

= I Don 't Give A =

" I Don 't Give A " is a song recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Madonna for her twelfth studio album MDNA ( 2012 ) . The song features rap vocals by Trinidadian recording artist Nicki Minaj . It was written and produced by Madonna and Martin Solveig , with additional songwriting by Minaj and Julien Jabre . " I Don 't Give A " is a pop song , with electronic and hip hop syncopated beats .

Lyrically , the song is about a day in Madonna 's life with some portions of it directed at her ex @-@ husband , film director Guy Ritchie , when she sings about a failed marriage . The song received generally favorable reviews from music critics who praised Minaj 's appearance and its personal lyrics . Following the release of MDNA , the song peaked at number 117 in the Gaon Chart of South Korea . Madonna performed the song on The MDNA Tour as the closing track of the show 's first segment .

= = Background and production = =

Madonna 's manager Guy Oseary had contacted Martin Solveig wanting to know if he would be available to work with the singer , to which he responded affirmative . In July 2011 , the singer invited Solveig for a writing session in London for her twelfth studio album , MDNA . This session produced three songs , including " I Don 't Give A " , " Give Me All Your Luvin ' " and " Turn Up the Radio " , the last two later becoming official singles off the album . According to the producer , few days after he had finished the composition , Madonna completed writing the lyrics of " I Don 't Give A " . Solveig understood that the lyrics were probable references towards Madonna 's life and thus received coverage in the press . However , he was not aware of the inner meaning behind the lyrics . With Billboard magazine , the producer further explained :

At first I thought we were going to work on one song ; that was the original plan . Let 's try to work on one song and take it from there -- not spend too much time thinking about the legend , and do something that just makes sense . [ ... ] We did one song and another song , and we were having fun making music . And actually it was a very privileged time . She wasn 't under any kind of pressure , she had time to spend on it ; it was the only thing she had to work on .

In an interview with Channel V Australia , he recalled that the two of them were able to communicate their thoughts about the tracks they developed , " on an organisational level " , thus accelerating the process . Madonna was completely involved in the recording which was a surprise for Solveig , since he had expected the singer not to stay more than an hour or two in the recording studio and then leave . Madonna expressed her thoughts about the composition , including the instrumentation to be used as Solveig added , " at some point she wanted to choose the sound of a snare drum or a synth and that kind of stuff . She was really in the session ! " Madonna reciprocated the feelings saying that she liked Solveig 's way of working : " He 's very organised and methodical in his thinking so I like his work process " . The singer also stated that she was able to disapprove something which she did not like without hurting his feelings .

Regarding having Minaj feature as a guest vocalist , Madonna explained that she wanted to collaborate with female singers she believed had a " strong sense of themselves " . They were shy of each other in the beginning but were able to pass that and dedicate to the tracks . Solveig described Minaj as a " pro " and recalled that she spent some time with the songs and wrote her rapping verse and recorded it within a short span of time .

= = Recording and composition = =

" I Don 't Give A " was written by Madonna , Solveig , Minaj and Julien Jabre . Production was handled by Madonna and Solveig , while Minaj provided rap vocals for the track . It was mixed by Demacio " Demo " Castellon for The Demolition Crew , while it was recorded by Castellon , Philippe Weiss and Graham Archer , with additional recording by Jason " Metal " Donkersgoed , also for The Demolition Crew . The recording took place at Sarm West Studios , London , England and MSR

Studios , New York , New York . Minaj appeared for one day during the recording , finishing off her work in " I Don 't Give A " as well as " Give Me All Your Luv ' " . Jabre also provided electric guitars , drums and synths , while Solveig provided additional instrumentation . Ron Taylor did the vocal editing for the track while Michael Turco added the outro music for The Demolition Crew . Other personnel working on the song included Romain Faure and Angie Teo , the latter of whom worked as mixing assistant .

" I Don 't Give A " is a midtempo pop song with a " ballsy " electronic hip hop and industrial beats . Tracklisted after the initial dance tunes in MDNA , the mood for the song is dark and somber , with a Sturm und Drang chorus and backed by an orchestra that The New York Times reviewer Jon Pareles compared to composer Carl Orff 's cantata , Carmina Burana . The ending of the song consists of a big outro , with " grandiose " choirs , " crashing " cymbals and " escalating " strings . Critics noted that Madonna 's rap in the song is similar to that on her 2003 single " American Life " .

Lyrically " I Don 't Give A " describes a day in the life of Madonna , with the singer working through her schedule . The verses during the chorus are representative of how Madonna had previously ignored her detractors , instead choosing to express it with her music with the lines , " I 'm moving fast , Can you follow my track , I 'm livin ' fast , And I like it like that , I do ten things all at once , And if you have a problem , I don 't give a . " During the bridge , the lyrics presumably talks about a marriage which did not work out for unknown reasons , " I tried to be a good girl / I tried to be your wife / I diminished myself / And I swallowed my light . " Many critics agreed that the song has pretty direct lyrics that seem to take aim at her ex @-@ husband , film director Guy Ritchie . However , when asked if Ritchie was indeed the subject of the song , Madonna 's representative Liz Rosenberg added that " [ Madonna ] has not explained the lyrics and if they are about someone specifically ... [ but ] I appreciate that people will speculate . " The song ends with Minaj uttering the final line , " There 's only one queen and that 's Madonna . Bitch ! . "

Brandon Soderberg from Spin observed how the song was a narrative against her " haters " , a theme predominant in rap music . This is enunciated with the lyrics addressing Ritchie and tabloids , along with some of Minaj 's verses being directed against pop singer Lady Gaga , with whom Madonna had been compared to previously . Soderberg deduced that Madonna might have noticed the shifting themes in rap music , where it had become acceptable to boast about one 's wealth , hence the lyrics had more of a Sex and the City vibe with its depiction of Madonna 's " fairly awesome life " .

= = Critical reception = =

" I Don 't Give A " received generally favorable reviews from music critics . Neal McCormick of The Daily Telegraph called it " an album highlight " , writing that " there is real energy to this Martin Solveig production , though Nicki Minaj 's explosive rap rather shows up Madonna 's more static delivery " . A writer from Virgin Media gave the song a rating of 4 out of 5 stars while complimenting the chorus . Michael Cragg of The Guardian labeled " I Don 't Give A " as " brilliantly odd " . He praised " the industrial beats " as well as " the spooky chants and out of nowhere [ appearance of ] Minaj " .

Jeremy Thomas of music website 411 Mania called the track as " incredibly in @-@ your @-@ face " , commending Minaj for delivering " one of the best flows we 've seen from her since she showed up on Kanye West 's ' Monster ' . " Joel Meares of Time Out shared this view , adding that Minaj 's rap verse was reminiscent of the times when Madonna 's own songs were as good as the former 's single " Starships " . The Village Voice 's Maura Johnston was also complimentary about Minaj , writing that , " [ She ] lays down a couple of rhymes that are by no means the best in her vast catalog , but her sudden presence shows that the music isn 't the song 's biggest weakness . " Genevieve Koski of The A.V. Club also considered the rapper 's performance as " one of her better features in a while " , and better than her inclusion in the lead single " Give Me All Your Luv ' " . Soderberg from Spin described the song as a " rap track that positions Nicki Minaj , as the brash , pop subversive in the tradition of Madonna " and criticized the latter 's rapping , finding the vocals to be weak . Conversely , he appreciated Minaj 's verses and vocal delivery , calling them " witty " and

" confident " . He further wrote about Madonna 's vocals in detail :

[ Although Madonna 's ] MC voice is weak and silly , it 's admirably her , which is impressive now that the feigned " hood " accents of Iggy Azalea and Kreyashawn are in vogue . I would favorably compare Madonna 's verses to the much @-@ maligned Uffie , who was also brave / stupid / smart enough to just rap about her annoying , first world problems with no pretense to being down .

Keith Caulfield of Billboard called it " a very rat @-@ a @-@ tat @-@ tat song " ; He complimented the lengthy orchestral portion of the track and called it " epic and sweeping , but comes out of nowhere " . For Matthew Perpetua of Pitchfork Media the song showed how Madonna 's strong rapping was upstaged by Minaj , " who turns in an entertaining performance that is nevertheless below the standards of her usual features " . Nick Bond of Sydney Star Observer wrote that the song is " not her most GFC @-@ friendly track " , but explained that " Musically , it 's the damp squib that was Hard Candy done right . "

= = Live performance = =

Madonna performed " I Don 't Give A " on The MDNA Tour in 2012 . The performance of the song closed the show 's first segment known as Transgression , and found Madonna playing the guitar while Minaj appeared on the backdrops sitting on a throne singing her verse . Saeed Saeed of The National praised Madonna for " re @-@ emerging once again triumphant in rock star mode , " during the performance Kat Keogh of Birmingham Mail described that " The crowd was awash with a sea of camera phones as Madge grabbed a guitar for Nicki Minaj duet ' I Don ? t Give A ' . " Jon Pareles of The New York Times was mixed in his review , writing that Madonna " still looks silly when , as she did in ' I Don ? t Give A ' , she slings an electric guitar and makes rocker @-@ chick faces " and found it odd that " someone so physically disciplined can ? t fake better guitar moves . " The performance was included on Madonna 's fourth live album , MDNA World Tour .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Management

Nicki Minaj appears courtesy of Young Money Entertainment / Cash Money Records

Webo Girl Publishing , Inc . ( ASCAP ) , EMI Music Publishing France ( SACEM ) , Money Mack Music / Harajuku Barbie Music adm. by Songs of Universal , Inc . ( BMI )

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of MDNA .

= = Charts = =

In South Korea , the song debuted at number 117 on the Gaon International Downloads Chart , selling 3 @, @ 101 copies .