

= Your Love (Nicki Minaj song) =

" Your Love " is a song by Trinidadian @-@ born recording artist Nicki Minaj , taken from her debut studio album Pink Friday (2010) . It was released on June 1 , 2010 by Young Money , Cash Money , and Universal Motown as the lead single of the album . The song was written by Minaj , Joseph Hughes , David Freedman , and Andrew " Pop " Wansel , and was produced by the latter . Minaj originally intended to release " Massive Attack " as the lead single from Pink Friday , though its release was scrapped after an underwhelming commercial performance .

Described as a " rap ballad " , the song is a change of tempo compared to Minaj 's previous work , and according to Mariel Concepcion of Billboard , the song contains a " new brand of hood majesty . " The song heavily samples Annie Lennox 's 1995 cover version of the song " No More I Love You 's " (1986) by The Lover Speaks , using its background vocals with additional bass , hip @-@ hop backbeats and drum loops added .

The song peaked at numbers 14 and four on the US Billboard Hot 100 and Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs charts , respectively .

= = Background = =

The first version of " Your Love " appeared on Minaj 's unofficial mixtape Barbie World (2010) , with different lyrics included in the pre @-@ chorus along with a faster pace . Another version was later stolen and leaked online . The song underwent minor lyrical adjustments and mixing before being sent to mainstream radio , as the first official single from Minaj 's debut album Pink Friday (2010) . In an interview with Hot 93 @.@ 7 radio , Minaj spoke about the leak of the song , saying " That was a leak and I was so upset they put it out ' cause I recorded that song like two years ago . Next thing you know , people started falling in love with it . " Whilst on set on the music video for " Your Love " , Minaj further explain about the song 's theft and leak , saying ,

" I was not planning on putting the song out at all . But then I heard it one day , somebody told me it was online . And I was like , ' No way , no way in the world that song is out . ' I went and listened to it and was really upset . It wasn 't mixed , it wasn 't finished , it wasn 't anything ? I wasn 't gonna use it at all . But then radio started playing it . "

Rap @-@ Up posted cover art featuring a close up of Minaj smirking to her right , however for unknown reasons the art work was changed . The new cover features a cartoon version of Minaj , made by illustrator Asia Kendrick @-@ Horton who posted it for Minaj on Twitter .

= = Composition = =

" Your Love " is a mid @-@ tempo song with the heavy use of Auto @-@ Tune in the chorus . It samples the instrumentals and background vocals of Annie Lennox 's cover version of " No More I Love You 's " by the Lover Speaks , with the addition of additional bass , drum @-@ loops and hip @-@ hop backbeats . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , " Your Love " is set in common time with a metronome of 94 beats per minute . It is composed in the key of E major with Minaj 's vocal range spanning from the low @-@ note of B3 to the high @-@ note of C ? 5 .

Sara D. Anderson of AOL Radio Blog described the song as a " rap / singing mash @-@ up . " Coined as a " new brand of hood majesty , " the song is accompanied by a simple beat , which includes finger snaps and " xylophone clings . " Lean Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly commented : " Rap 's spitfire explores her softer side , sampling Annie Lennox on her honey @-@ tongued ode to a good man . " Greenblatt went on to compare the song to Jay @-@ Z 's " kindred " " Young Forever . " Minaj makes several references in her lines to well known people , which includes Bruce Willis in Die Hard , as well as Adam and Eve . Minaj makes several connections to Superman including in the pre @-@ chorus , " ' S ' on my chest , let me get my cape on . " The official remix featuring Cash Money labelmate Jay Sean was leaked via @-@ internet on August 2 , 2010 , and later made available for purchase in Australia via iTunes . American rapper Flo Rida

released an unofficial remix to the song , in which he adds a verse . Reggae recording artist Sean Paul also did a remix to the song where he ad @-@ libs his verse throughout the original and later adds his own verse . Other remixes to the song include those done by American rapper Rick Ross and American R & B singer Chris Brown .

= = Critical reception = =

Rap @-@ Up stated that Minaj " slows down her rapid @-@ fire verses on the sticky and sweet " Your Love " ... with a sprinkling of Auto @-@ Tune to top it off . Young Money ? s First Lady even exercises her vocal chops . We demand another helping . " Robbie Daw of Idolator gave the song a positive review , while complimented Minaj 's dual rapping and singing , as well as the use of the sample . Backy Bain also of Idolator additionally gave the song a positive review stating " We were a bit worried that Harujuku Barbie would forever be the garnish on other people ? s tracks instead of the main dish , but this sweet song proves otherwise . " Mariel Concepcion of Billboard commented on Minaj toning it down stating , " the Young Money rap princess puts the sleazy talk aside and finds herself smitten with a young man ... Minaj proves that even the wildest ones can be tamed . " While reviewing the music video , Brad Wete also of Entertainment Weekly reviewed the song positively , stating that Minaj was " [..] slicing the competition to pieces with her second try . " David Jeffries of AllMusic deemed the song an album highlight , additionally adding that the song , " waltzes out of the speakers . In 2014 , Pitchfork named it the best Nicki Minaj single . "

= = Chart performance = =

" Your Love " debuted on the US Billboard Hot 100 at 51 , becoming Minaj 's first song to chart on the Hot 100 as a solo artist . It eventually peaked at No. 14 , becoming her first Top 20 in the country . It debuted at No. 23 on the US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart , and peaked at number four . Your Love " peaked at No. 1 on the US Rap Songs chart for eight consecutive weeks . Minaj became the first female rapper to top the chart since Lil ' Kim 's " Magic Stick " , featuring 50 Cent . Minaj also became the first artist to lead the chart with a song without any features since Missy Elliott in 2003 with " Work It " . The song was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) denoting sales of over one million copies . On the Canadian Hot 100 , the song peaked at 43 . " Your Love " also charted in the United Kingdom , at a peak of 71 on the UK Singles Chart and at a peak of 22 on the UK R & B Chart . The song peaked at number 32 on the Australian Urban Singles chart .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background = = =

A music video for the song was directed by Lil X on the weekend of July 4 , 2010 in Los Angeles . Minaj took to her Twitter , asking fans who they would like to see portray her love interest in the video . Minaj was interviewed on the set of " Your Love " by MTV News while wearing a pink and purple kimono as a geisha for the video . In the interview , Minaj said , " We wanted to have geisha themes , samurai themes , stuff like that . I wanted to tell a love story . It 's just kinda liking a guy , where he 's not really for you to like ? the forbidden fruit ? and me and this other girl happen to like him and we go to war . " The video premiered July 21 , 2010 on MTV.com. Actor Michael Jai White portrays Minaj 's love interest in the video .

= = = Synopsis = = =

The video is set to tell the story of a samurai @-@ in @-@ training , who falls in love with her master while a jealous peer fights for his affection . The video begins with Minaj delivering her lines

over a red flowing fabric backdrop wearing a brown coat and a geisha costume with a blue flowing fabric backdrop , while White teaches a martial arts class . As Minaj and the instructor (White) begin to fall for one another , a student , who also has feelings for the instructor sees this and is jealous . This is intercut with scenes with Minaj donning a blonde wig and black bodysuit and in front of a green flowing backdrop . After seeing Minaj and White embrace each other on a bridge over blue @-@ fabric " water " , Minaj and her peer rival have a confrontation , which results in a duel . According to MTV News , the scenes pay homage to Uma Thurman as The Bride and Lucy Liu as Cottonmouth in Kill Bill . Minaj loses and her rival walks away as Minaj bleeds a red fabric and White walks up and grieves over her body .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Robbie Daw of Idolator appreciated the plot twist of the video , commenting , " We really expected Nicki to waste that other warrior @-@ in @-@ training hater . The fact that she dies ? and does so in such a beautiful way here ? kind of makes us love her all the more . " Daw also inferred that the fancy attire from the " No More I Love You 's " video inspired Minaj 's in the " Your Love " video . Nicole Sia of MTV Buzzworthy stated that the video resembles Crouching Tiger , Hidden Dragon in its fight scene . Sia also commented on Minaj 's appearance stating " the camera cuts to Ms. Young Money soloing in front of billowing one @-@ million @-@ thread @-@ count satin sheets , just to remind us how damn FINE she is . " Tray Hova of Vibe gave a list of the best and worst parts of the music video , stating the best were Minaj chopped through the blocks of cement , her crazy faces , silk sheets and headgear , and that the worst part was the " melodramatic ending " and " the return of those Freddy Krueger fingers . "

= = Credits and personnel = =

Songwriting ? Onika Maraj , Warren " Oak " Felder , Andrew " Pop " Wansel , David Freeman , Joseph Patrick Hughes

Recording / Mixing ? Ariel Chobaz , assisted by Lyttleton " Cartwheel " Carter

Mixing ? Neal Pogue

Production ? Pop Wansel , Oak

Credits are taken from Pink Friday liner notes .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Radio dates and release history = =