

= From the Bottom of My Broken Heart =

" From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " is a song recorded by American singer Britney Spears for her debut studio album , ... Baby One More Time (1999) . It was released on December 15 , 1999 by JIVE Records as the fifth and final single from the album . After Spears recorded an unused song from Toni Braxton and sent it through Larry Rudolph to several labels , executives from JIVE Records commented that it was very rare to hear someone so young who could deliver emotional content and commercial appeal , appointing the singer to work with producer Eric Foster White . The teen pop ballad was written and produced by White , and features Spears singing about the loss of a first love and how breaking up can be hard .

" From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " received mixed to positive reviews from music critics , who noted the song as a classic hit and competent single , despite considering it unremarkable like other ballads on the album and calling it " another rejection ballad that refers to kissing but nothing else " . " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " achieved moderate success , peaking at number 37 in Australia , and 23 in New Zealand . Through imports , the song managed to peak at number 174 in the United Kingdom . In the United States , " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " reached number 14 on Billboard Hot 100 , and 17 on Pop Songs , being later certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) on March 28 , 2000 , for shipping 1 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 physical units of the single . It was the 8th best @-@ selling physical single of the 2000s in the country .

An accompanying music video , directed by Gregory Dark , was released on December 17 , 1999 . It portrayed Spears packing her belongings as she readies herself to move away from home , and feeling upset because she knows that she is going to miss her first love . The video was the subject of controversy among the press , who panned the singer for hiring an adult filmmaker to direct her video . A Spears representative commented that they were only aware of Dark doing music videos . The singer performed " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " in a few live appearances , including at the 2000 Grammy Awards , in a medley with " ... Baby One More Time " , and in three of her concert tours .

= = Background = =

In June 1997 , Spears was in talks with manager Lou Pearlman to join female pop group Innosense . Her mother Lynne asked family friend and entertainment lawyer Larry Rudolph for his opinion and submitted a tape of Spears singing over a Whitney Houston karaoke song along with some pictures . Rudolph decided he wanted to pitch her to record labels , therefore she needed a professional demo . He sent Spears an unused song from Toni Braxton ; she rehearsed for a week and recorded her vocals in a studio with a sound engineer . Spears traveled to New York with the demo and met with executives from four labels , returning to Kentwood the same day . Three of the labels rejected her , arguing audiences wanted pop bands such as the Backstreet Boys and the Spice Girls , and " there wasn 't going to be another Madonna , another Debbie Gibson , or another Tiffany . " Two weeks later , executives from JIVE Records returned calls to Rudolph . Senior vice president of A & R Jeff Fenster stated about Spears 's audition that " It 's very rare to hear someone that age who can deliver emotional content and commercial appeal . [...] For any artist , the motivation ? the ' eye of the tiger ' ? is extremely important . And Britney had that . " They appointed her to work with producer Eric Foster White for a month , who reportedly shaped her voice from " lower and less poppy " delivery to " distinctively , unmistakably Britney . " After hearing the recorded material , president Clive Calder ordered a full album . " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " was written by Eric Foster White , for Spears ' debut studio album , ... Baby One More Time (1999) . Spears recorded the vocals for the song in 1997 at 4MW East Studios in New Jersey and at Battery Studios in New York City , New York . Dan Petty played the guitar , while the bass guitar was done by Andy Hess . The song was later mixed by White and Chris Trevett , while background vocals were provided by Spears , Angie Simmons , Don Philip and Andrew Fromm . It was released on December 15 , 1999 as the final single from ... Baby One More Time .

= = Composition = =

" From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " was produced by Eric Foster White . Described by Spears as a " soulful " ballad , it draws influence from teen pop and lasts for five minutes and ten seconds . Chuck Taylor of Billboard noted that the singer " turn toward the sad side " on the track , with its lyrics talking about the loss of a first love and how breaking up can be hard . As the song begins , Spears declares , " ' Never look back ' , we said / How was I to know I 'd miss you so ? / Loneliness up ahead , emptiness behind / Where do I go ? " During the chorus , she realizes that she has lost her true love , stating , " From the bottom of my broken heart , even though time may find me somebody new / You were my real love , I never knew love , till there was you . " According to sheet music published at musicnotes.com by Universal Music Publishing Group , " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " is composed in the key of G major and is set in time signature of common time with a slowly tempo of 76 beats per minute .

The single 's b @-@ side , " Thinkin ' About You " , is also a teen pop influenced song . The song is composed in the key of G major and is set in time signature of common time with a moderate tempo of 96 beats per minute . Spears vocal range spans over two octaves from the low note of D3 to the high note G5 Craig McDennis of The Hamilton Spectator said the lyrics of " Thinkin ' About You " , along with " Born to Make You Happy " , " verge on the sort of boy @-@ worshipping dreck that even Tiffany would have sniffedat " , while Jane Stevenson of Toronto Sun noted Spears " puts some rather grownup heartfelt soul into [it] " .

= = Critical response = =

" From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " received mixed to positive reviews from music critics . Amanda Murray of Sputnikmusic considered the song a competent , but unremarkable single . Kyle Anderson of MTV criticized its lyrics , deeming it as " another rejection ballad that references kissing but nothing else . " Caryn Ganz of Rolling Stone called " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " a " further hit " from ... Baby One More Time , along with " Sometimes " and " (You Drive Me) Crazy " . The song was a Track Pick from the Allmusic review by Stephen Thomas Erlewine , who praised it along with the other singles from the album , saying , " ... Baby One More Time has its share of well @-@ crafted filler , but the singles , combined with Britney 's burgeoning charisma , make this a pretty great piece of fluff " . Author David Gauntlett considered its lyrics as " slushy " , and noticed that the track was " seen as less interesting and relevant [by the fans] , although [they] clearly enjoyed [the song] too . " Billboard critic Chuck Taylor praised the song , and did a further review on his column :

" Eighteen @-@ year @-@ old Britney Spears , 1999 's biggest @-@ selling new artist , spreads it out like soft cream cheese on her fourth @-@ to @-@ be runaway smash single , as dreamy and freash as that first spin of " ... Baby One More Time " over a year ago . It 's her first ballad , following that No. 1 debut as well as " Sometimes " and the recented " (You Drive Me) Crazy " , yet " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " still possesses a breezy air that is certain to continue her breakneck success on the singles charts . Eric Forster White is at the helm this time , writing and producing a song that will easily appeal to Miss Spears ' young core , with the potential to chart the more mature AC audience , too . [...] Spears ' star is shining brighter than ever , and this wholesome track will only serve to illuminate it all the more . An ace . "

= = Chart performance = =

On the chart issue dated February 19 , 2000 , " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " was at number 52 on United States ' Billboard Hot 100 . The following issue , the song peaked at number 14 , after selling 78 @,@ 000 physical units of the single , and became the Greatest Gainer / Sales title of that week . The song also went from number 73 to number 3 on the Hot Singles Sales chart , before peaking at number 1 on the chart issue dated March 4 , 2000 . " From the Bottom of My

Broken Heart " also appeared on several Billboard component charts , peaking at number 24 on Top 40 Tracks , number 17 on Pop Songs , and number 53 on Radio Songs . On March 28 , 2000 , " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " was certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , for shipping 1 @, @ 000 @, @ 000 physical units of the single in the country . By the end of 2000 , the song peaked at number 77 on Billboard Hot 100 Year @-@ End chart . " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " was the 8th best selling physical single of the 2000s , according to Nielsen SoundScan . As of June 2012 , " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " has sold 778 @, @ 000 physical singles , with 33 @, @ 000 paid digital downloads in the United States . It is Spears ' second best @-@ selling physical single in the country . In Australia , " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " entered the ARIA chart at number 47 , before peaking at number 37 on the following issue . The song stayed a total of five weeks on the chart . It performed better in New Zealand , where it peaked at number 23 . Through imports , " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " did manage to peak at number 174 in the United Kingdom , while in Canada , after staying for five weeks on the RPM Singles Chart , the song peaked at number 25 on the dated week of February 28 , 2000 .

= = Music video = =

= = Background and synopsis = = =

JIVE Records commissioned a music video for the song to be directed by Gregory Dark . According to Dark , the label hired him with the intention of re @-@ image Spears from the naughty schoolgirl persona of " ... Baby One More Time " , and stated that they " wanted a much more story @-@ oriented video without dance , one that was serious and emotional . " He further stated that , during the filming , " I 'd joke with her so that she would loosen up and feel comfortable acting , as opposed to being Britney Spears at that moment . " The video was produced by the FM Rocks Production Company .

The music video portrays Spears is packing up her belongings , as she readies herself to move away from home , and feeling upset because she knows that she is going to miss her first love . Throughout the video , scenes of the couple 's past are also seen and Spears is sitting on a tyre swing , including one where they climb up onto a windmill , with Spears singing the song , and Spears is standing by a billboard that reads " Welcome to Cedar Springs Gardens " similar to the video " Lucky " . Before the end of the video , Spears is waiting at a bus stop while , at the same time , her first love is driving to come see her one last time . However , by the time he finally gets there , Spears had left him behind and taken the bus .

= = = Reception = = =

According to writer Linda Ruth Williams , the music video attracted attention from the press because of " the clash between Spears ' wholesome image and Dark 's unwholesome back catalogue . " A Spears representative spoke to the Sunday Sport and revealed , " as far as I 'm aware the director just does music videos . This is a video for young teenage girls and not sexy at all . " Dark responded to the negative reviews saying , " I don 't deny that I did [adult films] , it 's just that I also like people to know that I don 't currently and haven 't in a long time . " Billboard reporter Carla Hay also noted , " I don 't think people who buy records are too concerned about the background of the video 's director . " Lucy O 'Brien , author of *She Bop II : The Definitive History of Women in Rock , Pop and Soul* , noted that hiring Dark as the video director implied that Spears was not that innocent . Time journalists Briton Hadden and Henry Robinson Luce said that Spears " may be the queen of pop tartiness , but her new video , ' From the Bottom of My Broken Heart ' , is an entirely wholesome affair , " while Chris Ryan of MTV considered it " a suitably soft @-@ focus affair " . The video was also added to MTV 's 2000 Yearbook , a list with the " biggest , best , most memorable music videos of every year since the beginning of MTV . "

Alec Hanley Bemis of LA Weekly highly criticized Spears and the music video . He thought that the singer 's " lack of musical talent " had begun to affect her career , after Dark was selected as the director of the video . Bemis commented , however , that Spears ' already had " a history of questionable decisions " , and cited her Rolling Stone photoshoot done in early 1999 , which was condemned by the American Family Association , as an example . He continued to state that the plotline set the singer " on the fast track to adulthood " and questioned , " who 's in bed with Britney now ? While a TV tabloid recently reported that an old bayou beau in Louisiana has mother Spears ' approval , fantasizing fans want to believe Britney ' s dallying with that braided moppet from N ? Sync or a member of the Backstreet Boys . But the only verifiable fact we have to work with is that Spears has started running with a darker L.A. crowd . " Bemis finished his review saying that " no avant @-@ garde film techniques [were used on it] . But Britney 's lips glisten so ... Speaking frankly , this light in our lives hurts us , from the fire in our loins to the bottom of our broken hearts . "

= = Live performances = =

" From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " was performed for the first time on Spears first tour , ... Baby One More Time Tour . After its release as a single , Spears performed the song in a medley with " ... Baby One More Time " at the 42nd Grammy Awards . Spears was wearing a turtleneck and a full tulle skirt at the beginning of the performance , while dancers surrounded her with enormous hand fans . After singing a shortened version of the song , she then took a few moments to shuffle into a form @-@ fitting red rhinestone outfit (with side cutouts) and emerged onto a stage to perform " ... Baby One More Time . " Jocelyn Vena of MTV included the performance on her list of Spears ' Top 10 Best TV Performances . Spears also performed the song on her 2000s Crazy 2k Tour , where her dancers picked a boy from the audience and invited him onstage , while Spears dedicated the performance of " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " to the boy . The same year , the song was performed on Oops ! ... I Did It Again World Tour . Wearing glittery jeans and an orange halter top , she performed an acoustic version of the song with her guitarist Skip . Spears also performed " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " and " Born to Make You Happy " on Disney Channel in Concert in 1999 . The performances were recorded and included on Spears ' first home video release , Time Out with Britney Spears . The song was also performed in the television program Good Morning America in January 7 , 2000 along with ... Baby One More Time .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " are adapted from ... Baby One More Time 's liner notes .

Britney Spears ? lead vocals

Eric Foster White ? audio mixing , producer , songwriting

Chris Trevett ? audio mixing

Dan Petty ? guitar

Andy Hess ? bass guitar , bass , guitar

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =

