

= The Scientist (song) =

" The Scientist " is the second single from British alternative rock band Coldplay 's second studio album , A Rush of Blood to the Head (2002) . The song was written collaboratively by all the band members for the album . It is built around a piano ballad , with its lyrics telling the story about a man 's desire to love and an apology . The song was released in the United Kingdom as the second single from A Rush of Blood to the Head and reached number 10 in the UK Charts . It was released in the United States as the third single and reached number 18 on the US Billboard Modern Rock Tracks chart and number 34 on the Adult Top 40 chart .

Critics were highly positive towards " The Scientist " and praised the song 's piano ballad and falsetto . Several remixes of the track exist , and its riff has been widely sampled . The single 's music video won three MTV Music Video Awards , for the video 's use of reverse narrative . The song was also featured on the band 's 2003 live album Live 2003 and has been a permanent fixture in the band 's live set lists since 2002 .

= = Background = =

Vocalist Chris Martin wrote " The Scientist " after listening to George Harrison 's " All Things Must Pass " . In an interview with Rolling Stone , Martin revealed that while working on the band 's second album , A Rush of Blood to the Head , he knew that the album was missing something . One night , during a stay in Liverpool , Martin found an old piano that was out of tune . He wanted to work on Harrison 's song , " Isn 't It a Pity " , but he could not manage to do so . When the song came to Martin , he asked that the recorder be turned on . He concluded by saying that he came across this chord sequence and noted that the chord was " lovely " . Martin recorded the vocals and piano takes in a studio in Liverpool .

When asked about the development of the song , during a track @-@ by @-@ track reveal , Martin said : " That 's just about girls . It 's weird that whatever else is on your mind , whether it 's the downfall of global economics or terrible environmental troubles , the thing that always gets you most is when you fancy someone . " The liner notes from A Rush of Blood to the Head , on the other hand , states that " The Scientist is Dan . " , with Dan referring to Dan Keeling , the A & R man who signed the band to Parlophone .

= = Composition = =

The song is a piano @-@ driven ballad ; the song also contains a piano riff . Chris Martin opens the song and is joined by the rest of the band after the first chorus . The song begins with a four @-@ chord piano melody , with Martin singing . The track also includes a string arrangement . Towards the end of the song , an electric guitar can be heard .

The lyrics to the song allude to a man 's powerlessness in the face of love . His helplessness is exemplified in the first line of the chorus , as Martin cries " nobody said it was easy " . The song implies that he wants to go " back to the start . " The first lines of the first verse emphasise an apology : " Come up to meet you / tell you I 'm sorry / you don 't know how lovely you are . " The song 's title also alludes to science in question in verse three : " I was just guessing at numbers and figures / pulling the puzzles apart / questions of science , science and progress / do not speak as loud as my heart . "

= = Release = =

Coldplay released " The Scientist " in Europe on 4 November 2002 as the album 's second single . The single was pressed with two B @-@ sides : " 1 @. @ 36 " and " I Ran Away . " While preparing for the song as the album 's second release , the band 's US label felt the song failed to " provide enough of a blood rush for American listeners " ; instead , they released " Clocks " as the second single in the US . The song was released on 15 April 2003 in the US .

" The Scientist " appeared on Australia Singles Chart at number 40 on 1 November 2003 . It appeared on Billboard 's Modern Rock Tracks at number 18 . The song peaked at number sixteen at Canada Singles Chart . The song peaked at number 10 in UK Top 75 on 17 November 2002 .

The single 's cover , created by Sølve Sundsbø , as with the album 's other singles , features a band member , which in this case is drummer Will Champion .

= = Reception = =

" The Scientist " received widespread critical acclaim . Rob Sheffield of Rolling Stone , in his review of the album , wrote : " The fantastic piano ballad ' The Scientist ' ... [has] a cataclysmic falsetto finale that could raise every hair on the back of your neck . " Nick Southall of Stylus magazine wrote : " The piano that chimes through ' The Scientist ' is captured perfectly , the warm depression of each individual key caught rather than a shrill ringing as is so often the case . " Ian Watson of NME wrote : " ' The Scientist ' is a song inexorably linked with the endless night sky and the secret hopes and regrets of a hundred thousand strangers . "

In October 2011 , NME placed it at number 37 on its list " 150 Best Tracks of the Past 15 Years " . In 2009 , Rolling Stone ranked it number 54 on its " 100 Best Songs of the Decade " list . In April 2013 , A Rush of Blood to the Head triumphed in a poll of Radio 2 listeners in the United Kingdom and was named the " favourite album of all time " beating out albums composed by artists like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones .

= = Other versions = =

In 2003 , " The Scientist " was featured on Coldplay 's live album Live 2003 . The song was covered live by Aimee Mann and released on a special edition of her album Lost in Space . Natasha Bedingfield , Alex Band , Eamon , and Avril Lavigne covered the song on Jo Whiley 's Live Lounge radio show . Also , Belinda Carlisle did a live rendition on the ITV1 reality show Hit Me Baby One More Time . The British female quartet All Angels did a choral arrangement of the song on their album Into Paradise which was released in 2007 . The chords to this song are replicated by Sum 41 in their song " Pieces . " In addition , the American television show MADtv did a parody of the video , called " The Narcissist . " Coldplay 's original version plus a cover of the track performed by Johnette Napolitano and Danny Lohner were featured in the 2004 film Wicker Park . Allison Iraheta and Kris Allen performed an acoustic duet of the song at Oprah Winfrey 's " No Phone Zone " rally in Los Angeles , California .

In 2011 , Willie Nelson covered it for a Chipotle Mexican Grill @-@ sponsored short film titled " Back to the Start " , highlighting the problems of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations . It also appears as the last cut on his 2012 album Heroes . Nelson 's version plays during the closing credits of the 2014 movie The Judge .

In 2012 , Glee cast covered it in season 4 , episode 4 , titled " The Break Up " . The song was performed by Cory Monteith , Darren Criss , Naya Rivera , Matthew Morrison , Lea Michele , Chris Colfer , Heather Morris and Jayma Mays .

The Voice (U.S.) contestant Holly Henry performed the song for her blind audition in 2013 , which led to all four coaches wanting her on their team .

In 2014 , actress / singer Miley Cyrus covered the song at selected stops of her Bangerz Tour .

In 2015 , The Voice U.S. contestant Chase Kerby performed the song for his blind audition . His performance led Gwen Stefani to turn around , and he instantly became part of Team Gwen , although Adam said he loved the song and thanked him for singing it .

= = Personnel = =

Chris Martin ? vocals , piano , synthesizer

Jonny Buckland ? guitars

Will Champion ? drums , backing vocals

Guy Berryman ? bass guitar

= = Music video = =

The popular music video for " The Scientist " was notable for its distinctive reverse narrative , which employed reverse video . The same concept had been previously used for Spike Jonze 's 1996 music video for The Pharcyde 's " Drop . " The reverse video style had first been seen in 1989 for the video for the song " The Second Summer of Love " by Scottish band Danny Wilson . In order for Martin to appear to be singing the lyrics in the reversed footage , he had to learn to sing the song backwards , which took him a month . The video was filmed at various locations , including London and at Bourne Woods in Surrey , before the first leg of the A Rush of Blood to the Head tour . It was directed by Jamie Thraves . The video premiered on 14 August 2002 .

The video opens , looking down on Martin who is singing , as he lies on his back on a mattress . As the camera shot pulls back , the mattress is revealed to be outside . A cyclist cycles past in reverse and Martin leaps up from the mattress . He walks in reverse through a city , out into the suburbs and eventually crossing a railway line and into woods , picking up his suit jacket as he goes . Upon arriving at his car , a black BMW , he gets in and briefly passes out . A woman , at first shown lying unresponsive on the ground in front of the car , is shown flying back in through the shattered windscreen . The car rolls back up a hill in the woods and through a broken fence , which joins back together as the car passes through it . As the video closes , the couple is shown driving back up the road . It is revealed that Martin 's passenger had removed her seat belt , in order to put her jacket on , just before the car accident , causing her death . Irish actress Elaine Cassidy portrays the female passenger .

In 2003 , " The Scientist " won multiple MTV Video Music Awards for Best Group Video , Best Direction , and Breakthrough Video . It was also nominated at the 2004 Grammy Awards for Best Short Form Music Video but lost to Johnny Cash 's video for " Hurt " .

= = Track listing = =

CD

" The Scientist " ? 5 : 11

" 1 @.@ 36 " ? 2 : 05

" I Ran Away " ? 4 : 26

" 1 @.@ 36 " features Tim Wheeler of Ash on guitar .

DVD

" The Scientist " (Edit)

" The Scientist " (video running backwards)

" Lips Like Sugar " (Live , Echo & the Bunnymen ? Cover)

Interview with band members

= = Charts and certifications = =