

= Just a Kiss ( song ) =

" Just a Kiss " is a song recorded by American country music group Lady Antebellum . It was released on May 2 , 2011 as the lead single from the band 's album *Own the Night* ( 2011 ) . Dallas Davidson collaborated with band members Hillary Scott , Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood to write the song , taking inspiration from the members ' personal experiences . Produced by Paul Worley , " Just a Kiss " was among the last songs recorded for the album , and is a mid @-@ tempo country ballad with lyrics that speak of a romantic relationship between two new couples . Professional reviews for " Just a Kiss " have been mostly positive , commending on the song 's theme and musical arrangement and also praising Lady Antebellum 's performance .

In the United States , the song debuted at number 28 on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart and appeared at number seven on the *Billboard* Hot 100 . It later topped the Country chart and was certified 2 × Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) . The song peaked at number 13 in Canada , 22 in Japan and reached the top 80 in Australia and Slovakia . Shaun Silva directed a well @-@ received music video for the song . It portrays the story of two young lovers against a backdrop of scenery of Europe . The band first performed the song on their *Houston Rodeo* show on March 11 , 2011 , and later at the *Divas Nashvegas* benefit show . Following the single 's release , they performed it on US reality television show *American Idol* and at the *Billboard Music Awards* . The group 's live performances have been praised by critics . The song was featured in the season 2 finale of *Pretty Little Liars* and in the season 1 , episode 17 of *Hart of Dixie* .

= = Background and writing = =

After the 53rd Grammy Awards , held in February 2011 , band members Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood said in a backstage interview that work on the group 's third album was almost complete . On May 2 , 2011 , the band digitally released " Just a Kiss " , the lead single from the new project . In a blog entry on their website , the group said that " Just a Kiss " was among the last songs that were written for the album . Haywood commented , " We were about six songs into recording and someone had this idea , so we sat down to write it . " Hillary Scott , Kelley and Haywood wrote the song with Dallas Davidson . Davidson discussed the conception of the song with country music blog *Taste of Country* : " I went out on the road with them , and we wrote a couple of things . We recorded one song called ' We Own the Night ' . Charles called me as they were about done with the record . He said , ' Man , we want to write again . ' So the band came over [ to my office ] one morning . We started writing this other song . We were trying to find Hillary a little uptempo girl song . We wrote this cool thing . "

The next day , Davidson found Haywood in his office , playing the keyboard part which was later revived for the song 's riff . " When we got done with the other song , I kept going back , saying , ' Man , there 's something about what you were playing earlier ... let 's mess with that before we leave . ' So he started playing it again , " Davidson recalled . After the keyboard elements were completed , Scott and Kelley finished the song 's music and lyrics at the studio . They discussed ideas for the song ; Kelley put forward the basic melody and Scott followed up with her own contribution . After they wrote the lyrics , Davidson proposed that the song 's title be " Just a Kiss Goodnight " . It was later changed to " Just a Kiss " after Scott felt that " it 's cool to have ' just a kiss ' goodnight rather than going all the way . " Kelley told *Country Weekly* that the song was inspired by the band members ' experiences : " I remembered being out the first night with Cassie and thinking , ' This is different , and I don 't want to give any wrong impression . I don 't want to make the wrong move because this feels like something special . ' We started talking about that and going back and forth with different experiences when we wrote the song . " The song was recorded and mixed by Clarke Schleicher , with assistance from Joe Martino and Andrew Bazinet . The B @-@ side track , " *Bottle Up Lightning* " , was written by Kelley , Haywood , Tony Martin and Wendell Lee Mobley .

= = Music and lyrics = =

" Just a Kiss " was produced by Paul Worley and lasts for three minutes and 41 seconds . The mid @-@ tempo country power ballad opens with piano chords , played by Haywood . The melody builds up as the track progresses , exhibiting elements of pop music and incorporating acoustic guitars . As the " soaring chorus " ? sung in three @-@ part harmony by Scott and Kelley and backed by Haywood ? starts , beats of " overly dramatic drums " are also heard , as described by music critic Matthew Wilkening . According to Tris McCall from The Star @-@ Ledger , " Just a Kiss " contains the " specific structure " found in Lady Antebellum 's previous songs . This was echoed by John Hill of About.com and Nadine Cheung of AOL Radio , both of whom compared the song 's arrangement to that of " Need You Now " ( 2009 ) . According to the sheet music published by Alfred Publishing Company , " Just a Kiss " is set in common time with a moderately slow tempo of 72 beats per minute . Written in the key of B ? minor , it follows a chord progression of B ? m7 ? A ? / C ? D ? ? G ? major9 , and Scott 's vocals range from the note of A ? 3 to F5 .

The lyrics of the song describe a " tortured romantic scenario " of a newly formed couple 's relationship , which , according to McCall , is enhanced by the piano and guitar arrangements . Kelley and Scott alternate on lead vocals . It speaks of the couple who prefer not to take their romantic relationship further anytime soon , want to take things slow , and are satisfied with " just a goodnight kiss " . McCall also noted that the lyrics portray how the female character 's lines , sung by Scott , attempt to fight back her lustful feelings , and precariously sighs the line " I don 't want to mess this thing up . " Scott told Billboard that " there is so much excitement at the beginning of a new relationship ... all the butterflies and that optimistic feeling that this person could be ' the one ' . This song is about one of those times when your brain kicks in and tells your heart ' good things are worth waiting for . " Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe wrote that the song 's production is " emblematic of the album 's midtempo complacency . " Melinda Newman of HitFix noted that the strings " give a nice lift at the end . "

= = Critical reception = =

Bobby Peacock of Roughstock gave " Just a Kiss " a rating of four stars out of five and called it " another excellent song that plays up all of the band 's strengths . " Erik Ernst of Milwaukee Journal Sentinel observed that the track 's " lush melody " shows " new confidence for these musicians who have become bona fide stars . " A Washington Post editor also gave a positive review , declaring " Just a Kiss " as " one of the group 's finest " . Daryl Addison , writing for Great American Country , commended the group 's vocal chemistry in the song , adding that " [ t ] he group 's dynamic allows them to explore a wide range of emotions as they each add their own voice . " Melinda Newman of HitFix suggested that " Just a Kiss " is " a good summer song for young lovers . " Robbie Daw of music website Idolator commented that the song " deftly captures " the state of nervousness that lovers experience during the early stages of the romance . Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly also praised " Just a Kiss " and noted that Lady Antebellum sing the song " like they mean it " . He suggested that the song is " classy and very sincere " . Stephen Hyden of The A.V. Club wrote that the song was " painfully chaste " .

Matthew Wilkening , writing for Taste of Country , gave the song a score of 7 @. @ 5 out of 10 , writing that the song is " surprisingly serious and dour " in contrast to its subject matter , but he praised the " catchy melody " . It also received 3 @. @ 5 stars out of five from John Hill of About.com , who found it " lyrically lacking " but a " solid contribution to the power ballad genre " . Jonathan Keefe of Slant Magazine found the song to be repetitive in its lyrical theme , and said that the group was " sticking to the blandly pleasant , cliché @-@ driven songwriting of Need You Now , not taking a single risk . " Tris McCall of The Star @-@ Ledger criticized the song for bearing a close resemblance to " Need You Now " and concluded that " if you swooned for ' Need You Now ' , chances are you won 't be able to resist the tidal pull of this one , either . " Shahryar Rizvi of Dallas Observer was also less enthusiastic about the song , writing that it " seems kinda old @-@ fashioned amongst all the outspoken and steamy acts in the Top 40 . " Rizvi concluded by noting that " maybe the music industry 's just covering their bases by serving the demographic that

appreciates sugar @-@ coated love ballads over brash statements ... If not , well , then " Just A Kiss " will probably appear in sappy , modest teenage romantic comedies . If those types of movies still exist . "

= = Chart performance = =

" Just a Kiss " debuted on the US Billboard Hot Country Songs chart at number 28 on May 21 , 2011 . According to Nielsen BDS , the song opened with a first week audience of 6 million across 85 radio stations , becoming the group 's highest debut to date . It marked the third highest debut on the chart among groups at the time , after Rascal Flatts 's " Take Me There " and Sugarland 's " All I Want to Do " . The following week , the song ascended to number 20 on the chart , with the Greatest Gainer mark and soon became the band 's fifth number @-@ one hit . On the Billboard Hot 100 , " Just a Kiss " debuted and peaked at number seven , setting a record for the highest debut on the chart for a country group . The song debuted at number three on the Hot Digital Songs chart due to sales of 211 @,@ 000 downloads .

" Just a Kiss " stayed on the Hot 100 for 42 weeks and was certified 2 × Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) for sales of two million digital units . The song also experienced pop crossover success , peaking at number 21 on the Pop Songs chart , number one on the Adult Contemporary chart and number six on the Adult Pop Songs chart . In Canada , the song debuted and peaked on the Canadian Hot 100 at number thirteen , selling 15 @,@ 000 units in its first week . It has stayed on the chart for 24 weeks and was certified Platinum by Music Canada for downloads of 80 @,@ 000 units . The song reached number one on the Canada Country airplay chart , number 11 on the Canada AC chart , and number 23 on the Canada Hot AC chart as tracked by Nielsen BDS . In Slovakia , " Just a Kiss " charted for three weeks on the Singles chart and peaked at number 73 . In Japan , it peaked at number 21 on the Japan Hot 100 . The song also charted and peaked in the United Kingdom and Australia , at number 78 and number 72 , respectively , for one week , and at number 91 in the Netherlands .

= = Music video = =

The music video , directed by Shaun Silva , was filmed in Paris , London , and Murfreesboro , Tennessee . The Union Station hotel is featured as a train station in the video . Kelley explained that the director decided to shoot parts of the music video in Europe because he wanted the video to be " as authentic as possible " . The video begins with a young woman , Joy , entering a train and discovering an iPad in her backpack . The iPad has a video of her lover with a sign written in French words that mean " Don 't forget about me , " and also some videos of the couple 's travels throughout London , Paris , and Berlin , after which the couple bid each other farewell . A subsequent scene shows Joy 's boyfriend finding her sitting on a train seat and they share a kiss . Joy is then seen awoken from sleep as a man named Brady , who looks exactly like the boyfriend in Joy 's dream , sits next to her . Brady apologizes for waking her and asks if she minds if he sits next to her . The two make introductions , and Joy mentions her dream . Brady then takes out his iPad case ( exactly the same case as the one Joy had in her dream ) , and smiles at her . Joy smiles back , having experienced this deja vu moment . The group members are seen singing at a Tennessee train station , and on the train itself .

The band released teaser trailers first , and the full video premiered on June 27 , 2011 , 1 pm ( Eastern Time ) , on the band 's website . Jon Blistein of Billboard commented that the video " is sweet and will probably make you smile . " AOL 's The Boot also liked the video , writing , " If the storyline itself doesn 't make you fall head over heels , the gorgeous scenery surely will , as the clip was shot in various picturesque places around the world . " Amy Sciarretto of Taste of Country noted that the video was " heart @-@ pinching " . The Tennessean wrote that the " sweet sentimentality should score with fans of ... ' Need You Now ' . " However , Melinda Newman of HitFix deemed the video " sugary " . Robbie Daw of Idolator wrote , " Lady A 's [ ... ] " Just A Kiss " video got us choked up after one viewing . Clearly we need to get out more . "

== Live performances ==

Lady Antebellum sang a portion of " Just a Kiss " on their Houston Rodeo show , on March 11 , 2011 , performing it after " Love 's Lookin ' Good on You " . The whole band stepped down , and Kelley and Scott sat on bar stools , singing the track to each other . They were accompanied by Haywood on a piano . Matthew Keever of Houston Express called " Just a Kiss " " the most intimate song of the evening " , and Joey Guerra of the Houston Chronicle wrote that the song could become " another pop smash . " They later performed at the Divas Nashvegas benefit show for the Oasis Center in April 2011 . The same month , Lady Antebellum posted a Twitter message , saying that they would debut the whole song on the tenth season of the US reality television show American Idol . The performance aired on May 5 , 2011 . Natasha Mullan of TV Guide Canada wrote that the group sang the song on American Idol " in perfect harmony . "

Lady Antebellum was tapped to perform " Just a Kiss " at the 2011 Billboard Music Awards , held in Las Vegas . The show aired on May 22 , 2011 , on ABC . Scott , Kelley and Haywood , dressed all in black , performed the song as Haywood played piano with their full band behind them . Scott Shetler of Taste of Country commended the performance , writing that the members were " harmonized beautifully , particularly on the song 's hook . " In June 2011 , the group performed the song on the 2011 CMT Music Awards , where they were presented with the Award for Group Video of the Year ( for " Hello World " ) . The band , dressed in black , sang " Just a Kiss " and a few lines of the song " Kiss " by Prince . The trio also performed the song on CBS 's Late Show with David Letterman . Robbie Daw of Idolator wrote that the performance was " pitch @-@ perfect " . Lady Antebellum appeared as the musical guest on Saturday Night Live on October 1 , 2011 . They performed " We Owned the Night " , followed by " Just a Kiss " .

== Track listing ==

== Credits and personnel ==

Credits for " Just a Kiss " are adapted from the Own the Night liner notes .

== Charts and certifications ==

== Release history ==