

= Dreamlover (song) =

" Dreamlover " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey , first released on July 27 , 1993 by Columbia Records , as the lead single from Carey 's third studio album Music Box . It was written by Carey and Dave Hall , and was produced by the pair and Walter Afanasieff . The song incorporates a sample of the hook from " Blind Alley " by The Emotions into its melody and instrumentation . " Dreamlover " helped Carey 's transition into the pop music market , a choice made following the mixed reception to her previous studio effort Emotions (1991) , which featured gospel and 1960s soul influences . Lyrically , the song pictures a protagonist calling for a perfect lover , her " dreamlover , " that will whisk her away into the night and not disillusion her like her exes did in the past .

" Dreamlover " received generally positive reviews from contemporary music critics , many of whom praised the song 's incorporated sample , as well as Carey 's carefree vocal style . The song was the first of several of her lead singles that sampled older tunes as a musical bed , as seen in " Fantasy " (1995) , " Honey " (1997) , " Heartbreaker " (1999) , and " Loverboy " (2001) . It experienced strong worldwide success , becoming Carey 's seventh chart topper on the Billboard Hot 100 , remaining there for eight weeks . It peaked at number one in Canada and became a top @-@ ten single in Australia , the Netherlands , New Zealand , and the United Kingdom .

Carey performed " Dreamlover " live on several televised talk shows around the world , including The Arsenio Hall Show in September 1993 , the British music chart program Top of the Pops , and the 1993 Music Fair in Japan . In 1999 , following the release of Carey 's Rainbow , the song was included in the Mariah Carey Homecoming Special , and her appearance on The Today Show . Additionally , " Dreamlover " was featured in the set @-@ lists of most of her succeeding tours , making its debut on the Music Box Tour (1993) . The song was included on Carey 's compilation albums , Number 1 's (1998) , Greatest Hits (2001) , and # 1 to Infinity (2015) .

The song 's music video was filmed by Diane Martel in Copake , NY in upstate New York during August 1993 . It features a cameo appearance by Carey 's dog Jack , and shows her frolicking through a flowerbed and field , swimming in a large pond , boarding a hot air balloon , and dancing alongside several shirtless male dancers . According to author Chris Nickson , the video 's carefree setting harmonized well with the song 's soft instrumentation . Due to the song 's strong radio airplay and extended charting , the video received frequent play on several music video channels throughout the summer of 1993 .

= = Background = =

Carey 's debut studio album made a strong impact on pop music , but the singer became interested in altering her sound and branching out into other genres for her second studio effort , Emotions (1991) . Columbia allowed her to take more control over her musical direction , enabling her to change the musical genre , melodies , and production style . Carey worked with many new musicians and producers on the album ; Walter Afanasieff being the only holdover from her debut . Emotions contained influences from 1950s , 60s , and 70s balladry , gospel , R & B and soul music . The album , while praised by some as being more mature and raw , failed to reach the critical or commercial heights of her debut effort ; selling fewer units and failing to introduce Carey into new markets . Columbia decided to return Carey to the same genre as her debut album and have her produce a more commercial and radio @-@ friendly record . Their plans were to tone down Carey 's vocals and soften the album 's production to create a contemporary pop record . Carey and Afanasieff agreed to the change and began writing and recording material for her third studio effort , Music Box (1993) .

= = Recording = =

While recording Music Box , Carey began to alter her songwriting style and genre choices , most notably in " Dreamlover " . The song is different from anything she had recorded on her previous

album , as it leans on pop and light R & B influences . While searching for new record producers for the album , Carey came across Dave Hall , a New York native who was known from his work on Mary J. Blige 's debut album , What 's the 411 ? (1992) . Carey wanted to incorporate a sampled loop from an older song into " Dreamlover " , her second song to do so . The pair reviewed several older tunes and melodies , and chose " Blind Alley " , performed by The Emotions in 1972 . In an interview with Fred Bronson , Carey described working with Hall :

" I wanted to do something that had a happy feeling , something that was more open and released , and that 's really not Dave . It 's very anti what he 's about . So he said , ' Oh , you want to do that happy stuff ? All right , all right . ' He was not into doing it . Then we started listening to a lot of different and old loops and we used the ' Blind Alley ' loop and I started singing the melody over it . "

Although Carey had heard the hook used in several other songs over the years , she felt her use of the sample was done in a more innovative way . " We built the song from there and I wrote the lyrics and the melody and Dave ended up liking it , " she continued . After having completed the song , Hall complimented Carey 's work ethic and form of writing , calling her a " perfectionist " and " very professional . " He explained that they incorporated the hook , a melody , and the sample into the song over the course of one night . The song 's title was not added until the end of production . Hall said Carey works in a unique fashion , usually developing the song 's instrumentals and hook prior to the lyrics and title . Carey describes the songwriting process :

" The way I usually work is I do an untitled song . We 'll grab the hook , whether sampled or created , and use it as the working title . I wrote the verses first , as well as the melody and the inclusion of several instrumentals . Sometimes I 'll have an idea for a lyrics . If I 'm collaborating with someone , I 'll direct them in the direction that I 'm going chord wise , because I get all these melody ideas and then I lose them if I don 't have someone really good with the keyboard with me . That 's why I tend to collaborate because I lose the ideas by the time I figure out the chord . All these melody ideas just go . "

When Carey 's fiancé at the time , Tommy Mottola , came to hear the song in the studio , he had mixed feelings . He approached Walter Afanasieff and asked him to add some additional instrumentation and flavor . Afanasieff changed the song at the production level , altering the way in which the hook sample was incorporated into the song , as well as adding several new instruments . He described the changes to Bronson in an interview :

" Mariah and Dave did this loop thing which was new to us pop producers at the time . Their version of ' Dreamlover ' was missing a lot of stuff . The spirit of the song was up but it wasn 't hitting hard enough . I re @-@ worked the drums , organ and keyboard . The organ and hi @-@ hat part I changed made it a bit more swinging and a little bit more driving . I put a whole new shade of colors to it . "

= = Music and lyrics = =

" Dreamlover " is a mid @-@ tempo pop and light R & B track . According to the music sheet published at Musicnotes.com , the song is written in the key of F major , and the beat is set in common time which moves at a moderate pace of 104 beats per minute . It has the sequence of F7 ? Gm7 ? F7 ? Gm7 as its chord progression . The song was written and produced by Carey and Hall , with additional work done by Afanasieff , who added a slightly altered instrumentation . " Dreamlover " samples the hook and a musical loop from " Blind Alley " by R & B group The Emotions . The sampling provides a " backbone " for the instrumentation and production , as well as being interlooped in the bridge . Carey uses a whistle register to introduce the first verse .

In his review , Jozen Cummings from PopMatters described the song as " pure , frothy pop . " Cummings felt Afanasieff 's usage of the Hammond B3 organ added " an old school vibe " to " Dreamlover " , as it harmonizes with the " extremely catchy musical hook . " Cummings describes the theme of the lyrics :

" ... the lyric is a description of , and a call for , the mythic Dreamlover ; someone to take her away , to ' rescue ' her . Fluffy @-@ seeming stuff , to be sure (and possibly cringe @-@ inducing for

some folk) , but very possibly also an expression of the simplest of romantic dreams : to find the ' right ' person ; someone who makes you feel taken care of , loved , safe . "

Cummings called the second verse 's first lines " Don 't want another pretender / To disillusion me one more time / Whispering words of forever / Playing with my mind " an " interesting mix of innocence and very grown @-@ up cynicism and world @-@ weariness . " Wayne Robins from Newsday compared the vocals to " Motown and Philly soul singing , " while praising Afansieff 's inclusion of the Hammond B @-@ 3 for the way the " riffs provide a nice organic contrast to the synthesizers that dominate the record . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Dreamlover " earned widely positive reviews from music critics , many of whom praised its production , the sampling of the hook , and the vocals . In reference to the common criticism that Carey over @-@ sings and over @-@ uses her upper registers , Cummings wrote " truth is , she is never crass in the use of her amazing instrument . On ' Dreamlover ' , especially , she keeps a close , tasteful rein on the acrobatics . " While reviewing *Butterfly* (1997) , Rich Juzwiak of *Slant Magazine* praised the song 's incorporation of the " Blind Alley " hook , saying it was done " as sweetly as possible . " Ron Wynn from *Allmusic* called the song personal and intense . He enjoyed Carey 's more mature vocal style on the album , as well as the usage of the hook and the instrumentation . David Browne from *Entertainment Weekly* felt Carey 's soft singing and lack of volume was hurtful to the song , saying she " lost herself . " He thought the hook was catchy , but overly familiar . Tom Moon from *The Philadelphia Inquirer* called the song " irresistibly bubbly " while J. D. Considine from *The Baltimore Sun* called its melody " breezy . " Roger Friedman from *Fox News* named " Dreamlover " and " Vision of Love " Carey 's best , calling them " the original hits . " *Entertainment Weekly* listed the song as one of " The 100 Greatest Moments in Rock Music : The 90s " ; it was their top pick for 1993 . " Dreamlover " received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Female Pop Vocal Performance .

= = Chart performance = =

" Dreamlover " was Carey 's seventh number one single on the *Billboard* Hot 100 , topping the chart in its sixth week and stayed there for eight consecutive weeks (September 5 to October 30 , 1993) ? her longest stay at the time . It replaced " Can 't Help Falling in Love " by UB40 , and was later replaced by Meat Loaf 's " I 'd Do Anything for Love (But I Won 't Do That) . " It spent 26 weeks in the top 40 and was ranked number eight on the Hot 100 1993 Year @-@ End Charts and 20 on the Decade @-@ End Charts . The song was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on September 22 , 1993 , denoting shipments of over one million units throughout the United States . It sold 935 @,@ 000 units domestically . " Dreamlover " holds the joint title of the highest debuting song on the *Billboard* Pop Songs chart , entering the chart at number 12 on the week dated August 14 , 1993 but was tied by Taylor Swift 's " Shake It Off " in 2014 . In Canada , " Dreamlover " became Carey 's fifth number one single on the Canadian RPM Singles Chart , debuting at number 60 on the chart during the week of August 14 , 1993 . Three weeks later , the song reached the chart 's number one position ; it spent six consecutive weeks at the top and a total of 21 weeks on the singles chart . On the RPM Year @-@ End Charts , " Dreamlover " finished at number two .

" Dreamlover " entered the Australian Singles Chart at number 41 during the week of August 23 , 1993 , eventually reaching a peak of number seven and spending a total of 21 consecutive weeks on the chart . The song was certified gold by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , denoting shipments of over 35 @,@ 000 units throughout the country . In New Zealand , " Dreamlover " reached a peak position of number two on the New Zealand Singles Chart and spent sixteen weeks fluctuating on the chart . The Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) certified the song gold for shipments of 7 @,@ 500 units in the country . On the Dutch Top 40 , " Dreamlover " debuted at number 36 during the week of August 28 , 1993 . After attaining a

peak of number nine , the song dropped off the top 40 after a chart run of 13 weeks . On the yearly charts , the song finished at number 69 . In Switzerland the song peaked at number thirteen and spent sixteen weeks on the singles chart . On the UK Singles Chart , " Dreamlover " reached its peak position of number nine during the week of September 4 , 1993 . It spent a total of ten weeks on the chart , exiting on October 23 , 1993 . Sales in the United Kingdom are estimated at 150 @,@ 000 units .

= = Music video and remixes = =

The music video for " Dreamlover " was directed by Diane Martel and filmed in upstate New York in June 1993 . The video features scenes of Carey swimming in a small pond by a waterfall , boarding a colorful hot air balloon , and dancing alongside several shirtless male dancers . As the video begins , Carey is swimming underwater while wearing clothing . She is soon gasping for air and climbing into a flower bed above . As she frolics and rolls in a field , scenes of Carey boarding a hot air balloon are inter @-@ cut . Her dog Jack makes a cameo appearance , as he follows her through the field and pond . After a short interval of dancing alongside several male dancers , Carey leaves with her dog as the video concludes . After filming the video , Carey revealed that the water was so cold that she refused to swim until the director , Martel , dived in first . Author Chris Nickson felt the video captured the song 's soft and relaxed nature : " The casual feel , almost like clips from home movies edited together , captured the song 's off @-@ the @-@ shoulder airiness . " The video received heavy rotation on several video music channels , which added to the song 's chart performance .

" Dreamlover " marked the first time Carey was given creative control over remixing her songs . She enlisted David Morales to create the Def Club Mix ; it was the first of Carey 's remixes to use re @-@ recorded vocals . An officially @-@ released live version of " Dreamlover " , derived from the television special Here Is Mariah Carey (1994) , is available . " Dreamlover " B @-@ side track (" Do You Think of Me ") was written and produced by Carey , Afanasieff , Cory Rooney , and Mark Morales . Kelefa Sanneh from The New York Times complimented the remix , writing " [It] is a revelation : after a long percussion break , he isolates a few of Ms. Carey 's ad @-@ libs ; her ultrafalsetto vocals sound spookier than all of Basement Jaxx 's sound effects combined . "

= = Live performances = =

Carey performed " Dreamlover " on several televised broadcasts in the US and throughout Europe . The song was sung live on The Arsenio Hall Show with " Hero " as a two @-@ piece set @-@ list . Carey performed " Dreamlover " on the British music program Top of the Pops , the Dutch program Platendaagse , and the Japanese show Music Fair . In a promotional effort for her seventh studio album Rainbow , Carey filmed a FOX special titled The Mariah Carey Homecoming Special , a mini @-@ concert filmed at her old high school in Huntington , New York . It aired on December 21 , 1999 . " Dreamlover " served as one of the opening numbers . The song was performed in 2003 on The Today Show as part of a four @-@ song set as a promotion for Carey 's 2002 album , Charmbracelet .

Following the televised appearances , Carey performed the song live on several of her tours . In the Daydream World Tour she performed it in front of a backdrop showing footage from the song 's video . On her Music Box Tour and Butterfly World Tour , the song served as the fifth song of the set @-@ list . Carey performed alongside several female back @-@ up dancers who mimicked her light dance routines . Carey used a similar presentation on the Rainbow World Tour . On Carey 's Charmbracelet and The Adventures of Mimi Tours , three male backup dancers were featured on stage , with the three female background vocalists behind them . On the latter tour , Carey 's wore a black bikini , with a matching cape and Christian Louboutin pumps . She mixed the song with an instrumental remix of Mtume 's song " Juicy Fruit . " Following the release of her twelfth studio album , Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel (2009) , Carey embarked on the Angels Advocate Tour . It was her first tour that did not regularly feature the song , as it was only performed on a few select dates .

In addition , Carey sang the song as a part of her Las Vegas residency , Mariah Carey Number 1 's , which chronicles the singer 's 18 US Hot 100 Number 1 hits . For the performance , she donned a sequined white dress , and entered the stage in a pink convertible car . At the end of the performance , she stands atop a stage fan , while her skirt blows in the wind , as an homage to Marilyn Monroe .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

These credits were adapted from the Music Box liner notes .

" Dreamlover " was recorded at Right Track Studios , New York , and mixed at Sony Music Studios , New York .

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

Dave Hall ? co @-@ producing , songwriting , synthesizer

Walter Afanasieff ? co @-@ producing , songwriting , organ

Bob Ross ? engineering

Ren Klyce ? programming

Mick Guzauski ? mixing

Bob Ludwig ? mastering

= = Charts and certifications = =