

= Shine (Gwen Stefani song) =

" Shine " is a song recorded by American singer Gwen Stefani and featuring vocals by American singer Pharrell Williams . Originally intended for the band No Doubt , it was written and produced by Williams , with additional songwriting from Stefani , as the theme song for the 2014 animated film Paddington . " Shine " is a pop song that incorporates elements of reggae pop and ska , and features lyrics that revolve around the lead character Paddington Bear 's journey to London and his identity crisis . Stefani initially disagreed with Williams ' choice to use literal references to Paddington , like " bear " and " station " , in the lyrics . She later praised the lyrics after watching the film with her children and seeing the complete animation for the Paddington Bear character . She reported that her involvement with the recording was inspired by her then husband Gavin Rossdale and her children 's connection to England .

The track was released on January 13 , 2015 , through a lyric video on The Weinstein Company 's YouTube channel . The song was also promoted in the American trailer for the film . While a low @-@ quality version leaked on December 31 , 2014 , a full version of the record remains unreleased digitally . It was omitted from the film 's soundtrack , and was not included on Stefani 's third studio album This Is What the Truth Feels Like (2016) . The lyric video is included on the DVD and Blu @-@ ray releases of the film . Critical response to " Shine " was mixed . Some critics praised Stefani and Williams ' chemistry as a team , while others compared it negatively to their previous collaborations and singles . It was frequently compared to Williams ' 2013 single " Happy " , and Stefani and Williams ' 2014 song " Spark the Fire " .

= = Concept and development = =

" Shine " was written and produced by Pharrell Williams , with additional songwriting from Gwen Stefani . In November 2014 , Stefani and Williams announced that they were collaborating on a song for the animated film Paddington . The pair had collaborated previously on the singles : " Hella Good " , " Can I Have It Like That " , " Hollaback Girl " , and " Spark the Fire " . They also served as judges on the American reality television singing competition The Voice in 2014 . Williams initially pitched " Shine " to Stefani as a song for No Doubt , a band in which Stefani is the lead vocalist . Stefani later commented that she immediately noticed similarities between the demo and her music with No Doubt and played it for the rest of the band to get their reaction . No Doubt recorded their version in late 2014 , with Patrick Doyle from Rolling Stone reporting that Stefani was working with the band on a song for the Paddington soundtrack . Despite the announcement , Doyle wrote that : " the song may now be released as a Pharrell / Stefani track " .

In an official statement , film executive Bob Weinstein called Stefani and Williams " the perfect artistic duo " , saying their work " brought to life the charm that Paddington represents " . Stefani said her involvement was motivated by her personal connection to the film 's English setting through her marriage to English musician Gavin Rossdale . She said the film and the track allowed her children to " recognize where they come from " . Williams considered the song to be : " a wonderful opportunity , as a parent , to contribute to something as classic , authentic and generational to all of our lives , as Paddington Bear " ; Stefani said that she was : " honored to join forces with Pharrell and be part of bringing this beloved classic to life for Paddington 's next big adventure " . Williams called the song " a trailer into a wonderful family experience " and developed its concept from his children 's connection with Paddington Bear .

= = Composition and lyrical interpretation = =

" Shine " is a reggae pop and ska song that lasts three minutes and twenty @-@ four seconds . It is composed in the key of E minor using common time and a moderately fast tempo of 140 beats per minute . Instrumentation is provided by strings , horns , a guitar , and a piano to create a " crawling beat " . March Robisch of Thought Catalog described the song as having " that ska quality that made No Doubt so successful " . Digital Spy 's Lewis Corner and Amy Davidson wrote that it is a : "

ska @-@ flecked romp of pumped @-@ up foghorns and plodding brass " . A writer from Capital XTRA described the song as having a " mellow beat " while Rolling Stone 's Daniel Sannwald wrote it has a " party @-@ vibe production " .

During the track , Stefani 's vocal range spans two octaves , from the low note of D3 to the high note of A4 . Williams equated Stefani 's tone to that of a " child whisperer " due to her ability to make music that appeals to children . The lyrics are about Paddington Bear and his travels . Rolling Stone called it : " a pop @-@ reggae allegory about a bear with an identity crisis " . The song opens with Stefani singing the first verse and Williams joining in the chorus , with lyrics including " When you 're trying to get home / When you don 't wanna be alone / Look at yourself in the mirror / That 's your way home . " The hook features Stefani repeatedly singing " Shine ! " while Williams screams " Hey ! " . Andy Morris from Gigwise described the lyrics , " So we 're in a strange new land in Paddington station / But you end up in good hands in the fancy British nation " and " that bear with the red hat " , as obvious references to Paddington . According to Daniel Sannwald of Rolling Stone , the lyrics include " Pharrell 's ' Happy " -ish ' Everybody is the same inside ' bridge " that allows the song to appeal to both children and their parents " without sounding overly patronizing " . The song ends with Williams singing in the falsetto register .

In an interview with MTV News , Stefani said that she disagreed initially with Williams ' approach to the lyrics ; while he " was very specific about the lyrics " and wanted to include words directly connected to the film and its character like " bear " , " Paddington " , " station " , Stefani said that she " wanted it to be a little more abstract " . She later reversed this view , saying that she agreed with Williams ' interpretation of the lyrics after watching the film with her children and seeing the complete animations of the Paddington Bear character . In an interview with American Top 40 's Kathleen Perricone , Stefani credited Williams as being central to the song 's development , saying that he was : " the one who really got in there and was able to channel the film lyrically and make it really happen " . MTV 's John Walker questioned whether it could repeat the success of Williams ' previous single " Happy " from the 2013 animated film Despicable Me 2 .

= = Promotion and music video = =

While a low @-@ quality version leaked on December 31 , 2014 , a full version of the record remains unreleased for consumer consumption . A minute and thirty @-@ five second video displaying clips from the film was uploaded to The Weinstein Company 's YouTube channel on January 13 , 2015 ; it received over two million views in 24 hours . The video featured scenes from the film in which : " the iconic Peruvian bear finds himself in all manner of mishaps while trying to find a home and ultimately working his way into our hearts " . It is included on the DVD and Blu @-@ ray releases along with a behind @-@ the @-@ scenes feature on the making of the song . Matthew Jacobson of The Spectrum , a newspaper which is part of the USA Today Network , criticized the video for being " just clips of the movie set to a song " rather than a proper music video . Alternatively , Cinemablend.com 's Jessica Rawden found the video to be " satisfying " and a reviewer from Fanlala enjoyed being able to sing along with the lyrics .

" Shine " is featured in the American trailer and the closing credits for Paddington , but was not included in the British version of the film . Idolator 's Christina Lee wrote that the track was : " a U.S. and Canada exclusive for Paddington " . The song was excluded from the film 's soundtrack and Stefani 's third studio album This Is What the Truth Feels Like (2016) . During an interview with Stefani and Williams on January 21 , 2015 , radio host Ryan Seacrest erroneously announced the song was available for purchase on the iTunes Store .

= = Critical reception = =

" Shine " received mixed reviews from music critics . E ! News ' Bruna Nessif gave the song a positive review , stating : " When it comes to feel @-@ good music , leave it up to Gwen Stefani and Pharrell to get the job done " . A reviewer from Vibe praised it as " the perfect theme song " . Abe Dewing , a member of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra , described it as a " sharp , hip tune " in

the Boston Herald . He compared its opening trumpet riff to music by British composer Herbert Chappell , who created the theme for the 1975 television series Paddington . Chappell also composed music for the 1986 concerto " Paddington Bear 's First Concert " , which premiered as a part of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra Family Concerts . Dewing praised Stefani and Williams ' ability : " to compose new music for existing source material intended for children " . A reviewer from the website antiMusic described the recording as " even more feel good " than the pair 's collaboration on " Spark the Fire " . After listening to the leaked version of the song , Aaron Butterfield of the BreatheHeavy website called it : " a catchy tune which feels much more like vintage Stefani than anything we 've seen so far this era " . Rolling Stone 's Daniel Sannwald gave it three and a half stars out of five , praising its " party @-@ vibe production " , and favorably comparing its melody to the chorus of Irish rock band The Cranberries 's 1994 single " Zombie " . Sannwald felt that it would appeal to both children and their parents .

Negative reviews criticized " Shine " for lacking the energy of Williams ' and Stefani 's previous releases . Kevin Apaza of Direct Lyrics described it as " just average " and said it was worse than " Spark the Fire " . In response to the leaked version , Music Times ' Carolyn Menyes wrote that it was too slow in comparison to the " crazy , happy beats and earwormmy hand claps " of " Happy " and the " inane catchiness " of Stefani 's previous singles " Spark the Fire " and " Baby Don 't Lie " . Menyes was critical of Stefani 's vocals , saying she used " an oddly harsh tone " throughout the song . Steven Pond of TheWrap wrote that Stefani 's vocal delivery " never quite crosses the line to catchy " .

" Shine " was included in the list of 79 contenders for the Academy Award for Best Original Song , but it did not receive a nomination .

= = Partial credits = =

Partial credits adapted from American Society of Composers , Authors and Publishers .
Management

ASCAP / Harajuku Lover Music

Gwen Stefani appears courtesy of Interscope Records

Pharrell Williams appears courtesy of Columbia Records and i am OTHER Entertainment
Personnel

Writers ? Gwen Renee Stefani , Pharrell Williams

Performance ? Gwen Stefani , Pharrell Williams