

= Fly on the Wall ( song ) =

" Fly on the Wall " is a song recorded by American recording artist Miley Cyrus for her second studio album , Breakout ( 2008 ) . It was released as the third and final single from the album on February 27 , 2009 by Hollywood Records . The song contains pop rock , dance @-@ pop and synthpop elements . The song 's lyrics have been interpreted in a number of ways , such as a description of an abusive boyfriend . In actuality , Cyrus says the song describes paparazzi and their extensive personal privacy invasions .

The song received critical praise , with several critics claiming it defied teen pop expectations and was Breakout 's best track . Despite only reaching number eighty @-@ four on the United States chart Billboard Hot 100 , " Fly on the Wall " performed better commercially in various European regions . " Fly on the Wall " reached its highest international peak on the UK Singles Chart , at number sixteen . The single 's music video was directed by Philip Andelman and premiered on FNMTV . The " Thriller " inspired video takes place mainly in a parking garage in which Cyrus encounters and attempts to escape the paparazzi . Cyrus promoted the song through several venues , including a performance on her second headlining tour , the Wonder World Tour , that incorporated a short segment of the " Thriller " dance . Cyrus also performed the song in the Gypsy Heart Tour . The song , along with " Start All Over " and " " Who Owns My Heart " are the only singles released by Cyrus that haven 't been certified at least platinum in the United States .

= = Background = =

The song 's lyrics , written by Cyrus , Antonina Armato , Tim James and Devrim Karaoglu , have been mistakenly interpreted in a variety of ways . The song 's protagonist sings in first person perspective while condemning an unspecified subject for wanting to invade her privacy . The majority of reviewers thought the protagonist was referring to a " controlling boyfriend " . Ben Ratliff of The New York Times sided with the boyfriend , and believed the song 's protagonist was " bullying some poor boy for the sin of wanting to know what she talks about with her friends . " Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe believed the song could have described a number of subjects , such as " a former boyfriend , the media , and even her fans . " However , in an interview with Jocelyn Vena of MTV News , Cyrus said the song was about " the media " and " how they think they know everything about [ her ] , when they don 't . They want to be a fly on my wall and watch [ her ] 24 / 7 . " Cyrus elaborated on the concept in an interview with Nancy O 'Dell of Access Hollywood . She stated ,

" Paparazzi . I wrote it for the media , always feeling like they need to be in my life . Sometimes they just wish that they could blend in and be there all the time . And that they might know me a little bit better if they were in my house , in my room and my different places . So , it 's like going to different spots and trying to get away from them and it 's not going away like little annoying flies . "

= = Composition = =

" Fly on the Wall " is a pop rock song with strong uses of electric guitars , keyboards and soprano vocals . Influences derive from electronic music and industrial music . It is set in common time with a moderately fast rock tempo of 143 beats per minute . The song is written in the key of G minor . Cyrus ' vocals spans two octaves , from G3 to D5 . The song has the following chord progression , G5 ? D ? Gm7 . The song 's chorus has the use of a vocal hook ; the hook sings , " fly on the wall " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Fly on the Wall " received critical acclaim . Heather Phares of Allmusic said the song was a " G @-@ rated version " of Britney Spears ' song " Toxic " and provided hints of Cyrus ' future musical direction . Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe said " Fly on the Wall " was a change of pace for

Cyrus and called it " the album 's most interesting tune . " Mikael Wood of The Los Angeles Times said the song is a result of regular Walt Disney Company standards , yet " the CD 's best cut . " Along with " Full Circle , " Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine said the song was a " more worthy " follow @-@ up to " See You Again . " Mordechai Shinefield of The Village Voice stated the song was " blazingly brilliant " and that it was " the best , angriest song [ on Breakout ] . " Johnny Dee of Virgin Media said the song and " 7 Things " were " feisty pop belters " that would encourage a long @-@ term career . Ratliff negatively compared " Fly on the Wall " to the Pussycat Dolls and said that although Cyrus ' voice is generally rich with a deep range , it became " pinched and stingy " in the single . However , he also said the song was " teen @-@ accurate " .

= = Chart performance = =

For the week ending August 9 , 2008 , " Fly on the Wall " charted at number 69 on Hot Digital Songs due to the release of Breakout , but failed to reach the Billboard Hot 100 ; the following week , the song completely fell from the sales chart . During late 2008 , the song reached its peak on several US charts , reaching number 72 in Hot 100 Airplay , and 64 in the Pop 100 and Pop 100 Airplay . For the week ending January 10 , 2009 , the song debuted and peaked at number 83 in the Hot 100 due to airplay , falling from the chart in the succeeding week . In the Canadian Hot 100 , the peaked and debuted at number 73 on the week ending August 9 , 2008 due to digital downloads . It then ascended and descended the Canadian Hot 100 before reaching its last week , ending on February 7 , 2009 .

The song was more successful in European nations . For the week ending January 1 , 2009 , " Fly on the Wall " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number 90 . Throughout January and February 2009 , the song moved up , finding new peaks for four consecutive weeks . For the week ending February 28 , the song ascended to number sixteen and became Cyrus ' second best charting single in the United Kingdom . It then slid several spots down , until its last week on the singles chart at number 86 , for the week ending April 4 . In the European Hot 100 , " Fly on the Wall " peaked at number fifty @-@ seven on the week ending March 7 , 2009 and spent a total of five weeks on the chart . For the week ending January 29 in the Irish Singles Chart , the song debuted at number 49 . Weeks later , the song reached its peak at number 23 before falling off the chart on March 12 . In Austria , the song debuted and peaked on the week ending March 18 at number 57 and fell from the chart after two weeks . It spent seven weeks on the German Singles Chart , where it debuted and peaked at 62 .

= = Music video = =

In an interview with MTV News , director Philip Andelman explained that Cyrus was already determined to poke fun at the paparazzi when she contacted him for a " Fly on the Wall " music video . Andelman did not want to create " something too serious " and worked to give the video a " playful " aspect . Cyrus elaborated on the concept of the music video in an interview with Nancy O 'Dell of Access Hollywood . Cyrus said ,

" The concept is kind of ' Thriller ' -esque [ sic ] . It 's kind of like where the paparazzi become these zombies and they 're all like attacking me . And my boyfriend is trying to save me , but I don 't know if he 's a paparazzi too . So , it 's like me trying to hide and get away . It 's really fun , but I 'm escaping from my boyfriend and escaping from the paparazzi and trying to find my way through the whole video . "

The video commences with a short segment of dramatic music . It then focuses on Cyrus , wearing a white tank top , jeans , boots and a black leather jacket , and her boyfriend leaving a movie theater and discussing the movie they saw . Suddenly , Cyrus ' boyfriend begins to cough as a full moon emerges from behind the clouds . Cyrus is confused , then horrified as she watches him transform into a paparazzi , and runs away from him as he shouts " Miley , come here ! I just want a couple of shots ! " and tries to snap pictures of her . The music of " Fly on the Wall " begins as Cyrus runs into a parking garage and tries to hide behind a pillar and a black Mercedes @-@ Benz SLR McLaren .

As soon as Cyrus tries to move away from the car , a mob of paparazzi begins to chase her with their cameras . Throughout much of the video , Cyrus runs and hides from the mob . Clips interspaced throughout the video feature her in a long silver shirt and jeans singing and dancing in front of the Mercedes . Eventually , Cyrus is cornered by the paparazzi . She is scared , but then surprised and perplexed when the mob unexpectedly begins to dance in a synchronized manner . Her boyfriend , appearing normal , then arrives in the Mercedes to rescue her . Inside the car , Cyrus describes her strange encounter with the paparazzi to him . Unknown to Cyrus , her boyfriend has planted a video camera in the car ; the music video concludes with a shot of the website he posts the video on beneath the headline , " Miley Cyrus Bugs at Paparazzi ! ! ! " The music video to " Fly on the Wall " was first seen on December 5 , 2008 on MTV 's FNMTV . The video is inspired by Michael Jackson 's iconic music video , " Thriller " , but trades zombies for paparazzi . MTV also compared the " Fly on the Wall " video for those for " Circus " by Britney Spears and " Rumors " by Lindsay Lohan .

= = Live performances = =

Cyrus first performed the song at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Disney Channel Games on May 4 , 2008 . The performance had Cyrus in a red coat and was later used a promotional music video on Disney Channel . On May 17 , 2008 , she performed the song at the 2008 Zootopia . On July 18 , 2008 the song was performed in a concert series for Good Morning America along with " Breakout , " " 7 Things " and " Bottom of the Ocean . " During the performance , Cyrus wore a plaid shirt , mini @-@ shorts and boots . On August 1 , 2008 , Cyrus performed " Fly on the Wall " on FNMTV . On November 21 , it was sung at the 2008 American Music Awards . A critic from ABC stated that Cyrus " fearlessly embraced new creative directions " with her performance of " Fly on the Wall . " On November 25 , Cyrus performed the song on the season finale of Dancing with the Stars . On New Year 's Eve of 2008 , Cyrus wore a white T @-@ shirt , pants , boots and a plaid jacket to present FNMTV 's New Year 's Special with Pete Wentz . She opened the episode by performing the song , paired with " 7 Things . " On January 19 , 2009 , the song was performed at the Kids ' Inaugural : " We Are the Future " event in celebration of Barack Obama 's inauguration . For the event , she had an abundance of background dancers , and Cyrus wore a casual patterned gray T @-@ shirt , black pants , and boots . She also performed the song in London in an Apple Store . The set , with some songs by Cyrus ' father , was sold exclusively by the United Kingdom iTunes Store as an extended play titled iTunes Live from London . On June 7 , 2009 at the twentieth annual A Time for Heroes Celebrity Carnival , Cyrus performed " Fly on the Wall " .

" Fly on the Wall " was one of the songs on the set list of Cyrus ' first international concert tour , the Wonder World Tour . The performance began with two overhead screens displaying a frog catching a fly while two acrobats scaled imaginary walls . Cyrus and her dancers then emerged from a green tractor to begin the song . She wore an extravagant white dress with a feathered back and used elaborate choreography . At one point during the performance , Cyrus unexpectedly flew over the crowd for a few seconds . At the conclusion , Cyrus and her background dancers grouped together to perform a segment of the dance from Michael Jackson 's " Thriller " music video . She performed it at the Rock in Rio concert in Lisbon , Portugal on May 29 , 2010 and Madrid , Spain on June 4 , 2010 .

Cyrus performed the song during the Gypsy Heart Tour .

= = Release history = =

= = Charts = =