

= Knock You Down =

" Knock You Down " is a song by American singer and songwriter Keri Hilson , recorded for her debut studio album *In a Perfect World ...* ( 2009 ) . The song features guest vocals from Ne @-@ Yo and Kanye West . All three artists co @-@ wrote the song with its producer Nate " Danja " Hills , as well as Kevin Cossom and Marcella Araica . The song was released first released to rhythmic and urban airplay in the United States as the album 's fourth single in the US , and it would later serve as the third worldwide single .

The song is a contemporary R & B and hip hop song , which includes elements of pop music . The lyrics of the song pertain to how love " knocks you down . " Part of the song refers to Michael Jackson ; coincidentally it was released at the time surrounding the death of the singer . The song received generally mixed to positive reviews , with critics divided as to whether Ne @-@ Yo and West overwhelmed Hilson 's appearance . However , reviewers also complimented that the song was radio @-@ friendly . It was nominated for multiple awards , including Best Rap / Sung Collaboration at the 52nd Grammy Awards .

" Knock You Down " peaked at number one in New Zealand , and was certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand . It also reached the top ten in Canada , Ireland , the United Kingdom , and the United States . The song 's music video was directed by Chris Robinson . It sees Hilson caught in a love triangle with her former partner West , and new @-@ found love Ne @-@ Yo . The video received positive reviews , which appreciated the given performances given by the artists . Hilson performed the song a number of times , including television appearances such as on *The Rachael Ray Show* . She also notably performed the song at the 2009 BET Awards , where she used the Jackson reference of the song to give a tribute performance to the late singer .

= = Background = =

Hilson and Ne @-@ Yo knew each other from their days as co @-@ songwriters . Hilson had appeared as Ne @-@ Yo 's love interest in the video for his song " Miss Independent , " the second single taken from his 2008 album , *Year of the Gentleman* . In a September 2008 interview with *Rap @-@ Up* about a recent crop of songwriters becoming singers , Ne @-@ Yo said " For one , I think Keri Hilson ? s too freakin ? pretty to be in the background . For two , her voice is incredible ? on top of the fact that she can write . So I think that she ? s definitely one that deserves the spotlight . " In " Knock You Down " , Kanye West makes multiple references to Michael Jackson , and coincidentally , the song was released in numerous territories around the death of the singer .

= = Composition = =

" Knock You Down " is a R & B song with a length of five minutes and twenty six seconds . The song also includes electro tones , and derives from pop and hip hop genres . The song is set in common time , and composed in a " moderate R & B groove . " It is written in the key of G minor , and vocals span from F3 to D5 . It follows the chord progression E ? ? F ? B ? ? E ? ? F ? Gm . The song begins with a rap intro by Kanye West , accompanied by a " stabbing synth riff . " According to Chris Williams of *Billboard* , The verses contain a " thumping bass @-@ beat " while the chorus is in a " frenetic midtempo groove . " Dan Nishimoto of *Prefix Magazine* said the song had a " 4 / 4 Motown feel on the verses and stuttering drums on the chorus . " Hilson performs the first verse and chorus , while Ne @-@ Yo sings the second verse . West then has a rap interlude before Hilson sings an additional part before the song ends with the chorus by Hilson , accompanied by Ne @-@ Yo . In West 's lines , he references Michael Jackson and his song " Bad " in the lines " This is bad , real bad , Michael Jackson . " Coincidentally , the song was released in numerous territories around the death of the singer . West also refers to the domestic abuse accusations against his Jackson 's father , Joe , in the following lyric " Now mad , real mad , Joe Jackson . " Lyrically , the song is about how a great love goes wrong .

= = Critical reception = =

Chris Williams of Billboard said " with a vocal assist from Ne @-@ Yo and a clever guest rap by Kanye West , it appears Hilson is intent on a knockout punch of her own . " Dan Nishimoto of Prefix Magazine said the song was one of the better radio @-@ friendly tracks on the album . Melinda Newman of HitFix said that " the mid @-@ tempo track is undeniably catchy and will embed itself within your brain after only a few listens . " Sophie Bruce of BBC Music positively received the song , calling it the album 's " biggest potential hit . " Although Nick Levine of Digital Spy gave the song three out of five stars , complimenting production by Danja , and saying that the song sounded like a more obvious hit than " Return the Favor " , he complained that " getting two R & B A @-@ listers to appear on your track should be a real coup , but not when one 's got a more distinctive voice than you and the other steals the show with some typically ballsy rapping . " Quentin B. Huff of PopMatters criticized the repetitive hook , stating " Hook @-@ wise , it ? s a little like listening to an album of kids chanting while playing double @-@ dutch . " He also said that Hilson 's vocals " show promise but fail to distinguish the Hilson brand from the crowd . "

" Knock You Down " was nominated for three awards . At the 2009 Soul Train Awards , the song was nominated for Record of the Year ( Songwriters Award ) as well as Best Collaboration . At the 52nd Grammy Awards , it was nominated for Best Rap / Sung Collaboration , but lost to Jay @-@ Z 's " Run This Town " , another song in which West is featured .

= = Chart performance = =

" Knock You Down " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number sixty @-@ five , and would later go on to peak at number three . Along with " The Way I Are " , it was Hilson 's highest charting single on the Hot 100 . It also achieved successes in other Billboard component charts , topping the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , and reaching number three on the Pop Songs chart . " Knock You Down " became Hilson 's biggest airplay single to date , topping the Hot 100 Airplay for four consecutive weeks . It has sold over 2 @,@ 100 @,@ 000 digital copies as of April 2011 . " Knock You Down " spent a total of thirty @-@ one weeks on the Hot 100 . The single appeared on numerous charts internationally . On the Canadian Hot 100 , and the Australian Singles Chart the song peaked at number three . It debuted at number forty on the UK Singles Chart , and five weeks later , it reached number five , where it remained for two weeks . In Ireland , it peaked at number two on the Irish Singles Chart , while it reached number eight on the Dutch Top 40 . The song performed best on the New Zealand Singles Chart , where it reached number one , and was eventually certified Platinum by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand ( RIANZ ) . " Knock You Down " charted in the top twenty of Norway , Sweden , and Slovakia , the top thirty of Germany , Belgium ( Wallonia ) , and Denmark , and in the top forty of the Czech Republic . It reached number forty @-@ nine on the Belgian Singles Chart in Flanders. its success in Europe allowed it to chart at number thirteen on the European Hot 100 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Knock You Down " , directed by Chris Robinson , premiered on March 23 , 2009 . The video begins with Hilson slowly falling backwards onto a bed , and then West appears and raps the introduction . Both start reflecting on their previous relationship , before the clip flashes back to the previous events . West is shown to be an artist , who is painting a portrait of Hilson . Hilson and West begin to caress each other , as she as shown in several seductive poses in a bed and sings in front of a white backdrop . The video returns to the present , showing Hilson and West breaking up , as both of them fall backwards onto the floor , similar to the way Hilson falls on to the bed in the opening sequence . Visual effects come into play greater in this scene , as when West falls , he shatters into pieces . Ne @-@ Yo then appears , and sings his lines in front of a grey backdrop . Ne @-@ Yo and Hilson proceed to go on a date at a party in West and Hilson 's

apartment , and are seen being affectionate by West . He then confronts Hilson , and Ne @-@ Yo also approaches the duo before Hilson walks off , torn between the two men . The clip ends with Hilson falling backwards onto a bed , in similar fashion as the opening scene .

Melinda Newman of HitFix positively received the video , stating " its success lies solely in the charisma and believability that the trio brings to the small screen , which is considerable . " A writer for BET Sound Off called the video a " tantalizing visual " and said he adored it , commenting , " sans Kanye and Nayo ? s unbearable showdown , I could watch this video over and over and over and over ! " Margeaux Watson of Entertainment Weekly said , " Though their scenes together are G @-@ rated in comparison to Ciara 's steamy romp with Justin Timberlake in their new clip for ' Love Sex Magic , ' Hilson ? s solo shots in bed are undeniably hot . Indeed , a tasteful flash of booty never hurt nobody . " In an interview on the Today Show , anchor Hoda Kotb made a remark to Ne @-@ Yo , stating , " You have this really hot new video that you do with Kanye West and another woman named Keri . You [ and Kanye ] are such big stars . How did this happen ? " Blogs reported this as a possible " diss " toward Hilson , however , neither camps reported anything after the fact .

= = Live performances = =

Hilson performed the song for her Walmart SoundCheck to promote the album . She also performed the song while being a supporting act to Ne @-@ Yo , on his Year of the Gentleman tour in 2009 . Hilson and West performed the song on May 5 , 2009 on the Late Show with David Letterman . Hilson also performed the song , along with a cover of Gnarls Barkley 's " Crazy " on July 21 , 2009 for Yahoo ! Music sponsored by Pepsi . She performed the song with " Turnin Me On " at the 2009 BET Awards in June 2009 . She utilized the Michael Jackson reference in the song to perform a dance routine paying homage to Jackson , at the awards ceremony . On July 28 , 2009 , Hilson performed the song on It 's On with Alexa Chung . Hilson performed the song and " Energy " with British singer @-@ songwriter Taio Cruz at the MOBO Awards 2009 , which she co @-@ hosted , on October 4 , 2009 . On January 1 , 2010 , she performed the song as a part of her set list of Dick Clark 's New Year 's Rockin ' Eve with Ryan Seacrest . On January 29 , 2010 , Hilson performed an acoustic rendition of the song on The Rachael Ray Show . On February 5 , 2010 , she performed the song at BET 's SOS : Help for Haiti Telethon , to benefit the victims of the 2010 Haitian earthquake . On October 22 , 2010 , she performed the song in Chicago at Collins Academy High School during for the Get Schooled National Challenge and Tour .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits = =

Nathaniel " Danja " Hills ? writer , record producer  
Keri Hilson ? writer , vocals , vocal producer  
Kevin Cossom ? writer  
Shaffer " Ne @-@ Yo " Smith ? writer , vocals  
Marcella Araica ? writer , recording engineer , audio mixer  
Kanye West ? writer , vocals  
Josh Mosser ? recording engineer  
Bryan Jones ? recording engineer  
Ben Reid ? recording engineer  
Anthony Palazolle ? recording engineer  
Jared Newcomb ? audio mixing assistant  
Source

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =

= = Covers and parodies = =

Rucka Rucka Ali made a parody of " Knock You Down " called " Crips & Bloods " .