

= Burn (Usher song) =

" Burn " is a song by American R & B singer Usher , which he wrote with American songwriters Jermaine Dupri , Bryan @-@ Michael Cox . The song was produced by Dupri and Cox for Usher 's fourth studio album , Confessions (2004) . " Burn " is about breakup in a relationship , and the public referred to it as an allusion to Usher 's personal struggles . Originally planned as the album 's lead single , " Burn " was pushed back after favorable responses for the song " Yeah ! " . " Burn " was released as the second single from the album on March 21 , 2004 .

" Burn " topped various charts around the world , including the Billboard Hot 100 for eight non @-@ consecutive weeks ; it succeeded " Yeah ! " at number one . Both singles gave Usher nineteen consecutive weeks at the top spot , longer than any solo artist of the Hot 100 era . " Burn " was certified platinum in Australia and United States , and gold in New Zealand . The song was well received by critics and garnered award nominations . In 2009 it was named the 21st most successful song of the 2000s , on the Billboard Hot 100 Songs of the Decade . This song won the 2005 Kids ' Choice Award for Favorite Song .

= = Background = =

When Usher planned to make a new record after his third album , 8701 (2001) , he decided to not branch out that much with musical collaborators and continue building music with his previous producers . Usher again enlisted record @-@ producer Jermaine Dupri , who had collaborated on his two previous albums , along with The Neptunes , R. Kelly , among others to work on his fourth studio album Confessions (2004) . Dupri contacted his frequent collaborator Bryan @-@ Michael Cox , who had also made hits like the 2001 single " U Got It Bad " for Usher . During the early session for the album , Dupri and Cox talked about a situation which later became " Burn " . At that time , Usher 's two @-@ year relationship with TLC 's Chilli was flaming out . They said , " Yo , you gotta let that burn ... That 's a song right there " , and started writing .

= = Release = =

Usher submitted the album to his label Arista Records after he felt it was already completed . After he and the company 's then @-@ president Antonio " LA " Reid listened to the songs , they felt the album needed a first single and that they needed one or two more songs to create , which caused the postponement of the album 's release . Usher went back to the studio and collaborated with Lil Jon who said , " He needed a single . They had ' Burn , ' ' Burn ' was hot , but they needed that first powerful monster . That 's when I came in . " They worked for few more tracks , including " Red Light " , which was not included in the first release of the album , and " Yeah ! " , which features Ludacris and Lil Jon .

However , everybody in the label was scared to decide what to consider as the lead single . Reid was choosing whether " Yeah ! " would be released then , considering that they had " Burn " . Usher was also doubtful if the former was the right choice , after he wanted an R & B record . Until " Yeah ! " was leaked , " Burn " was chosen as the official first single from Confessions . " Yeah ! " , which was intended as a promotional song and a teaser for Usher 's fans , was released to street DJs and mixtapes . However , the song 's favorable responses led to another direction ; " Yeah ! " was pursued to be the lead single and " Burn " was set as its follow @-@ up . " Burn " was released in the United States on July 6 , 2004 as a CD single and 7 " single .

= = Lyrical interpretation = =

Usher decided about the new material " to let it all hang out by singing about some of his own little secrets , as well as a few bones from his homies ' skeleton @-@ filled closets . " The public speculated that the material in the new album he was referring to was his recent personal struggles in which he promised a " real talk " on it . In early 2004 , Usher broke up with Chilli due to "

irreconcilable differences and because they found it almost impossible to make compromises . " Usher said in an interview : " It 's unfortunate when you have to let a situation go because it 's not working " , which added reference to the breakup . It was later revealed that Chilli , in fact broke up with Usher because of cheating and the media said otherwise because of the lyrics in the song , which was not based on their relationship . Dupri , however , confessed that his personal life is the real story of the album . Usher said he took inspirations collectively by looking at his friends ' personal situations that they gone through .

= = Composition = =

" Burn " is a slow jam , combining R & B and ballad genres . The song is performed with a moderate groove . It is composed in the key of C @-@ sharp major . The melody line of the song has influences from " Ignition (Remix) " by R. Kelly and " How to Deal " by Frankie J. " Burn " crb has a combination of robotic noises , synthesized strings and guitar lines .

The lyrics are constructed in the traditional verse @-@ chorus form . The song starts a spoken intro , giving way to the first verse . It continues to the chorus , following the second verse and chorus . The bridge follows , leading to a break and finalizing in the chorus . " Burn " was considered a " window to Usher 's inner thoughts " , along with the controversial track " Confessions " and " Confessions Part II " . The song is about breakups and ending relationships . According to Matt Cibula of Popmatters , " Burn " is constructed from " two @-@ step concept " . In the lyrics " You know that it 's over / You know that it was through / Let it burn / Got to let it burn " , Usher breaks up with his woman but found her sad about feeling bad about what happened to their relationship . However , Usher says that she must deal with it before she can accept the truth . For the lines " It 's been fifty @-@ eleven days / Umpteen hours / I 'm gonna be burnin ' / Till you return " , the direction changes after Usher realized that breaking up with her was a huge mistake and that he wanted her back to him .

= = Critical reception = =

" Burn " was lauded by contemporary music critics . Jem Aswad of Entertainment Weekly complimented Dupri and Cox for producing what he called the " best song " from the album , along with " Confessions Part II " which they also produced . Aswad found the songs feature " mellifluous melodies " . Laura Sinagra of Rolling Stone found Usher 's singing a " sweet falsetto on the weepy breakup song " , adding , it " convincingly marries resolve and regret , but when it comes to rough stuff , there 's still no ' u ' in p @-@ i @-@ m @-@ p . " Cibula called the song brilliant and considers its step one and step two technique a hit . Jon Caramanica of Blender complimented the song for living up as the only " serviceable " among all ballad @-@ influenced songs in the album which " often drown in their own inanity . " Ande Kellman of Allmusic considered " Burn " as one of the Usher 's best moments in the album , together with " Caught Up " , the final single from Confessions . Steve Jones of USA Today stated that Usher is singing about a relationship that cannot be saved because of the " flame has simply died " .

" Burn " was nominated at the 47th Grammy Awards for Best Male R & B Vocal Performance and Best R & B Song . The song earned British record company EMI the " Publisher of the Year " at the American Society of Composers , Authors , and Publishers 2005 Pop Music Awards .

= = Chart performance = =

" Burn " was another commercial success for Usher . In the United States , the single debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number sixty @-@ five , months prior to its physical release . It reached the top spot on May 29 , 2004 , replacing " Yeah ! " ' s twelve @-@ week run at number one . The single was beaten by Fantasia 's 2004 single " I Believe " , which propelled on the chart on its debut . It returned to number one for one last week , before it was finally knocked off by the album 's third single " Confessions Part II " . The single failed to remain on the top spot as long as " Yeah ! " did ,

staying only for eight non @-@ consecutive weeks . " Burn " was the fifth most @-@ played song in 2004 for earning 355 @,@ 228 total plays , alongside " Yeah ! " which topped the tally for 496 @,@ 805 spins . The single was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America for shipping 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 units . It became the second best @-@ selling single in the United States , behind Usher 's single " Yeah ! " . This gives him the distinction , alongside The Beatles in 1964 , to have 2 of his singles occupying the top 2 spots on the Billboard Year @-@ End Chart . Like " Yeah ! " , " Burn " helped Confessions remain on the top spot .

Internationally , several music markets responded equally well . In the United Kingdom , the single debuted at number one and stayed for two weeks . Across European countries , the single performed well , reaching the top ten in Denmark , Ireland , Norway , the Netherlands , and Switzerland . It entered the top twenty in Austria , Belgium , Germany and Sweden . In Australia , the single debuted at number three and peaked at number two . The single was certified platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association for selling 70 @,@ 000 units . At the 2004 year ender charts , " Burn " became the thirty @-@ first best @-@ selling single in Australia . In the New Zealand , it peaked at number one for three weeks , and remained on the chart for twenty @-@ three weeks . The single was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background = = =

The music video for " Burn " was directed by Jake Nava , who had produced a wide array of videos for Atomic Kitten , Beyoncé Knowles , among others . It was shot at the former Hollywood house of American popular singer Frank Sinatra . The video features model Jessica Clark . In the July 2008 issue of Vibe magazine , Usher told writer Mitzi Miller , " Women have started to become lovers of each other as a result of not having enough men . " On June 26 , 2008 , AfterEllen.com writer Sarah Warn revealed that Jessica Clark , the lead in Usher 's " Burn " music video , was in fact an openly gay model . In the article , Warn writes , " Maybe it 's not a lack of men that 's turning women gay , Usher--maybe it 's you ! "

= = = Synopsis and reception = = =

The video starts with Usher sitting on a sofa with a backdrop of his girlfriend . When the verse starts , Usher went to a wide glass window pane , looking at his girlfriend swimming in the pool . The surface aflame after she immersed in the water . The next scene continues to Usher with his mistress having sex . While sitting on the edge of the bed , Usher reminisces the moments he and his girlfriend were having an intimate moment in the same bed . The bedsheets burns , following to Usher riding a silver right @-@ hand drive Aston Martin DB5 with a British registration - EGF 158B (the car was featured in the TV series Fastlane) . The video cuts with the backdrop also burning . Continuing to the car scene , Usher stops as he sees his imaginary girl again . He went out and dances , executing various hand routines . Video intercuts follow and the video ends with Usher standing with his back . Also , right before the last chorus , the screen changes from a small screen , to a full one with no framework .

The music video debuted on MTV 's Total Request Live at number six on May 4 , 2004 , the same debut with " Confessions Part II " . The video reached the top spot and remained on the countdown for thirty @-@ three days . " Burn " topped MuchMusic 's Countdown on July 24 , 2004 , and remained on the chart for fifteen weeks .

= = Impact = =

Besides from Usher , Cox has benefited for co @-@ creating Confessions , as well as from the success of " Burn " . He has been doing records for Alicia Keys , B2K , Mariah Carey and Destiny 's

Child , but he felt 2004 introduced him to another landscape in the music industry . His contribution to the song has elevated him to fame , as well as people looking back to his past records . " Burn " earned him two Grammy nominations . Cox stated , " Everybody who does this for a living , dreams about being nominated . It 's the ultimate accomplishment . I 've always been the silent guy ? I come in , do my job and head out . I like to leave all the glory and shine to others , but this is the validation that means the most to me . It also makes me want to work harder to get that same recognition again . "

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Other versions = =

An a cappella version was created by South Asian fusion a cappella group Stanford Raagapella .