertoldi said the lyrics were " driven more by sweeping emotion than [...] specific , youth @-@ focused imagery " . Occasionally , Swift does interrupt the fairytale construct with modern day , real world details like the time her date arrives or the color of his shirt .

= = Critical reception = =

The song received generally positive reviews from contemporary critics . Melanie Bertoldi of Billboard compared the song 's lyrics to those of Swift 's previous singles " You Belong with Me " and " Fifteen " ; she was convinced that " Today Was a Fairytale " would " help [Swift] reach an even broader audience . " Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly did not see a departure from Swift , recalling lyrics to be familiar of those of " Love Story " and " You Belong with Me " . However , she ended with " What do we know ? The song sounds Taylor @-@ made (oh , the wit !) for her fans , and we ? re just happy she ? s still sweet , neat , and [...] age @-@ appropriate . " An

uncredited review from People magazine said the track led the Valentine 's Day soundtrack . Brittany Talarico of British magazine OK ! called the song 's refrains " catchy " and described the overall feel as " sweet . " Andrew Leahey of Allmusic said that there was special attention placed on Swift 's tracks on the soundtrack , particularly on the song . Jody Rosen of Slate magazine declared " Today Was a Fairytale " " track of the week " , highlighting its imagery that , according to her , " sharpen the focus instead of softening it . " Jonah Weiner , also of Slate , wrote , " This song is a funny mix : some of her tightest songwriting to date , but some of her laziest lyrics . " He mentioned that in the lyrics , Swift mainly " invoke [d] the cliché and hope [d] it [did] her heavy lifting for her . "

= = Chart performance = =

On the week ending February 6 , 2010 , " Today Was a Fairytale " debuted at number two on the Billboard Hot 100 (blocked from number one by Kesha 's " TiK ToK) " . This was due to the sales of 325 @, @ 000 digital downloads , which broke the record for largest first @-@ week download sales by a female artist previously set by Britney Spears ' " Womanizer " (the current record is held by Adele , with her 2015 single " Hello " selling 1 @. @ 11 million downloads in its first week) . In the succeeding week , the song descended to number twenty @-@ two on the Billboard Hot 100 . It spent a total of fifteen weeks upon the chart . In the United States , " Today Was a Fairytale " also peaked at number twenty @-@ one on the Adult Contemporary Chart , number forty @-@ one on the Hot Country Songs Chart , and number twenty on the Mainstream Top 40 (Pop Songs) Chart . It was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for the sales of over one million downloads . As of November 2014 , " Today Was a Fairytale " has sold 1 @. @ 6 million digital downloads in the United States . On the week ending February 20 , 2010 , " Today Was a Fairytale " debuted and peaked at number one on the Canadian Hot 100 , becoming Swift 's first number @-@ one single in Canada .

The song debuted at number six on the Australian Singles Chart on the week ending February 21 , 2010 . It ascended to its peak position at number three in the following week . The song spent twelve weeks upon the chart before completely falling off on the week ending May 9 , 2010 . " Today Was a Fairytale " was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) for the sales of 70 @, @ 000 downloads . In New Zealand , " Today Was a Fairytale " debuted at number thirty @-@ seven , and peaked at number twenty @-@ nine . The song peaked at number sixty @-@ three on the Japan Hot 100 . In Europe , " Today Was a Fairytale " charted at number forty @-@ one in Ireland , and number fifty @-@ seven in the United Kingdom .

= = Live performances = =

Swift performed a medley , which included the song , at the 52nd Grammy Awards . Wearing casual white blouse and black skinny jeans , Swift performed " Today Was a Fairytale " , where she took center stage with a wooden acoustic guitar strapped to her shoulder . After performing the track , she announced . " It 's a fairy tale and an honor to share the stage with Stevie Nicks " . Following , the two performed a cover of Fleetwood Mac 's " Rhiannon " (1976) . Swift and Nicks then jumped into the third and final part in her medley , a twangy version of " You Belong with Me " . Eric Ditzian of MTV News was disappointed at Swift 's and Nicks ' harmonies , but said the two " made for a compelling twosome " . The performance followed much backlash in regards to Swift 's off key singing , which caused Scott Borchetta , CEO of Big Machine Records , to issue a statement defending the performance .

Swift annexed " Today Was a Fairytale " to a revised set list for the continuation of her Fearless Tour in 2010 . During the performances , which was the penultimate of each concert , Swift was usually costumed in a black cocktail dress with a v @-@ neck cut and black , leather boots . She performed with a rhinestoned acoustic guitar center @-@ stage as a forest was projected on the stage ; concluding the performance , clips from Valentine 's Day were depicted and , following its completion , confetti dropped from the ceiling . At the May 22 , 2010 concert at the Air Canada

Centre in Toronto , Canada , Jane Stevenson of The Toronto Sun said that Swift wearing a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey " didn 't hurt [her] popularity either in this hockey @-@ mad town . " Molly Trust of Billboard noted the performance at the tour 's final concert on June 5 , 2010 at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough , Massachusetts " sported a touch of a hometown feel , as Swift literally and figuratively played to the crowd in a Patriots shirt . "

= = Track listing = =

Digital download .

" Today Was a Fairytale " ? 4 : 02

= = Charts and sales = =