

= Freedom (Nicki Minaj song) =

" Freedom " is a song by Trinidadian recording artist Nicki Minaj , for the reissue of her second studio album Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded , subtitled The Re @-@ Up (2012) . It was written by Minaj , Matthew Burnett , and Matthew Samuels . Production was helmed by Samuels under his stage name Boi @-@ 1da . The song was released for digital download by Cash Money Records in the US and Canada on November 2 , 2012 and in other countries on November 6 , 2012 . It was serviced to US urban radio on November 27 and to mainstream radio in the United Kingdom the following day . " Freedom " is a downtempo hip hop and R & B song that features a " sonically breezy " soundscape , complied with ambient riffs , pop @-@ inspired synths , and soft pop choruses .

To promote the song , an accompanying music video for the song was released on November 15 , 2012 . It was shot mainly in black and white , and features Minaj in a variety of scenes such as a deserted area with a boat , dressed as a Queen on a throne , and is interspersed with scenes of nature . The song peaked at number 17 on the UK R & B Chart , number 23 on the US Rap Songs , and number 31 on the US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . " Freedom " was promoted with several live performances , most notably the American Music Awards of 2012 .

= = Background = =

In September 2012 , Minaj announced the reissue of Pink Friday : Roman Reloaded , subtitled The Re @-@ Up , containing an additional disc with eight newly @-@ recording songs and an exclusive behind @-@ the @-@ scenes DVD to supplement the standard edition of the original album . Minaj commented at the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards , " I 'm putting lots of new songs on there and I 'm actually going to drop my new single like next week . Barbz , you are gonna spaz . You are gonna love it . You are gonna go crazy ! " Production of the project was a main focus on Minaj 's three @-@ part E ! special , Nicki Minaj : My Truth , which aired in November 2012 . On On Air with Ryan Seacrest , Minaj stated that " I feel like the music is such a better representation of me where I am now as an artist in my career . As long as people can hear the music , I 'm good . "

= = Composition and critical reception = =

Musically , " Freedom " is a hip hop and R & B song that follows a similar style to other Minaj songs heard on her debut album , Pink Friday . The song features street @-@ slang bravado and " venomous " rapping in the verses with thin , fragile vocals over whipsy soft pop choruses . The instrumentation in " Freedom " mixes together smooth ambient riffs , pop @-@ inspired crystal @-@ clear synthesizers , and a smooth R & B beat , creating a sonically breezy soundscape . Lyrically , Minaj is still confrontational yet reflective , talking about her life in the spotlight and rise to fame . In the lyrics , Minaj states how other rappers " in the competition " will never thank her for opening the doors for them , and how they don 't even thank their creator Jesus Christ for helping them get far , saying : " They 'll never thank me for opening doors / But they ain 't even thank Jesus when he died on the cross / ' Cause your spirit is ungrateful , bitches is so hateful , I remain a staple . "

Charley Rogulewski of Vibe said " The old Nicki Minaj is back on her latest track " Freedom . " " , while going onto note the songs " dreamy " production and compared it to " Right Thru Me , " " Your Love " and " Save Me " off her debut album . Entertainment Weekly reviewer Kyle Anderson called the song " middle @-@ of @-@ the @-@ road R & B " and criticized Minaj for choosing to make music that appeals to pop radio , instead of being unique . Josiah Hughes of Exclaim ! was critical of the song , saying it was : " by @-@ the @-@ books Nicki , as she delivers venomous raps on the verses before giving saccharine @-@ sweet melody a whirl on the choruses . Surprise , surprise ? the whole thing is delivered atop poppy , crystal clear synths . "

= = Music video = =

The video was shot in black @-@ and @-@ white at Dungeness , Kent , United Kingdom . It begins with a stairway set in a foggy setting leading up to the sky . Then angles of different scenery are shown such as a deserted area with a boat next to railroad resembling Noah 's Ark , railroad pathway , and a True Cross with a key hung over it . Minaj is shown fading into clouds , before she raps her first verse wearing a black flowing dress and a crown of thorns . Minaj has various wardrobe changes in the video . Minaj is then seen dressed as a queen , over a balcony with a spiral chandelier behind her . Various clips of nature are shown such as waves , birds , and grass . Minaj is then seen singing the chorus in a blonde wig , in a vast space , with a lot of fog . Minaj raps her second verse sitting on a throne donning a black wig similar to the one she wore in her previous music video for " I Am Your Leader " . After scenes of nature and of Minaj , the video transforms into color . The video concludes as Minaj is seen with a stray @-@ like face , walking in the wilderness , while clips of Minaj singing continue throughout the video . It closes with the stairway , seen in the beginning of the video . Tom Eames of Digital Spy complimented the video for its " glamorous " shots of Minaj , a sentiment echoed by Liza Darwin of MTV News , who said : " We already know Nicki 's got her beauty and fashion game on lock these days , but for her new vid the singer ditches the bustiers , tutus , and Zenon @-@ inspired ensembles for a toned @-@ down (for her , at least) wardrobe of glittery gowns , decadent furs , and more than one crown . After all , if there 's ANYONE fit to be queen bee , it 's this lady . "

= = Live performances = =

Minaj performed the song live for the first time on the American Music Awards of 2012 on November 18 , 2012 . For the performance , Minaj wore a white fur cape and boots , and was later joined on @-@ stage by a choir . " Freedom " was also performed on The Ellen DeGeneres Show on January 15 , 2013 , where she sang in a slim red dress , surrounded by fog and gina chandeliers . On January 25 , 2013 , Minaj performed the song along with " Va Va Voom " and on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! on January 25 , 2013 .

= = Charts = =

= = Radio and release history = =