

= Turning Tables =

" Turning Tables " is a song by British singer Adele and the last single from her second studio album , 21 . Conceived after an altercation with her former lover , the song was co -@-@ written by Adele and singer @-@ songwriter Ryan Tedder , whilst the production was completed by Jim Abbiss . " Turning Tables " is a pop ballad with a soulful sound ; its instrumentation consists of piano , " Broadway @-@ worthy " strings and guitar . Lyrically , the song describes a domestic dispute in which its narrator assumes a defensive stance against a manipulative ex @-@ lover . XL Recordings sent the song to UK mainstream radio on 5 November 2011 as fifth single from 21 along with " Rumour Has It " .

" Turning Tables " received acclaim from music critics , who praised Adele 's vocals and its production . The song reached the top @-@ twenty of the singles charts in four countries , including Belgium , Italy and the Netherlands . It also peaked at number 62 on the UK Singles Chart and 63 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart . It was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for selling over 500 @,@ 000 digital downloads . Adele performed " Turning Tables " on television shows such as Late Night with David Letterman in the US and The Jonathan Ross Show in the UK and included it on the Adele Live concert tour . American actress and singer Gwyneth Paltrow performed a cover of the single in the Glee episode " A Night of Neglect " .

= = Background = =

In April 2009 , 20 @-@ year @-@ old Adele , who had recently embarked on her first serious relationship with a man 10 years her senior , began composing the follow @-@ up to her 2008 debut album 19 . In response to the media 's typecasting her as an " old soul " due to the vintage production and sentimental nature of her songs , Adele decided on a more upbeat and contemporary second album . However , studio sessions were generally unproductive and , after two weeks , yielded only one song recorded to the singer 's satisfaction ? the Jim Abbiss @-@ produced " Take It All " , a lovelorn piano ballad not unlike the songs on 19 . Disillusioned with her lack of inspiration and the slow progress of the studio sessions , she cancelled the remaining recording dates . Adele had written " Take It All " during a difficult moment in her relationship . When she played the song for her boyfriend , the two got into a bitter argument that culminated in the end of their 18 @-@ month relationship . Heartbroken but musically stimulated , the singer channelled her rush of emotions into her music , crafting songs that examined her failed relationship from the perspectives of vengeful ex @-@ lover , heartbroken victim , and nostalgic old flame . After several recording sessions with writers and producers like Paul Epworth , Fraser T Smith and Rick Rubin , Adele got enough material for creating a full LP . She released her second studio album on 19 January 2011 under the title 21 . Adele first intended to title the album Rolling in the Deep , her adaptation of the slang phrase " roll deep " , which summarises how she felt about her relationship ; in her loose translation , the phrase refers to having someone " that has your back " and always supports you . However , the singer later deemed the title too confusing for some of her audiences . Although she had wanted to avoid the number motif of her debut , Adele considered " 21 " the most fitting title as it represented her age at the time of the album 's composition , serving as an autobiographical period piece , and symbolised the personal maturity and artistic evolution since her debut .

= = Writing , production and release = =

" Turning Tables " was written by American singer @-@ songwriter and frontman of pop @-@ rock band OneRepublic , Ryan Tedder and Adele herself . The production of the song was helmed by Jim Abbiss . When the demos to two songs were completed , Adele approached Tedder , who was in London at the time for a radio show . Tedder had expressed interest in collaborating with the singer after they met at the 2009 Grammy Awards ceremony in February . He arrived four hours early to their first studio session held at Sphere Studios in London , buying time to better familiarise

himself with some of her previous work . Although unaware of Adele 's personal predicament , he composed the opening piano sequence and first few lines of " Turning Tables " .

Coincidentally , it perfectly captured the experience of the singer , who arrived at the studio moments after another altercation with her former lover . Angry and unfocused , she denounced her ex @-@ lover 's tendency to " turn the tables " on her during their arguments , an expression that Tedder decided to reference in the song 's lyrics . Adele recorded the demo with Abbis the following day . " Turning Tables " was mixed by Abbiss and Ian Dowling . Neil Cowley played the piano in the song , while the string arrangement was made by Chris Elliot . The strings were played by Patrick Kernan , Stephen Morris , Tom Pigott @-@ Smith , Julian Leaper , Boguslaw Kostecki , Bruce White , Peter Lale , Rachel Stephanie Bolt , David Danels , Caroline Dale , Warren Zelnski , Jackie Shave , Chris Laurence , Rita Manning , Cathy Thompson , Emlyn Singleton and Chris Worsey . XL Recordings serviced the song to UK mainstream radio on 5 November 2011 as fifth single from 21 alongside " Rumour Has It " . On 14 December 2011 , the song was sent for airplay to Italian radio stations .

= = Composition = =

" Turning Tables " is a pop ballad with a soulful sound that lasts for four minutes and 10 seconds . John Murphy of musicOMH recognized the single as a fragile piano ballad which shows off Adele 's voice to its best effect . Sputnikmusic 's Joseph Viney described the song as a delicate ballad that possesses an astonishing beauty . Its instrumentation consists of piano , " Broadway @-@ worthy " strings and guitar . According to the digital sheet music published by Sony / ATV Music Publishing , " Turning Tables " is written in the key of C minor and set in common time , with 78 beats per minute . Adele 's vocal range spans from the low note of G3 to the high note of C5 .

Lyrically , " Turning Tables " is a song of domestic dispute , where its narrator assumes a defensive stance against a manipulative ex @-@ lover . Reconciling herself with the termination of a contentious relationship , she vows emotional distance to shield herself from future heartbreak . Bryan Boyd of The Irish Times likened the singer to 1980s Welsh rocker Bonnie Tyler in delivering the vocals with a mixture of anger , pain and pathos . According to Paste magazine , cinematic strings " serve as fitting counterpoint to [the song 's] heartbroken , hollowed @-@ out lyrics . " " Turning Tables " opens with a piano sequence after which Adele sings the first lines : " Close enough to start a war / All that I have is on the floor " . The chorus consists of the lyrics : " So I won ? t let you close enough to hurt me , No , I won ? t ask you , you to just desert me , I can 't give you what you think you gave me , It ? s time to say goodbye to turning tables . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical = = =

" Turning Tables " received acclaim from music critics . Ian Walker of the website AbsolutePunk commented that the song " contains some of the album 's greatest vocal moments , further cementing Adele 's reputation as a competent vocalist showing no signs of stopping . " A writer from the Daily Herald said that Adele sounds " epic " on the song . Entertainment Weekly 's Leah Greenblatt found a " scorned @-@ woman balladry " in the song . Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune found a " piano @-@ based melancholy " in the song . A reviewer of HauteThought wrote that " Adele 's natural ease and original tone shines in Turning Tables . The song allows her to explore her upper register without ignoring the lower , soulful sound she always seems able create . " Lily Moayeri stated that on the " barely contained ' Turning Tables ' , Adele lets forth her formidable lungpower . " Ryan Reed of Paste called the single " tearjerking " , while Margaret Wappler of Los Angeles Times labeled the song as " softly sentimental " .

= = = Commercial = = =

" Turning Tables " debuted at its peak of number 63 on the US Billboard Hot 100 for the issue dated 7 May 2011 . The next week , the song dropped 21 places to number 85 and became the biggest fall of the week . The single stayed on the chart for total of three weeks and was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for selling over 500 @,@ 000 digital copies . As of May 2015 " Turning Tables " has sold 883 @,@ 000 digital downloads in the US alone . On the Canadian Hot 100 , the song debuted at number 60 for the issue dated 7 May 2011 . It fell to number 91 the next week becoming the biggest fall of the week . " Turning Tables " was certified gold by Music Canada for selling over 40 @,@ 000 digital copies of the song . In the UK , it entered the singles chart at its peak of number 62 on 14 May 2011 . On 21 May 2011 " Turning Tables " dropped to number 80 , before falling of the chart the next week . On 17 September 2011 the song re @-@ entered the UK Singles Chart at number 68 . It was more successful on Belgium Ultratip singles chart where it reached number two in Wallonia and number four in Flanders . " Turning Tables " debuted at number nine on the Italian Singles Chart on 19 January 2012 . After three weeks on the chart , the song reached its peak of number eight on 16 February 2012 .

= = Live performances and covers = =

Adele performed " Turning Tables " at Live at Largo in Los Angeles on 9 February 2011 . Robie Daw of Idolator recognized the performance as " intimate " and commented that it featured Adele 's soulful vocals simply accompanied by " haunting " piano chords . She performed the single on VH1 Unplugged on 3 March 2011 . Adele performed the song at Late Night with David Letterman ; the performance was later uploaded to her Vevo account on YouTube . On 4 September 2011 , the singer performed " Turning Tables " at the premiere of the The Jonathan Ross Show and was also interviewed . " Turning Tables " was part of the set list on Adele 's second concert tour entitled Adele Live (2011) . On 22 November 2011 , Adele unveiled a video of her performance of the song from the concert held at the Royal Albert Hall in London . The performance was later included in her first video album Live at the Royal Albert Hall which was released on 25 November 2011 . Adele described the concert as the most special show that she would ever play . Adele performed the song on 27 January 2012 at Live from the Artists Den . During the performance the singer stated : " Nothing in life moves me as much as being on stage does . I love the closeness of playing in small rooms , and this room was lovely and simple , just beautiful . "

" Turning Tables " was covered by American actress and singer Gwyneth Paltrow , in the " A Night of Neglect " episode of the Fox Broadcasting Company television show Glee . Her performance of the song was considered inferior to the original . Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone named it her least @-@ favorite of Paltrow 's covers to date and said that her vocals " lacked the texture that made Adele 's version so heartbreaking . " Sandra Gonzalez of Entertainment Weekly gave it her lowest grade of the episode , a " B ? " , and Aly Semigran of MTV opined that while Paltrow is " a nice enough singer , " she " in no way has the chops " the song requires . Whilst The Wall Street Journal 's Raymund Flandez called it a " scene @-@ stealing turn " and commended it visually and vocally , he noted that Paltrow lacks Adele 's veracity . Released as a single , this version peaked at number 66 on US Billboard Hot 100 and Canadian Hot 100 . As of 2 July 2012 , the Glee version had sold 113 @,@ 000 paid downloads in the US alone . Co @-@ writer of the song Ryan Tedder performed the song at Denver 's Acoustic Christmas (a charity concert hosted by all Colorado artists) with his band OneRepublic in 2011 .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Sphere Studios , London , United Kingdom

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of 21 , XL Recordings .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =