

= Heartbreaker ( Mariah Carey song ) =

" Heartbreaker " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey . It was released on September 21 , 1999 by Columbia Records as the lead single from Carey 's seventh studio album , *Rainbow* ( 1999 ) . The song was written by Carey and Jay Z and produced by the former and DJ Clue . " Heartbreaker " pushed Carey even further into the R & B and hip hop market , becoming her first commercial single to feature a hip hop artist . Lyrically , the song talks about a relationship from the female perspective , and how the protagonist incessantly returns to her lover , even though he continuously cheats on her and breaks her heart .

The song received mixed reviews from music critics , many of which felt it was not original or innovative in terms of a creative step forward . Additionally , it was compared heavily to Carey 's previous song " Fantasy " ( 1995 ) , which also built its hook from a sampled beat . " Heartbreaker " topped the charts in Canada and US Billboard Hot 100 , becoming Carey 's 14th chart topper there . Across Europe and Australia , the song topped the charts in New Zealand , and was a top five single in France and the United Kingdom .

Carey performed " Heartbreaker " live on several television and award show appearances around the world , as well as on her concert tours . The song 's music video , directed by Brett Ratner , is one of the most expensive ever made , costing over \$ 20 million . The video features Carey and her friends visiting a film theater and catching her boyfriend ( played by Jerry O 'Connell ) on a date with another woman . Carey played herself and a brunette villainess named Bianca , during a physical altercation scene in between the two women . Due to contractual agreements at the time of its filming , Jay Z was unable to make an appearance in the video , instead being portrayed as an animated cartoon . The video was inspired by several films including *Grease* and *Enter the Dragon* .

= = Background = =

With her sixth studio album , *Butterfly* ( 1997 ) , Mariah Carey started infusing hip hop music elements in her songs , working with different and younger record producers and songwriters . After the album 's success , and the release of her first compilation album *# 1 's* ( 1998 ) , Carey began to work on her seventh studio album , *Rainbow* ( 1999 ) . Her main focus on the album was to continue on the same path she began with on *Butterfly* , producing a subtle combination between inspirational ballads and hip hop beats . " Heartbreaker " marked the first time in Carey 's career that a hip hop star was included on a lead single , following O.D.B who was featured on the official remix of " Fantasy " in 1995 . While recording the album in Capri , Italy , Carey claimed to have spent most of the time developing what she felt to be a strong lead single .

Originally , " Heartbreaker " was intended to be part of Carey 's debut film soundtrack *Glitter* , however , after the film 's delay , it was included on *Rainbow* . Prior to the song 's radio release , Carey spoke of it in an interview : " It 's pretty much [ in ] the classic style of my up tempo classics like ' Fantasy ' or ' Dreamlover , ' [ ... ] But it 's kind of fun and has a new edge to it , I think , and definitely having Jay Z takes it to a whole ' nother level . And [ DJ ] Clue makes it really fun and stuff . "

= = Recording and lyrics = =

While developing *Rainbow* , Carey had different ideas for the lead single . After writing the song 's core lyrics and producing the main idea and melody , DJ Clue , one of the earlier producers in the project , suggested to Carey the use and incorporation of the hook from " Attack of the Name Game " by Stacy Lattisaw . After agreeing to it , they incorporated Carey 's lyrics and melody to the hook , and began recording the song . However , after completing " Heartbreaker " , Carey felt it needed a strong male verse , hoping for a rising hip hop artist . She chose to work with Jay Z and began re-arranging the song as he wrote out his verse . Jay Z wrote his entire verse , and helped produce some of the song 's core instrumentals . In an interview with Fred Bronson ,

Carey spoke of her experience working with Jay Z :

" It 's fun when you can find someone that you can relate to and that you respect . Jay Z is someone I admire as a writer and as an artist . We could be sitting in the studio , and he can freestyle a rhyme that would be incredible just off the top of his head . He doesn 't need a pen and paper . I equate that to a singer who can pick up the mike and riff and ad lib over a song and take you to a totally new place . "

Aside from her work with Clue and Jay Z , Carey 's longtime friend and background singer Trey Lorenz also took part in the song 's production . He provided the back up vocals in the song , and took part in several small areas of the development of Rainbow . When interviewed by Bronson , Carey spoke highly of Lorenz , " He 's an amazing writer and singer , he 's so influenced by the old school stuff , yet he 's so current . He 's known me since before my first album , and he 's a great , loyal friend . " Aside from the use of the sample and Jay Z 's verses , " Heartbreaker " contains strong female empowering lyrics , which Carey wrote as a sort of anthem , especially because she felt that she personally has been in a similar predicament in the past .

= = Composition = =

" Heartbreaker " is a moderately slow , mid tempo dance pop track , with hip hop and R & B influences . According to the music sheet published at Musicnotes.com , the song is written in the key of D major , while the beat is set in common time which moves at a moderate pace of 92 bpm . It has a sequence of D B m D as its chord progression . Carey 's vocals in the song span from the note of D3 to the high note of C7 . The song has a " percolating beat " over which Carey sings with nasal , silken and declarative vocals . The verses are melismatic , meaning , there are multiple notes sung per word or syllable with rapid yet seamless transitions . For example , Carey starts the second verse already in mid belt " It 's a shame to be " while then going off into a whispering coo for " so euphoric and weak . "

Aside from background vocal stylings from Lorenz and other females , Carey added her own lowered vocals into the song , giving the impression of a " doubled voice . " " Heartbreaker " samples R & B and dance singer Stacy Lattisaw 's " Attack of the Name Game " . The song 's hook and loop were taken and incorporated into the melody of " Heartbreaker " , as well as being used as its main instrumental components . The lyrics are constructed in the verse pre chorus chorus form . Carey starts with the hook " Gimme your love , gimme your love , " repeated eight times . Carey repeats the chorus four times , ending the song with a final " Gimme your love , gimme your love . " Chuck Taylor from Billboard described its instrumentation as a " persistent guitar lick " and wrote " There 's an identifiable chorus here , and some semblance of verses , but more than anything , this song comes across as a blur of jumbled in the background , including Carey 's own repetitive harmonies , which in this case sound more like a competition than a compliment . "

= = Remix = =

The song 's main remix , titled Desert Storm Remix , features female rappers Da Brat and Missy Elliott . It is the first of Carey 's remixes that was produced by Desert Storm Records producer and rapper DJ Clue , who makes an introduction on the remix . The remix contains lyrical interpolations and an instrumental sample from " Ain 't No Fun ( If the Homies Can 't Have None ) " by Snoop Dogg . In an interview with MTV News , Carey spoke of the song 's remix before its official release in August 1999 : " And then the remix . I 'm so excited about the remix . It 's also gonna go on the album , and it features Missy Elliott and Da Brat , and it 's kinda like a girl power answer record , and it 's to the loop of Snoop [ Dogg ] 's ' Ain 't No Fun . ' They 're not ready for that one ! " . A separate music video was filmed for the remix , shot in black and white and featuring a cameo appearance by Dogg . The Desert Storm Remix received mixed reviews from music critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine chose the song as one of the top three cuts on Rainbow , alongside the original . Danyel Smith from Entertainment Weekly called it " [ an ] overblown [ ... ] miscalculation " and wrote " Missy Elliott 's and Da Brat 's bad sexual politics sink the tired ' Heartbreaker [ Remix ] . " Larry

Flick from Billboard , called the remix " muscular " and " street @-@ savvy " and wrote " Missy Elliott and Da Brat lace rhymes into the track , which is enhanced by the sample from Snoop Dogg 's ' Ain 't No Fun ( If The Homies Can 't Have None ) ' . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Heartbreaker " received mixed reviews from contemporary music critics , some of whom compared it heavily to Carey 's previous lead singles . Dara Cook from MTV called the song " airy ditty " and wrote " [ On the song ] Mariah exudes as much sentiment as hollowed @-@ out driftwood . " Cook continued onto the song 's production , writing " By texturing it into the song , producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis have finally found productive use ( other than song closing spectacle ) for Mariah 's high octave shriek . " Allmusic editor Stephen Thomas Erlewine named " Heartbreaker " as one of his top three choices from the album . Danyl Smith from Entertainment Weekly called the song a " delectable confection " and wrote " she smartly uses Jay @-@ Z 's droll rap about a bratty girlfriend as tart counterpoint to her creamy tones , " however calling it a recycled version of Carey 's previous songs " Dreamlover " ( 1993 ) and " Fantasy " ( 1995 ) . Elysa Gardner from the Los Angeles Times called the song " breezy " and noted how Carey " brings a similarly light , sensuous touch " to " Heartbreaker " . Additionally , Gardner complimented Jay @-@ Z 's rap verses , calling them " sly . " Editor from Rolling Stone Arion Berger , called it " nasal , silken and declarative " while " riding the percolating beat . " Additionally , Berger also compared it to Carey 's " Fantasy " , for its similar usage of a sampled hook . Tom Sinclair from Entertainment Weekly reviewed the song individually , giving it an F. He called it a " rehash " of " Fantasy " and wrote " What self @-@ respecting artist would have the gall to recycle the Tom Tom Club 's ' Genius of Love ' ( the source of ' Fantasy ' ) for a second time in four years ? It 's a given that pop will eat itself , but this sort of self @-@ cannibalization should be illegal . " Chuck Taylor from Billboard gave the song a mixed review , writing " Yes it 's a hit , and her voice is in fine form , but ' Heartbreaker ' is a disappointment in terms of what we know she 's capable of writing . "

= = Chart performance = =

In the United States , " Heartbreaker " was released on September 21 , 1999 . The song became Carey 's fourteenth chart topper in the US , spending two weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100 . It extended Carey 's lead as the female artist with the most number one singles in the country . The only acts still ahead of Carey were Elvis Presley with seventeen ( a record she surpassed in 2008 with Touch My Body becoming her eighteenth number one single ) and The Beatles with twenty . The song was certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . Additionally , " Heartbreaker " finished at number thirty @-@ five on the Billboard Year @-@ End of 1999 . In Canada , the song peaked at number one on the Canadian Singles Chart , becoming Carey 's tenth chart topper in the country . In Australia , it entered the Australian Singles Chart at number eleven , on the issue dated October 10 , 1999 . The next week , the song ascended to its peak of number ten , where it stayed for one week , before fluctuating inside the chart for a total of seventeen weeks . " Heartbreaker " was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association ( ARIA ) , denoting shipments of over 70 @,@ 000 units within the country . In New Zealand , " Heartbreaker " was met with strong success , debuting at number four on October 10 , 1999 , and topping the singles chart the following week . It spent a total of eleven weeks fluctuating in the singles chart , and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) , denoting shipments of over 15 @,@ 000 units .

In Europe , the song charted throughout several markets . In Austria , it debuted at number thirty @-@ seven on the singles chart , eventually peaking at number seventeen . In total , " Heartbreaker " spent twelve weeks on the Austrian chart . In the two Belgium territories , Wallonia and Flanders , the song peaked at numbers nine and twenty @-@ seven , and spent nineteen and sixteen weeks on the chart , respectively . In France , the song entered the singles chart at number seventy @-@ seven on October 9 , 1999 . Eventually , it peaked at number four , becoming Carey 's highest

charting single there since " Without You " ( 1993 ) , which peaked at number two . The song charted for twenty @-@ five weeks , and was certified gold by the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique ( SNEP ) , denoting shipments of over 400 @,@ 000 units . In Germany , " Heartbreaker " peaked at number nine , spending twenty weeks inside the singles chart . On October 2 , 1999 , it entered the Dutch Single Top 100 at number sixteen , eventually peaking at number seven , and spending a total of eighteen weeks in the chart . In Norway , the song 's success was limited , only peaking at number fourteen and spending only four weeks charting in the countries chart . " Heartbreaker " entered the Swedish Singles Chart at number thirty , on the issue dated October 7 , 1999 . It charted for a total of fourteen weeks , and attained a peak of number eighteen . In Switzerland , it spent twenty @-@ three consecutive weeks in the singles chart , attaining a peak position of number seven , where it stayed for two weeks . On the UK Singles Chart , " Heartbreaker " debuted at its peak position of number five , during the week of November 6 , 1999 . It spent a total of thirteen weeks charting inside the chart , exiting on January 9 , 2000 .

= = Music video = =

The music video , directed by Brett Ratner , began airing on MTV on August 16 , 1999 following its premiere on the network 's Making the Video series . According to Carey , the goal for the video was to mirror the lyrical content of the song , as well as showing it from a female perspective . Additionally , the video was filmed in a comedic fashion , intended to remain something " fun and exciting . " The video became one of the most expensive ever made , costing over \$ 2 @.@ 5 million . Due to its strong female empowering message and nature , the video remains " a fan favorite , " according to MTV News . Carey claimed that two films were used as inspirations , Grease and Enter the Dragon . Prior to filming the video , it became clear that Jay @-@ Z would be unable to appear in the video , due to a contractual agreement not allowing him from appearing in a video for two weeks after he shot for " Girl 's Best Friend , " his track off the soundtrack to the movie " Blue Streak . " Carey then thought of creating the animated section in the video , which was quickly drawn and animated by Ratner 's team .

The video begins with Carey driving up to a large movie theater , the Los Angeles Theatre in downtown Los Angeles , with several of her female friends . As they pull up to the front doors , they tell Carey that her boyfriend is inside with another woman , leading her to try to convince them to abort the plan of confrontation . After convincing her , they enter the theater and begin a series of small dance routines alongside some of the theater employees . As the music begins , scenes of them dancing and Carey entering the movie projection room inter @-@ cut . Carey sits behind her boyfriend ( played by Jerry O 'Connell ) and the woman he is cheating with , and spy on them in a comedic way with her female lackeys . Soon after , the still unidentified woman walks towards the bathroom , prompting Carey to follow her during a short interlude in the video . After running into each other by the washroom , the woman appears to be Carey sporting a short brown wig and red seductive clothing . Carey pokes her , starting a large brawl in between the two women . Afterwards , Carey appears to have defeated the woman named Bianca , and heads back towards the movie room . During this scene , Jay @-@ Z 's rap verse is played , while an animated clip of Jay @-@ Z and Carey is projected onto the screen . Later a version of the video leaked where Jay @-@ Z was rapping his verse in a jacuzzi . During the verse , Carey 's friends begin throwing popcorns and other candies at O 'Connell , prompting a small food fight in between them . As they halt their attack on him , Carey walks towards O 'Connell 's seat and acts as though she is Bianca . After she sits next to him and he notices who it is , Carey spills a large soda on his lap and bids him farewell , leaving the theater with her friends smiling .

= = Live performances = =

In order to promote " Heartbreaker " , Carey performed the song live on several television and award show appearances , as well as recorded her own Fox Broadcasting Company special . Titled The Mariah Carey Homecoming Special , it was a mini @-@ concert filmed at Carey 's old high

school in Huntington , New York . The special aired on Fox on December 21 , 1999 and featured Jay @-@ Z live on stage for his verses . Carey performed " Heartbreaker " and its accompanying remix at the MTV European Music Awards , held on November 11 , 1999 in Dublin , Ireland . For the performance , Da Brat and Missy Elliott both joined Carey on @-@ stage . Additionally , the song was performed on The Oprah Winfrey Show , which again featured the female duo live on stage , British music chart program Top of the Pops , French program Vivement Dimanche , and The Today Show .

For Rainbow , Carey embarked on her fourth and third worldwide tour , titled the Rainbow World Tour ( 2000 ) . Throughout it , Carey performed the song live during every show . The synopsis behind each performance was a wrestling match in between Carey and Bianca , where Carey would sing the remix and original versions of the song throughout each small interlude of the fight . Carey was brought out with boxing gloves to the stage , performing the remix version of the song . After she began wrestling and boxing with Bianca , she defeated her , prompting her to begin the original version of the song . " Heartbreaker " featured a very different set up for Carey 's Charmbracelet World Tour : An Intimate Evening with Mariah Carey ( 2002 ? 03 ) . During the tour , Carey wore a sparkling , Swarovski bikini number , and performed both the remix and original versions back @-@ to @-@ back . Several male and female dancers were on stage during the performances , as well as different musicians and back @-@ up vocalists . During Carey 's following tour , The Adventures of Mimi Tour , " Heartbreaker " was once again performed at each of the shows . For the song 's recital , Carey 's donned a black bikini and matching silk cape , as well as Christian Louboutin platform pumps . Several male dancers were present on stage , wearing black overalls and jackets while performing heavy dance routines . For the show at Madison Square Garden in New York City , Carey was joined by both Da Brat and Jay @-@ Z for the remix and original versions , respectively . During the Angels Advocate Tour , the song was paired with Love Hangover by Diana Ross , and performed in a mash @-@ up , the same as she did in VH1 Divas in 2000 .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the Rainbow liner notes .

Mariah Carey ? co @-@ production , songwriting , vocals

Jay @-@ Z ? songwriting , vocals

DJ Clue ? co @-@ production

Narada Michael Walden ? songwriting

Jeff Cohen ? songwriting

Shirley Elliston ? songwriting

Lincoln Chase ? songwriting

= = Charts = =