

= Fearless (Taylor Swift song) =

" Fearless " is a country pop song performed by American singer @-@ songwriter Taylor Swift . The song was co @-@ written by Swift in collaboration with Liz Rose and Hillary Lindsey and produced by Nathan Chapman and Swift . " Fearless " was released on January 3 , 2010 by Big Machine Records as the fifth and final single from Swift 's second studio album of the same name (2008) . Swift composed the song while traveling on tour to promote her eponymous debut album , Taylor Swift (2006) . She wrote " Fearless " in regard to the fearlessness of falling in love and eventually titled her second studio album after the song . Musically , it contains qualities commonly found in pop rock music and , lyrically , is about a perfect first date .

" Fearless " received acclaim from contemporary critics , many of whom complimented it for appealing to different age groups . In the United States , " Fearless " debuted and peaked at number 9 on the Billboard Hot 100 and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) , becoming the first single released after being certified gold by the RIAA . " Fearless " also entered charts in Canada and Spain . Swift performed the song in various venues , some of which were included on the Fearless Tour (2009 ? 10) . Footage from the Fearless Tour performances were used to comprise a music video for " Fearless " , directed by Todd Cassetty . The video features both footage of the tour itself and backstage .

= = Background = =

" Fearless " was written by Swift in collaboration with Liz Rose and Hillary Lindsey and produced by Nathan Chapman alongside Swift . Swift conceived the song while touring as opening act in order to promote her eponymous debut album , Taylor Swift (2006) . While writing the song , she was not dating anyone or " even in the beginning stages of dating anybody . " She wrote the song after she analyzed the ideology of what was the best first date . While developing " Fearless " , Swift explained the writing process , stating , " I think sometimes when you ? re writing love songs , you don ? t write them about what you ? re going through at the moment , you write about what you wish you had . " The song was composed with two concepts in mind . Swift described the song 's primary concept to be about " the fearlessness of falling in love " , and " no matter how many times you get hurt , you will always fall in love again . " The second , is about the best first date , which Swift stated she hadn 't experienced at the time of writing " Fearless " . After completing the song , Swift deeply deliberated her personal definition of the word " fearless " . To her , " fearless doesn 't mean you 're completely unafraid and it doesn 't mean that you 're bulletproof . It means that you have a lot of fears , but you jump anyway . " That influenced her to title the album Fearless . The song was first released as a promotional single from the album on October 14 , 2008 as part of Countdown to Fearless an exclusive campaign by the iTunes Store ; it was later released as the fifth and final single from Fearless on January 4 , 2010 .

= = Composition = =

" Fearless " is four minutes and one second in length . Alexis Petridis of The Guardian described the song 's genre as a " kind of orthodontically perfect pop rock " . He said the most country part of the song was a lyric that referenced a " one horse town " . The song is set in common time and has a moderate tempo of 100 beats per minute . It is written in the key of F major and Swift 's vocals span two octaves , from F3 to C5 . It follows the chord progression F ? C ? Gm ? B ? -C . Tom Ronald of Great American Country interpreted the song 's message to be about " taking courage on the dating circuit . " In a different perspective , Rob Sheffield of Blender magazine said the lyrics " And I don 't know why but with you / I 'd dance in a storm in my best dress , fearless " demonstrated how Swift enjoyed making a scene . He added that she would not wear " anything else to go ride around in a storm " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Fearless " received critical acclaim for its ability to relate to different age groups . Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly said Swift 's vocals fit the song 's melody and instrumentation , which , according to her , is " slick " and " radio @-@ friendly " . Heather Phares of Allmusic selected the track as one of the best songs on Fearless . Alice Fisher of the United Kingdom magazine The Observer congratulated " Fearless " for being one of Swift 's " great songs with perceptive lyrics about universal truths that can be enjoyed at any age . " Jim Harrington of The San Jose Mercury News believed " Fearless " contained appeal to different age groups : " Moms and daughters , as well as groups of teens and couples out for a date night , [can sing] along with equal gusto . "

= = Chart performance = =

Upon its release as a promotional single , on the week ending November 1 , 2008 , " Fearless " debuted and peaked at number nine on the Billboard Hot 100 with sales of 162 @,@ 000 digital downloads , becoming Swift 's third consecutive top ten song on the chart . In the succeeding week , the song fell to number 38 and after four weeks of roaming the Billboard Hot 100 it fell off the charts . Following its single release , the song re @-@ entered the Billboard Hot 100 at number 94 on the week ending March 13 , 2010 . Its highest position on the chart while being released as a single was number 76 on the week ending April 10 , 2010 . The song is one of 13 songs from Fearless charted within the top 40 of the Billboard Hot 100 , breaking the record for the most top 40 entries from a single album . " Fearless " spent a total of 15 weeks ascending and descending the Billboard Hot 100 . " Fearless " also peaked at number ten on the Hot Country Songs , making this her tenth consecutive top ten hit but also her lowest @-@ charting single , and number 18 on the now @-@ defunct Pop 100 . The single was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for the purchase of over 500 @,@ 000 digital downloads . It therefore became the first single released after being certified gold by the RIAA , as a result of digital downloads . As of October 2012 , " Fearless " has sold over 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 copies in the United States , and has since been certified platinum by the RIAA .

On the week ending November 29 , 2008 , " Fearless " debuted and peaked at number sixty @-@ nine in Canada , spending a total of five weeks on the chart . The song peaked at number thirty @-@ two in Spain .

= = Live performances = =

Swift 's first televised performance of " Fearless " was on November 10 , 2008 on the Late Show with David Letterman . She went on to perform the song on The Ellen DeGeneres Show and Clear Channel Communications 's Stripped . Swift performed the song on all venues of her first headlining concert tour , the Fearless Tour , which extended from April 2009 to July 2010 . During each performance , Swift escorted a silver sparkly dress and black boots and played an acoustic guitar as floral patterns with a moving butterfly were projected on the stage . Alice Fisher of The Observer attended the May 7 , 2009 concert at Shepherd 's Bush Empire in London and said that while Swift drifted off during the performance , it " clearly made perfect sense to the girls in the audience . " Jocelyn Vena of MTV News reported that the audience loudly sang along to the performance of " Fearless " at the August 27 , 2009 concert at Madison Square Garden in New York City . The song is also performed on the Speak Now World Tour .

Various tour performances were used to comprise a music video for " Fearless " , directed by Todd Cassetty . The video premiered on February 17 , 2010 on CMT . It begins when Swift tells her band before they step onstage , " You guys , this tour has been the best experience of my entire life . " The video intermingles footage from the tour itself with fans excitedly showing off signs to Swift with behind @-@ the @-@ scenes footage of Swift and her band as they travel on the Fearless Tour . It ends with the singer waving goodbye as she exits the stage . Upon watching the video , Vena interpreted it to be " Swift 's love letter to her fans " , as it showed an " inside view of what it 's like to go on tour " . To date , the video has over 23 million views on YouTube .

= = Track listings = =

U.S. digital download

" Fearless " (single version) ? 4 : 01

U.S. / EU CD single

" Fearless " (radio edit) ? 4 : 01

= = Charts = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =