

= Breathe on Me =

" Breathe on Me " is a song recorded by American singer Britney Spears for her fourth studio album In the Zone ( 2003 ) . It was written by Stephen Lee , Steve Anderson and Lisa Greene and produced by Mark Taylor . " Breathe on Me " is a dance and pop song that incorporates trip hop influences with sensual lyrics that use heavy breathing as a metaphor for sex , as a woman begs a man to " breathe on me " ; it culminates in a bridge resembling sexual climax .

" Breathe on Me " received generally positive reviews from contemporary music critics , some of whom praised the song 's production while others criticized Spears ' Lolita persona . It drew comparisons to the work of Janet Jackson , Madonna , and Kylie Minogue . Despite not being released as a single , official remixes of the song were commissioned and released . Spears performed the song at Rain Nightclub ahead of the album 's release . It was also performed on The Onyx Hotel Tour ( 2004 ) , The M + M 's Tour ( 2007 ) , The Circus Starring Britney Spears ( 2009 ) , and Spears ' revamped Las Vegas residency show , Britney : Piece of Me ( 2016 ? 17 ) .

= = Background = =

After the Dream Within a Dream Tour in support of Britney finalized in July 2002 , Spears announced she would take a break from her career for six months . In November 2002 , she revealed that she had started working on her next studio album . She explained , " Well , actually , I just said that I wanted two or three weeks off . [ .... ] And the whole world was like , ' Ohmigod , [ sic ] she 's gone ... " When asked by The Hollywood Reporter about the direction of the record , Spears responded it was an organic evolution , adding , " It should just happen naturally from the way you feel . [ ... ] Whatever happens , happens " . Steve Anderson , Lisa Greene and Stephen Lee wrote " Breathe on Me " at Metrophonic Studios in London , England . Before meeting with the other writers , Anderson thought of two concepts for songs specifically for Spears : one he had worked on " for ages " , and " Breathe on Me " , which he drafted on the morning of the sessions . Greene and Lee did not like the first concept , and they wrote " Breathe on Me " with Anderson . The song was produced by Mark Taylor , who kept most of the programming done by Anderson . With Taylor , Spears recorded " Breathe on Me " and " And Then We Kiss " , which did not make the album .

Spears described " Breathe on Me " as " very vibe @-@ y , trance @-@ y , " explaining that the song " is basically about being with a guy and not even having to really be with each other , but just the intensity and the anxiety between not saying anything . You don 't even have to touch me , just breathe on me . " Britney 's " Lolita persona is revived " on the track .

= = Composition = =

" Breathe on Me " is a dance and pop song with trip hop influences that lasts for a duration of three minutes and forty @-@ three seconds ( 3 : 43 ) . The track " includes moaning and heavy breathing . " Britney pleads , " Boy , don 't stop , ' cause I 'm half way there / It 's not complicated , we 're just syncopated . " The " sexy thump " of the song is briefly interrupted as Spears whispers , " Monogamy is the way to go / Just put your lips together and blow , " a reference to Lauren Bacall in the 1944 film To Have and Have Not . The song was described as Spears exploring " the eroticism of restraint . " The track has " swirling beats and pounding bass . " The lyrics are " a thinly veiled reference to oral sex " , in particular cunnilingus .

Jennifer Vineyard of MTV News wrote , " Of the songs on In the Zone , " Breathe on Me " most earns the trip @-@ hop comparisons . " The song received comparisons to Australian singer Kylie Minogue , a frequent collaborator of Steve Anderson , particularly her songs " Breathe " and " Confide in Me " ( the latter of which was co @-@ written by Anderson ) . " Breathe on Me " was also likened to the work of Madonna , who Spears collaborated with on " Me Against the Music " , and Janet Jackson , with a review saying " Britney clearly learned from the greats , Janet and Madonna , and positioned herself neatly as a legend alongside them . "

= = Remixes = =

" Breathe on Me " was intended to be released as a single in 2004 , but the In the Zone era was cut short due to a knee injury Spears received on the set of " Outrageous " music video . Official remixes of " Breathe on Me " were commissioned by Jive Records . James Holden produced remixes of the song . Bradley Stern of MuuMuse wrote , " The remix takes the throbbing trance perfection of the original and brings it to somewhat spookier new heights , stretching and distorting the singer ' s sexy moans into lonesome cries on top of spaced @-@ out synthesizers and bright flourishes of electronica . " Stuart Price also produced the Jacques Lu Cont remixes of the song ; the Jacques Lu Cont Mix appeared on the bonus remix disk of Greatest Hits : My Prerogative in 2004 and Jacques Lu Cont ' s Thin White Duke Mix appeared on B in the Mix : The Remixes in 2005 . The former was described as " faster and brighter , with a looped Giorgio Moroder @-@ style beat " while the latter " is half as long even though it slows the beat down to something slinky and lounge @-@ y , even slightly off @-@ key , making the song darker and dirtier . " Official remixes were also commissioned for Junior Vasquez , but even though his remixes have circulated on the internet , they remain unreleased .

= = Critical response = =

" Breathe on Me " received generally favorable reviews from contemporary critics . Tom Bishop of BBC News described the track as " a sumptuous seduction bearing the stamp of Kylie collaborator Steve Anderson . " Louis Viriel of AfterElton.com labeled it one of Britney ' s most underrated songs , and a highlight from In the Zone . He said the song is a " sinister triumph " and " a steamy , yet icy affair that recalls the naughtiness of Kylie . " Linda McGee of RTÉ.ie compared " Breathe on Me " favorably to Madonna , commenting that " the pop princess treads , convincingly , on the territory of the Queen of Pop . " Additionally , " Breathe on Me " also drew comparisons to Janet Jackson . Jane Stevenson of Jam ! called the track a " throbbing " and " sexy , sweaty dance tune . " It was labeled an " album highlight and stellar pop song " with its " pulsing electronic beat and overwhelming sexuality . " MuuMuse referred to " Breathe on Me " as " the single that never was , " while PopEater named the song the best Britney Spears song that " you probably don ' t know . "

The song , however , drew criticism for the revival of Spears ' Lolita persona . Elysa Gardner of USA Today wrote , " Purring and moaning through overheated numbers such as Breathe on Me and Early Mornin ' , she still sounds creepily like a little girl trying to excite the older boys . " Bernard Zuel of the Sydney Morning Herald pinpointed " Breathe on Me " as a weaker track from the album : " Breathe on Me is breathy tosh that sounds frighteningly like Kylie . " Matthew Wilder of City Pages felt that moments of the song " access that queer @-@ o @-@ centric , cool @-@ to @-@ cold club sound of ' Vogue ' -era Madonna , but with a poignant difference . Britney is too thick , too slow , too homecoming queen to get over in Boys ' Town . "

= = Live performances = =

" Breathe on Me " was performed for the first time as part of a surprise thirty @-@ minute set at Rain Nightclub at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas , Nevada on September 14 , 2003 . Spears and her dancers crawled on the floor , onto a daybed , and pretended to make out with one another . One of the dancers ripped Spears ' top off , exposing her red bra . The song was also performed as part of Spears ' headlining set at Staples Center in Los Angeles , California for the annual KIIS @-@ FM Jingle Ball .

Spears performed the song on The Onyx Hotel Tour in support of In the Zone in 2004 . Following a costume change , Spears reappeared on a mini platform where she descended to the main stage on a pole . She wore pink lingerie and " cavorted on one of the stage ' s two beds with a male dancer , thrashing her sizable blonde mane to and fro . " It was described as " easily the raciest in the oversexed show . "

On 2007 ' s The M + M ' s Tour , which included six secret shows at House of Blues venues , Spears

" seductively gyrated on the chair before her dancers returned and pulled a male fan from the audience to be serenaded by Spears . " The song was performed on 2009 's The Circus Starring Britney Spears tour alongside " Touch Of My Hand " . Spears stripped " down to panties and a barely @-@ there sheer top with strategically placed cones , and sang while suspended inside a giant picture frame that slowly spun around center stage . Landing on a couch adorned with men , she donned a blindfold and ascended halfway to the rafters again . Finally , it was just her grinding away with a muscleman . "

In the revamped concerts of Spears 's residency , Britney : Piece of Me ( 2016 @-@ 2017 ) , the song was added to the setlist , again , alongside " Touch Of My Hand " . Both songs were also performed in a medley at the 2016 Billboard Music Awards .