

= Live Like We 're Dying =

" Live Like We 're Dying " is a song written by Danny O 'Donoghue , Andrew Frampton , Mark Sheehan , and Steve Kipner . It appeared as a bonus track on The Script 's self @-@ titled debut studio album , as well as a B @-@ side for some of the album 's singles . It is better known for being performed by American recording artist Kris Allen . The song serves as the lead single from his self @-@ titled major label debut album . It was released for digital download on September 21 , 2009 .

The song received positive reviews , peaking at eighteen in the United States , and also charting on other U.S. charts , including the top ten of the Pop Songs . It also charted abroad in Canada and New Zealand . The song 's accompanying music video , which takes place in a desert and features a countdown clock in conjunction with the song 's meaning , was also received warmly , and according to critics , was an end to the low @-@ budget , storyline @-@ centered , debut music videos from previous American Idol alumni .

= = Background = =

The song was originally recorded by Irish band the The Script as a bonus track for the Japanese release of their self @-@ titled debut album and a B @-@ side track for their debut single " We Cry " in Australia , Finland , Great Britain , Ireland , New Zealand , Sweden , and Switzerland .

In an interview with MTV News , Allen stated that the song had been earmarked as his album 's potential single since he won American Idol back in May 2009 . Allen stated , " [The song] was actually one that we had listened to really early on , and we kind of just fell in love with it . Everyone did . " When an interview for his cover story shared with , Idol runner @-@ up , Adam Lambert , Allen explained , " It 's a song that has a really good message @-@ that we only have so much time , let 's make the most of it . It 's definitely got one of the choruses where I can picture people rolling down the windows of their cars and singing along to it . "

After the success of the single , in an interview with Entertainment Weekly , Allen said ,

" It took a while , but it ? s done really incredible . It exceeded all my expectations anyway . To be honest , I was a little worried when it first came out and it wasn ' t doing great . But I think it ? s just about working hard and getting people to hear the song , and then everyone started believing in it a little bit more . I remember getting a text from Keith Urban saying ' I ? m not gonna lie : The first time I heard that song I wasn ' t crazy about it . But after a couple listens , I really , really like it . ' And I mean , I think that ? s how everybody felt about the song . And I think that ? s a testament to a good song . You don ' t have to love ? em the first time you hear ? em . It grew on people . "

= = Composition = =

" Live Like We 're Dying " is described to be in a " moderate pop rock " groove , and consisting of " shuffly " guitar playing . The song has been referred to as " danceable " , and the chorus as " grooving " and " syncopated " . It is written in the key of C major and Allen 's vocals span from G3 to A4 . The song contains inspirational lyrics , as Allen gives a " muscular " and " engaged " vocal performance , and delivers the lines in a rhythmic fashion . According to Michael Slezak of Entertainment Weekly , the song contains new @-@ age sentiments .

= = Critical reception = =

Bill Lamb of About.com praised the song for being an excellent first single , calling it " possibly the best first post @-@ American Idol single yet by an American Idol champion " and stating that it " could appeal to a massive audience " . He also applauded the song 's " outstanding , inspirational lyrics " and Allen 's vocal performance . Entertainment Weekly ' ' s Michael Slezak called the song " a future smash hit " and described it as " downright verbose ? packing in some sweet , new @-@ age @-@ y sentiments about existing in the moment , living without regret , and saying ' I love you ' early and often to the people in our lives " . He stated that rather than being cliché the song 's lyrics

are " winningly inspirational thanks to the conviction in Kris ? vocals " . Yahoo ! News described it as " impressive " and felt that Allen 's version of the song " improves on the unreleased version with a nuanced vocal and a nimble , rhythmic delivery " . Monica Herrera of Billboard said that Allen " improves " the Script 's version " with a nuanced vocal and a nimble , rhythmic delivery " . Herrera also stated that " Allen still seems " emboldened by the risks he took on Idol " and that his fans " should be feeling the same after hearing the first track from his November 17 debut . "

James Montgomery of MTV News said that the song seemed " tailor @-@ made " for him , playing on the strengths that led him to win American Idol . Montgomery also said , " his husky , broad voice , shuffly guitar playing and genuinely sweet disposition ? and wraps them in a well @-@ worn , subtly sexy tune , full of wide @-@ eyed , dare we say inspirational sentiments . Yet , at the same time , it 's also incredibly earnest in tone . " Misha Berson of the Seattle Times described the song as " surprising , and maybe a little jarring at first , if you expected a ballad or a mellow groove with a spare arrangement , like some of Allen 's best performances on American Idol that paved the way to his Season 8 win " . In spite of Berson 's initial surprise at the song 's sound , she went on to praise the single as " very catchy , a bit inspirational " , and " energetic " . She praised the chorus and further commended the song as " a marked improvement over what some Idol winners have put out as their first post @-@ show single " .

= = Chart performance = =

The song debuted after its first week of availability at number eighty @-@ nine on the Billboard Hot 100 , selling 24 @,@ 000 copies . It fell off the chart the following week , and remained off until it re @-@ entered at number ninety @-@ two on November 21 , 2009 . It peaked at number eighteen on the chart on the week of March 13 , 2010 . The song peaked at ten on the Mainstream Top 40 (Pop Songs) chart , becoming the first male American Idol winner to enter the chart 's top ten , and the fourth winner to achieve the feat following behind Kelly Clarkson , Carrie Underwood and Jordin Sparks , respectively . The song also peaked on the Adult Contemporary , Adult Pop Songs , and Christian Songs charts at nine , three and twenty @-@ one . As of December 2010 , " Live Like We 're Dying " has sold 1 @,@ 582 @,@ 000 digital downloads in the United States . The song was certified platinum by the RIAA on October 15 , 2010 .

Internationally , " Live Like We 're Dying " had limited chart presence . It peaked at number eighteen in New Zealand and number forty @-@ one in Canada .

= = Music video = =

The music video was directed by Marco Puig and filmed in a desert near Los Angeles , California . The video premiered first on AOL 's PopEater on November 6 , 2009 . Allen told Billboard magazine , " The video looks great . It was really fun shooting it @-@ we shot it from 8 p.m. until 8 a.m. so it was an all @-@ night thing with no breaks . [The shoot was] set up like a digital clock , but it 's huge , it 's this monstrous thing @-@ like 25 feet tall and who knows how long . I get to hold a flare , which was pretty cool . I ended up throwing it at people on set . "

The video begins with Allen pulling up to a junkyard in a white pickup truck at night , with a watch hanging from his key chain . Then , Allen takes a power cord out of the back of the truck and carries it through the junkyard until he plugs it in and flips a switch to turn on a large countdown clock . As the clock reaches zero , Allen leaves and begins walking away from the camera as the sun rises . Throughout the video , Allen is shown playing both an acoustic guitar and a piano , as well as singing without any instruments .

Michael Slezak of Entertainment Weekly said that the video was " a luxe @-@ looking , moodily lit affair that finds the season 8 champ clad in a physique @-@ appropriate black henley and stalking his way through an abandoned construction site featuring a giant countdown clock , a dramatic sunrise , and copious amounts of recycled plastic sheeting . " Slezak also said that , " the folks at 19 gave Kris the proper budget to kick off his video career ? at least we finally know what the company did with the savings gleaned from hiring student filmmakers to helm Blake Lewis and Diana

DeGarmo 's tragic first clips " . James Montgomery of MTV News noted that the video looked better and more expensive than past @-@ first videos by American Idol alumni under 19 . Montgomery also compared the video 's " artfully color @-@ saturated frames and great expanses " to Snow Patrol 's " Run " clip and the Madonna , Justin Timberlake , and Timbaland 's " 4 Minutes " , doing away with the " narrative crutch most Idol champs ' debuts lean on (see , for example , David Cook 's ' Light On ') , putting the focus squarely on Allen himself . " He also said that , " while Allen 's debut video isn 't as flashy @-@ dashy as Idol compatriot Adam Lambert 's ' Time for Miracles , ' it 's just as good ? mostly because , rather than rely on fiery explosions , ' Dying ' plays it straight , showcasing Allen and his talents " , and called it " bold " as Allen was never shown as the " flashy type " .

= = Live performances = =

Allen performed the song on Good Morning America on November 17 , 2009 . In addition he also performed the song on Live with Regis and Kelly , and The Tonight Show with Conan O 'Brien to promote his album . Allen performed the song on the So You Think You Can Dance live results show December 9 , 2009 . Allen also performed the song on the Late Show with David Letterman on December 16 , 2009 . Allen once again performed the song at the Billboard New Year 's Eve show , which aired on Fox on December 31 , 2009 .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Songwriting - Steve Kipner , Andrew Frampton , Danny O 'Donoghue , Mark Sheehan

Production - Steve Kipner , Andrew Frampton

Background vocals - Billy Solloix

Drums - Glen Power

Bass - Danny O 'Donoghue

Electric guitar - Paul Inder , Mark Sheehan

Acoustic guitar - Andrew Frampton

Keyboards - Andrew Frampton , Steve Kipner

Mixing - Spike Stent

Engineering - Dan Frampton , Ted Paduck

Source

= = Charts = =