

= The Roof (Back in Time) =

" The Roof " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Mariah Carey , taken from her sixth studio album , Butterfly (1997) . It was released as the third single from the album in Europe , on March 20 , 1998 by Columbia Records . Similar to the treatments of " Butterfly " and " Breakdown " , " The Roof " received a limited worldwide release due to Carey 's conflict at the time with Sony . The song was written and produced by Carey and Trackmasters , and is built around a sample from " Shook Ones part II " by Mobb Deep . The song 's lyrics recount an intimate roof @-@ top encounter between lovers , and how the memory affects the protagonist . The extended remix features a rap verse by Mobb Deep ; both versions were well received by contemporary music critics .

In the music video , Carey is seen in a limousine recounting an encounter she shared on a rainy night . Additionally , past scenes of the event are shown , with Carey caressing her lover at a roof @-@ top party . During the videos climax , Carey open the limousines sun @-@ roof and stands in the rain , trying to recapture the moments she shared in the rain . Aside from the Japanese concerts , Carey performed the song live during her Butterfly World Tour in 1998 . Due to the song 's limited release , " The Roof " did not chart in most major music markets , with the exception of The Netherlands and the United Kingdom , where it peaked at numbers 63 and 96 , respectively .

In addition , " The Roof " was added to Carey 's compilation album The Ballads (2009) .

= = Composition = =

" The Roof " was released on July 28 , 1998 by Columbia Records . The song is a slow and sultry song , which blends hip @-@ hop and contemporary R & B genres . It incorporates drum notes , including heavy beats and grooves . The song 's second version features a rap version from Trackmasters . The song samples the melody from " Shook Ones Part II " by Mobb Deep , incorporating it into chorus and bridge . As part of " layering the song , " background vocals are featured throughout the chorus and sections of the bridge . It is set in the signature common time , and is written in the key of E ? major . It features a basic chord progression of A ? -F ? 1 . Carey 's vocal range in the song spans from the low note of E ? 3 to the high note of F ? 5 ; the piano and guitar pieces range from F ? 3 to G ? 5 as well . The song contains choral lyrics written by Carey , who produced the song 's melody and chorus as well . Aside from assisting with its chord progression , Cory Rooney co @-@ arranged and produced the track as well . Author Chris Nickson felt the song was extremely important for Carey 's musical transition , writing " Lyrically , this was some of her best work ever , the melody slinky and overtly sexy , confirmation ? as if any was needed at this point ! ? that this was the new Mariah . "

= = Critical reception = =

" The Roof " was commended by contemporary music critics for its choice of vocal work , instrumentation and lyrics . David Browne from Entertainment Weekly praised the song as well as Carey 's choice of vocals , writing " Carey is still a vocal grandstander capable of turning all into a six @-@ syllable word . Yet for most of the album she keeps her notorious octave @-@ climbing chops at bay . Showing some admirable restraint , she nestles herself into the downy @-@ soft beats of ' The Roof ' . " Rich Juzwiak from Slant wrote " Little more than yearning , kissing , and remembering happens during the course of ' The Roof , ' a rough @-@ enough R & B revision of Mobb Deep 's ' The Shook Ones . ' But lyrically Mariah the writer is vivid , sometimes shockingly clever (rhyming ' liberated ' with ' Moet ' is a stroke of genius) . "

= = Chart performance = =

" The Roof " was chosen as the third single from Butterfly , receiving an airplay @-@ only release . Because of conflict between Carey and her record label at the time , Sony Music Entertainment , it was only given a commercial release in Europe , while " Breakdown " was released throughout

Oceania . In the UK , the song peaked at number 87 during the week of May 9 , 1998 . " The Roof " stayed in the UK Singles Chart for one week before falling outside the top 100 . In the Netherlands , it performed weakly as well , peaking at number 63 while spending five weeks fluctuating in the Single Top 100 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " The Roof " garnered critical acclaim , and was ranked 18th on Slant 's " 100 Greatest Music Videos " . Sal Ciquemani , from Slant , gave the video a positive review , complimenting Carey 's choice to pair the sultry song with a " sophisticated tale of a sexy rooftop encounter " . The video re @-@ tells a story of Carey reminiscing a past love and a night they shared together on a rainy roof @-@ top . The video 's setting revolves around a dark limousine , a decrepit NYC apartment , and a rainy roof @-@ top , where " Carey is featured at her most vulnerable , with runny mascara and drenched in the cold rainy night . " In the conclusion of his review of the video , Ciquemani wrote : " When Carey rises through the limo 's sunroof and relishes the warm November rain , she 's not drunk on the bubbly but on the memory of past delights . "

The video was directed by Carey and Diane Martel during the spring of 1998 . The music video begins with Carey sitting alone in a limousine , recalling a night she shared some time previous . As scenes of Carey reminiscing in the limo are shown , clips of her dressing in an old apartment are presented . Eventually , Carey joins a roof @-@ top party one night , where she begins dancing and caressing her lover . As the passion between them grown , rain begins to fall , showering everyone atop the edifice . As these scenes end , Carey in the present opens the sun @-@ roof of the limo and stands into the rainy night , trying to recapture those magical moments she shared on that rainy roof @-@ top encounter . The video ends with a wet Carey lying in the back of the limousine , sad and lonely .

= = Live performances = =

" The Roof " was performed few times throughout Carey 's career . The song was performed during her Butterfly World Tour in 1998 . During the performances , live male and female dancers were present on stage , grooving and performing classic routines . Carey wore a short beige ensemble and performed light classical dances , alongside a male partner . The song was performed on select dates of Carey 's 2014 The Elusive Chanteuse Show tour .

= = Tracks listing and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from Butterfly liner notes .

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

Jean Claude Oliver ? songwriting , vocals

Samuel Barnes ? songwriting , vocals

Cory Rooney ? mixing , special effects

Albert Johnson ? songwriting

Kejuan Waliek Muchita ? songwriting

= = Charts = =