

= Leave Me Alone =

" Leave Me Alone " is a single by American singer Michael Jackson . The song was featured on Jackson 's seventh studio album , Bad (1987) , and was its eighth single in February 1989 , but was released outside of the United States and Canada . " Leave Me Alone " was recorded during the original album sessions but the song only appeared on the CD editions of Bad as a bonus track , as well as on the 2001 cassette edition . The song was written and composed by Jackson and produced by Quincy Jones (with Jackson serving as co @-@ producer) .

Internationally , the song was a success , peaking at number one and two in Ireland and the United Kingdom respectively and reaching the top 10 in Belgium , New Zealand and Spain . " Leave Me Alone " was generally well received by contemporary music critics . A short film was released for the song . In the film , Jackson pokes fun at the false rumors about him such as the stories about him purchasing the bones of " The Elephant Man " and his cosmetic surgeries . The short film was the recipient of a Grammy Award in 1990 for Best Short Form Music Video . Despite the success of the single , the song never appeared on any of Jackson 's world concert tours .

= = Background and composition = =

" Leave Me Alone " was a response to negative and false stories about Jackson that frequently appeared in the media and tabloids post @-@ 1986 after the success of Thriller . Beginning in 1986 , the tabloids began to publish false stories about Jackson , one of the first being a story claiming that Jackson slept in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber to slow the aging process . A picture leaked out to the media of him lying down in a hyperbaric chamber at a hospital he visited . An unknown person took the picture of Jackson while he was testing out the chamber out of curiosity .

When Jackson bought a pet chimpanzee named Bubbles , the media viewed it as evidence of Jackson 's increasing detachment from reality . It was also reported that Jackson had offered to buy the bones of Joseph Merrick , the " Elephant Man " ; Jackson stated that the story was " a complete lie . " These stories inspired the nickname " Wacko Jacko " , which Jackson acquired the following year , and would come to despise . Another frequent response from the media was about Jackson 's plastic surgery . Jackson 's manager said of the media 's criticism towards the topic , " So many terrible things have been written . Okay , so he had his nose fixed , and the cleft ? big deal . I got news for you , my nose has broke five times . It 's been fixed twice . Who gives a shit ? Who cares ? Elvis had his nose done . Marilyn Monroe had her nose done , had her breasts done ? Everybody 's had it done . "

The song has been viewed as having a " paranoia theme " , a theme that Jackson had frequently used on previous studio albums . The Atlantic felt that Jackson showed " obvious expressions of distrust " in the song and that the song was one of multiple songs where Jackson 's " persistent loneliness in his music " was " prominent " . In 2009 , J. Edward Keyes , of Rolling Stone , described " Leave Me Alone " as sounding like " vintage Michael " and the song works because of its music , " a batch of thick chords for Jackson to vamp over " . Keyes noted that the song was a " kind of darker inversion " of " The Way You Make Me Feel " , and that " Leave Me Alone " was " worked @-@ up and angry , and Jackson 's aggressive scraping of the high notes makes plain his frustration . "

= = Instrumentation = =

" Leave Me Alone " is a funk song played with a synthesizer and a guitar . According to MusicNotes.com , the song is set in the key of Gb Major with Jackson 's voice range being sung from Bb3 to Ab5 . The song 's tempo is moderate and its metronome is 112 beats per minute .

= = Critical and commercial reception = =

" Leave Me Alone " was generally well received by contemporary music critics . Stephen Thomas Erlewine , a writer for AllMusic , stated he felt that " Leave Me Alone " was the best track on Bad ,

commenting " why are all of his best songs paranoid anthems ? " Steve Morse , a writer for The Boston Globe , described " Leave Me Alone " as a " send @-@ up " of Jackson 's feuds with the " paparazzi @-@ filled tabloids . " Jon Pareles , of The New York Times , commented that " Leave Me Alone " had an " unmistakable message " . After Jackson 's death in June 2009 , Rolling Stone listed " Leave Me Alone " as being one of Jackson 's most monumental work , and the song 's composition was generally praised .

" Leave Me Alone " performed well on various charts . It was released as a single outside of the United States and Canada . The song , similar to Bad 's previous singles , proved to be a commercial success internationally . " Leave Me Alone " ' s most successful territory was Ireland , where the song peaked at number one . The song saw similar chart success on the United Kingdom , the Netherlands , Norwegian and Switzerland charts , peaking within the top 10 at number two , five , six and ten . " Leave Me Alone " also peaked within the top 20 in Austria , France and Sweden , peaking at number 15 , 17 and 19 . The single was least successful in Australia , where the song peaked at number 37 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Leave Me Alone " , was directed by Jim Blashfield , produced by Jim Blashfield and Paul Diener and released on January 2 , 1989 . The video was also featured in the 1988 film Moonwalker . In essence , the video is an amusement park consisting of stylistically crude images based around Jackson 's successful career since 1982 's Thriller . There is an emphasis on the tabloid view of Jackson 's personal life and public image , referring to the nickname " Wacko Jacko " given to him by the press , and the various headlines associated with him in the 1980s . Lampooning rumours that he tried to purchase Joseph Merrick 's bones , Jackson dances with stop motion " Elephant Man " bones in the video . This particular segment (without the image of the bones) was used for the single 's cover art , and the boneless video segment was featured in the Moonwalker trailer .

In the video , there are images of shrines to actress Elizabeth Taylor , a real life close friend of Jackson . Throughout the video newspaper headlines , published by " National Intruder " , with bizarre titles are shown , such as " Michael 's Space @-@ Age Diet " and " Michael Proposes to Liz " . Another notable scene in the music video was a nose being chased by a surgical scalpel , which was reference to Jackson 's plastic surgery being criticized by the media . At the end of the video , it is revealed that a gigantic Jackson himself is the amusement park . He breaks free , tearing the park to pieces . That scene is a somewhat reminiscent of Gulliver 's Travels , where Gulliver eventually breaks free from the Lilliputians ' grasp from Lilliput . The video is featured on Michael Jackson 's Vision and the Target version DVD of Bad 25 .

" Leave Me Alone " was the recipient of multiple nominations for its music video . The video won a Grammy Award in 1990 for Best Short Form Music Video at the 32nd Grammy Awards . The video also received six nominations at the 1989 MTV Video Music Awards for Video of the Year , Viewers ' Choice , Breakthrough Video , Best Editing and Best Art Direction ; the video won Best Special Effects . The video lost its six nominations to Neil Young 's " This Note Is for You " (" Video of the Year ") , Art of Noise (" Breakthrough Video ") , Paula Abdul (" Best Editing ") , and Madonna 's " Express Yourself " (" Best Cinematography " , " Best Art Direction ") and " Like a Prayer " (" Viewers ' Choice ") . Erlewine described the music video as being " weirdly claustrophobic " and felt that , " not coincidentally , " it was the " best video from the album . "

= = Track listing = =

= = Chart performance = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from Bad : Special Edition 's liner notes :

Written , composed , vocal synthesizer , solo and background vocals by Michael Jackson

Produced by Quincy Jones

Co @-@ produced by Michael Jackson

Larry Williams : Drum programming , synthesizers

Paul Jackson , Jr . : Guitar

Casey Young : Synclavier , synthesizer programming

Greg Phillinganes : Synthesizer

Rhythm and vocal arrangements by Michael Jackson