

= Unusual You =

" Unusual You " is a song by American recording artist Britney Spears , from her sixth studio album Circus . It was written and produced by Christian Karlsson and Pontus Winnberg from Bloodshy & Avant , with additional writing by Kasia Livingston and Henrik Jonback . " Unusual You " is an electropop love song reminiscent of the music of Janet Jackson and Gwen Stefani , with sung lyrics that address an experienced woman finding unexpected love . " Unusual You " received mostly positive reviews from critics , who commended it for being a departure of the rest of the album . Following the release of Circus , the song charted at number eighty on the U.S. Billboard Pop 100 due to strong digital sales .

= = Background = =

" Unusual You " was written and produced by Christian Karlsson and Pontus Winnberg from Bloodshy & Avant , with additional writing by Kasia Livingston and Henrik Jonback . Main instrumentation was recorded by Bloodshy & Avant at Robotberget in Stockholm , Sweden . Spears recorded her vocals at Conway Studios in Los Angeles , California , while audio mixing was done by Anders Hvenare and Bloodshy & Avant at Robotberget . Background vocals were provided by Livingston . " Unusual You " appeared on a six @-@ song mix of Circus that was released on November 13 , 2008 . In August 2009 , it was reported by NRJ Radio that " Unusual You " was going to be released as the fifth single from the album in France and the United States .

= = Music and lyrics = =

" Unusual You " is a midtempo electropop song , that has been described by Nekesa Mumbi Moody of the Associated Press as " synth @-@ centric " . The song has been noted by John Murphy of musicOMH to be reminiscent of " Gwen Stefani 's quieter moments . " Ann Powers of the Los Angeles Times commented that " Unusual You " " goes for that shimmering waterfall mood first popularized by Janet Jackson rather than strict Madonna @-@ style workouts . " According to Chris Richards of The Washington Post , Spears 's vocals in the song are transformed into " a spectral coo . " Lyrically , " Unusual You " talks about an experienced woman finding unexpected love , with Spears voicing the lines , " Didn 't anyone tell you you 're supposed to break my heart ? / I expect you to / So why haven 't you ? . "

= = Critical reception = =

" Unusual You " received positive reviews from critics . Ann Powers of the Los Angeles Times noted that the song stood out on Circus because it did not paint " Britney as mannequin , sex object , paparazzi victim and leather @-@ clad mistress " like the other tracks on the album . Caryn Ganz of Rolling Stone deemed it as " melodic [ and ] glowing " . Chris Willman of Entertainment Weekly named " Unusual You " as a standout track from Circus and added , " Spears still presents herself as fantasy object , but here might be her own fantasy ? of real acceptance . Next time , Britney , flash us more of that . " Chris Richards of The Washington Post selected it as one of the " gems " of the album , along with " Womanizer " . John Murphy of musicOMH said that the lyrics make Spears " sound extraordinarily world @-@ weary for a 27 year old " and added that it " gives a pointer to an interesting new direction . " Jim Farber of the Daily News called the song " perhaps the first truly pretty melody Spears has ever sung . " Brad Wheeler of The Globe and Mail said " Unusual You " was entertaining , but not as remarkable as other tracks on Circus and dismissed the song as merely a " strobe @-@ lit , heart @-@ shaped testimonial . " Jon Pareles of The New York Times commented that " Unusual You " and the two other ballads in the album , were Circus 's " only attempts at warmth . "

Poppy Cosyns of The Sun criticized the backing track of " Unusual You " as leaving " it sounding like the discovered dregs of a would @-@ be late Nineties hit . " Cameron Adams of the Herald Sun

called " Unusual You " " a surprisingly subtle and effective moment " and speculated that it was " surely a future single . " Steve Jones of USA Today described " Unusual You " as " saccharin " , adding that " she sounds much better in the dance tracks . " Ben Rayner of the Toronto Star called it the album 's one " moment of pathos " . Jim DeRogatis of the Chicago Sun @-@ Times criticized " Unusual You " as " shamelessly Madonna @-@ aping . " Nekesa Mumbi Moody of the Associated Press commented that Spears 's most personal and emotional moments of Circus are in the slower tracks , most notably in " Unusual You " . Moody continued , " Though she didn 't write the song , it 's hard not to wince in empathy when you think about the string of users who have filtered in and out of her life . " Pete Paphides of The Times said " Unusual You " would " find a home with anyone whose love of melancholy Europop is fatal enough to take in Limahl 's ' Never Ending Story . ' " In 2015 , Gregory Hicks of MTV named " Unusual You " Spears 's best song that was not released as a single .

Following the release of Circus in December 2008 , " Unusual You " managed to peak at number eighty on the US Billboard Pop 100 due to strong digital sales . In 2008 when Circus album came out , popstar Lady Gaga was asked about which songs she was listening and Unusual You was on her playlist , she said : " It is really a good song . I listened to the Circus on the plane , and when I came to this song , I stopped and listened to it again and again . It is so beautiful and so sad , and I love the way it has a mysterious quality . As if the music was put into a mirror from a funhouse . Go girl . Good pop . "

= = Credits and Personnel = =

Britney Spears ? lead vocals and background vocals

Christian Karlsson - songwriting

Bloodshy & Avant ? songwriting , mixing , programming , keyboards , bass and guitar

Henrik Jonback ? songwriting and guitar

Pontus Winnberg - songwriting

Kasia Livingston ? songwriting and background vocals

Credits adapted from Circus liner notes .

= = Charts = =