

= The Look of Love (Madonna song) =

" The Look of Love " is a song by American singer Madonna from the soundtrack album to the 1987 film Who 's That Girl . It was the third and final single release from the album and was released on November 25 , 1987 by Sire Records . While shooting for the film , then called Slammer , Madonna had requested that producer Patrick Leonard develop a downtempo song that captured the nature of her film persona . She later wrote the lyrics and melody to the backing track developed by Leonard , and the song became " The Look of Love " . Madonna was also inspired by actor James Stewart in the 1954 film Rear Window .

Featuring instrumentation from percussion , the song begins with a low bass synth line and a slow backing track , followed by Madonna singing the lyrics . Critically appreciated as a haunting track and noted as a " gem " on the album , " The Look of Love " reached the top ten of the charts in Belgium , Ireland , the Netherlands and the United Kingdom . It also charted in France , Germany and Switzerland , while reaching the top 20 of the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles . Madonna 's only live performances of the song were on her Who 's That Girl World Tour in 1987 . During the performance Madonna pretended that she was lost on the stage , like her film character .

= = Background and development = =

In 1986 , Madonna was shooting for her third motion picture Who 's That Girl , known at the time as Slammer . Needing songs for the soundtrack of the movie , she contacted Patrick Leonard and Stephen Bray , with whom she had written and produced her third studio album True Blue in 1986 . Madonna explained to them that she needed an uptempo song and a downtempo song . She came to the studio one Thursday , as Leonard developed the chorus of the songs . He handed over that cassette to Madonna , who went to the backroom and finished the melody and the lyrics of the songs , while Leonard worked on the other parts . The uptempo song developed was " Who 's That Girl " , the first single from the soundtrack , and the downtempo song , developed and written the day after , was " The Look of Love " . Madonna later changed the film name to Who 's That Girl , rather than Slammer , considering it to be a better title . Regarding the development of the songs for the film , Madonna further explained

" I had some very specific ideas in mind , music that would stand on its own as well as support and enhance what was happening on screen and the only way to make that a reality was to have a hand in writing the tunes myself . [...] The songs aren 't necessarily about Nikki [her character name in the movie] or written to be sung by someone like her , but there 's a spirit to this music that captures both what the film and the characters are about , I think . "

Madonna was inspired by the look that actor James Stewart gave actress Grace Kelly in the 1954 film Rear Window . Madonna said : " I can 't describe it , but that is the way I want someone to look at me when he loves me . It 's the most pure look of love and adoration . Like surrender . It 's devastating . " " The Look of Love " was released as the third single from the soundtrack in the United Kingdom , some European countries and Japan . " I Know It " , a track from Madonna 's self @-@ titled debut album , appeared as the B @-@ side . In 1989 , the song was used as the B @-@ side for the " Express Yourself " single release .

= = Composition = =

" The Look of Love " starts off with a low bass synth line and a slow backing track . It is followed by sound of percussion and a high register note , contrasting with the bassline . The song continues in this way up till the last verse , which is backed by the sound from an acoustic guitar . A two @-@ part vocal is found in the line " No where to run , no place to hide " . According to Rikky Rooksby , author of The Complete Guide to the Music of Madonna , Madonna 's voice sounds " expressive " when she sings the line " From the look of love " and utters the word " look " over the D minor chord present underneath . The word is sung in a higher note of the musical scale , thus giving an impression of the suspension like quality of the minor ninth chord , dissociating it from the harmony

of the other notes . The song is set in the time signature of common time , with a moderate tempo of 80 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of D minor , with Madonna 's voice spanning the notes C5 to B ♭ 3 . " The Look of Love " has a basic sequence of C ♭ Dm ♭ Fm ♭ B as its chord progression .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

Rooksby called the song as " the other gem " of the Who 's That Girl soundtrack along with " Causing a Commotion " , and denoted it as " an expressive , understated track . " J. Randy Taraborrelli , author of Madonna : An Intimate Biography , commented that " ' The Look of Love ' was an exotic ballad . " Don Shewey from Rolling Stone said that the song was " so haunting that it would leave you thinking as to where your life is going . " John Evan Seery , author of Political theory for mortals : shades of justice , images of death , commented that the song portrayed Madonna 's " discipline of gaze " . Brian Hadden from Time found the song depressing . Tiju Francis from Vibe wrote : " For a such a commonly titled song , Madonna 's take does at least offer something a little different . [...] ' The Look of Love ' actually sounds like part of the score ? Madonna could well be singing over what was previously just the moody character development background synth music apparently present in every film in the ' 80s . [...] But its slow @-@ burn feel means the song is four minutes of not @-@ particularly @-@ intense brooding that never peaks ? unlike a ballad . "

= = = Chart performance = = =

" The Look of Love " was never released in the United States , and therefore did not enter any Billboard charts . In the United Kingdom , it was released on December 12 , 1987 , and entered the UK Singles Chart at number 15 . The next week , it reached a peak of nine on the chart , her first single to miss the top five since " Lucky Star " . The song was present for a total of seven weeks on the chart . According to the Official Charts Company , " The Look of Love " has sold 121 @,@ 439 copies in the United Kingdom , as of August 2008 . In Germany , the song debuted on the Media Control Charts at number 38 on January 24 , 1988 and moved to its peak of number 34 , the next week . It was present for a total of seven weeks on the chart . In Ireland , the song reached the top ten and peaked at number six . Across Europe , the song reached number nine in Belgium , number 23 in France , number eight in Netherlands and number 20 in Switzerland . On the European Hot 100 Singles , the song reached number 17 .

= = Live performance = =

Madonna performed the song on her 1987 Who 's That Girl World Tour . It was the seventh song of the setlist . Madonna was dressed in gold lamé pants and a sleeveless top . As she finished the performance of " Causing a Commotion " , the spotlight was focused on her . The introductory music of " The Look of Love " started and Madonna roamed around the stage , pretending that she was lost . She wanted to portray her Who 's That Girl character Nikki , when she was lost in a similar sequence in the film . After she finished singing the song , Madonna pretended to walk forward by pushing through the air , as the conveyor belt took her backwards , ultimately taking her away from the stage .

= = Track listing and formats = =