

= Behind These Hazel Eyes =

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " is a song recorded by American singer Kelly Clarkson for her second studio album , Breakaway (2004) . It was written by Clarkson with the song 's producers Max Martin and Dr. Luke . The song was released on April 12 , 2005 as the second single from the album . Clarkson considered " Behind These Hazel Eyes " as one of her favorite songs and she once intended to name Breakaway after the song . " Behind These Hazel Eyes " is an uptempo pop rock song that incorporates crunchy guitars which are pulsated with driving beats and anthemic choruses ; it narrates Clarkson 's broken relationship with her ex @-@ boyfriend .

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " peaked at number six on the Billboard Hot 100 and stayed inside the top ten in the chart for fifteen weeks . It also became Clarkson 's first song to top the Adult Pop Songs chart . It was certified platinum from Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for selling over one million digital downloads . Elsewhere , the song charted in the top ten in Australia , Austria , Ireland , Netherlands , New Zealand and the United Kingdom .

The song 's accompanying music video was directed by Joseph Kahn and produced by Danyi Deats @-@ Barrett . The concept of the video was conceived by Clarkson and depicts her as a bride who experiences some dream @-@ like hints that her husband @-@ to @-@ be is having an affair with a brunette ceremony attendee . The music video premiered online at MTV and it also received heavy rotation on Total Request Live . The song was performed live by Clarkson at numerous venues , including the Breakaway World Tour (2005) and the All I Ever Wanted Tour (2009) .

= = Background and writing = =

In 2004 , Clarkson flew to Sweden to collaborate with Max Martin and Lukasz " Dr. Luke " Gottwald for her album , Breakaway . Clarkson and Martin were interested in turning in a more rock direction , as opposed to the " slick pop " with which they were identified . The songs " Since U Been Gone " as well as " Behind These Hazel Eyes " were the products of their collaboration . According to Dr. Luke , " Behind These Hazel Eyes " was sent to Clarkson without any lyrics as part of an olive branch to the singer . He explained ,

We had just done with " Since U Been Gone , " which everyone was happy with . We sent a rough version of " Behind These Hazel Eyes , " without any lyrics , to Kelly and Clive Davis . It was in part an olive branch to Kelly , because there was miscommunication on " Since U Been Gone , " where Kelly had written some lyrics and Max and I didn 't know about it and we had finished the song . So we wanted to write " Behind " with her from the beginning , but we were in different places . She had just won " American Idol " and was on tour , so she 'd e @-@ mail me lyrics , and I 'd e @-@ mail her my thoughts .

In an interview with Entertainment Weekly , Clarkson explains that " Behind These Hazel Eyes " is " about the dipstick who completely screwed up and now is unhappy and you 're happy . " She also considered the song as one of her favorites that she once intended to name Breakaway after the song . Critics speculated that the song reflects Clarkson 's break @-@ up with David Hodges , the ex @-@ member of Evanescence . According to MTV , the song was originally written prior to the break @-@ up . Nonetheless , Clarkson decided to tweak the song lyrics after breaking up with Hodges to express her emotional pain . Clarkson also said that the song almost did not make it into the album . She explained , " It had different lyrics in the beginning [...] I ended up calling Luke [Lukasz Gottwald] , the writer , and we did a totally different song to it . It 's now my favorite song on the record . Crappy relationships [make for] a good song . "

= = Composition = =

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " was written by Clarkson , Max Martin , and Dr. Luke and was produced by the latter two . According to the sheet music published at Musicnotes.com by Alfred Publishing , it is set in common time and has a moderate tempo of 90 beats per minute . It is

composed in the key of F sharp minor with Clarkson 's vocal range spanning over two octaves from F # 3 to F # 5 . The bridge was the only part of the song that was written by Dr. Luke and Martin together with Clarkson face to face . The song begins with Clarkson wailing " oh oh oh " over a restless percussion . In the first verse , the music becomes quiet to focus on Clarkson 's vocal as she wails " Seems like just yesterday / You were a part of me / I used to stand so tall / I used to be so strong / Your arms around me tight / Everything it felt so right / Unbreakable like nothing could go wrong . " During the chorus , the sound of electronic guitar is dominant as she vocalizes " Here I am / Once again / I ' m torn into pieces / Can ' t deny it / Can ' t pretend / Just thought you were the one / Broken up deep inside / But you won ' t get to see the tears I cry / Behind these hazel eyes . " Gil Kaufman of MTV noticed that the song " soared on crunchy guitars , driving beats and anthemic , agitated choruses . "

Lyrically , the song narrates the story of a failed relationship which initially started off well . Clarkson regrets having allowed herself to be vulnerable to her ex @-@ boyfriend and she is determined that despite the pain that she feels , he will not get the satisfaction of seeing her cry . Michael Paoletta of Billboard praised Clarkson 's vocal , writing " Clarkson simply delivers a loose , tour @-@ de @-@ force vocal that simmers alongside a steroid @-@ charged musical backdrop that is fun , fast and furious . " Scott Juba of The Trade praised the production of the song , writing " The song ' s strong hook pulls listeners in and involves them in the lyrics without ever becoming gimmicky or manipulative . " He also complimented Clarkson 's vocal which " oscillates between pain and defiance with near pinpoint accuracy . "

= = Critical reception = =

Elizabeth Scott of Sky Living wrote , " while Clarkson is doing well musically , her love life still hasn ' t picked up and she is heartbroken once again . I ' m sure the thought of another top ten hit might cheer her up ! " Scott Juba of The Trades considered " Behind These Hazel Eyes " as the highlight of the album , writing " Now that [Clarkson is] a few years older than she was when she recorded her first album , she brings more authenticity to relationship songs . " Evan Sawdey of PopMatters compared " Don ' t Let Me Stop You " (2009) with " Behind These Hazel Eyes " saying that the former " may sound like another rewrite of an older Clarkson hit (in this case , " Behind These Hazel Eyes ") , but the observational lyrics about a questionable relationship are what ultimately makes the whole thing click . " Charles Merwin of Stylus Magazine felt that the song should sell records more because " the entire musical backing drops out to let Clarkson ' s voice through to live or die on its own . " Pam Avoledo of Blogcritics believed that " Behind These Hazel Eyes " was superior to the writing of " Since U Been Gone " , commenting that " It ' s punchier , well @-@ written and gives Clarkson a chance to show off her vocal skills without the trendy haughtiness . "

Joe Cross of Cox Communications thought that " Behind These Hazel Eyes " was a decent follow @-@ up to " Since U Been Gone " , saying " It ' s no " Since U Been Gone " which is just a pop @-@ rock juggernaut , but as follow @-@ ups go , it ' s not too shabby . Clarkson ' s down @-@ home everything (well , mostly her looks) sells these little heartbreak haikus exceptionally well . " He also listed " Behind These Hazel Eyes " as one of the 40 songs that defined the summer of 2005 . Maria DiLorenzo of Yahoo ! ranked " Behind These Hazel Eyes " at number four in her list of " Top Ten Kelly Clarkson Song of the Decade " , writing " beautiful crooning and yes once again an elegant old world romantic video to go along with it . You have no choice but to be enamored by the combination . " Chris Kal of WKNS ranked " Behind These Hazel Eyes " at number four in his list of " Top 10 Summer Songs From 2005 " . Sam Lamsky of PopCrush described the song as " a surefire fan favorite " and ranked it at number nine in his list of " Top 10 Kelly Clarkson songs " . Bill Lamb of About.com put the song at number 62 on his list of " Top 100 Pop Songs of 2005 " . At the 24th ASCAP Pop Music Awards , the song was honored with the Most Performed Songs award . On January 2010 , " Behind These Hazel Eyes " was the fifth most played song of the last decade by American Idol performers . The song was nominated in the category for Song of the Year : Mainstream Hit Radio in the 2005 Radio Music Awards . Robert Copsey of Digital Spy considered " Behind These Hazel Eyes " as Clarkson 's second best single after " Since U Been Gone " , writing "

It proved a slow burner at the time of release , but this track 's greatness continues to be realised over time . " On May 12 , 2015 , Billboard ranked the song at number four on its list of Top 100 ' American Idol ' Hits of All Time .

= = Chart performance = =

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " debuted at number eighty @-@ seven on the Billboard Hot 100 on the week ending , April 23 , 2005 . The song peaked at number six on the week ending June 11 , 2005 . It stayed inside the top ten in Billboard Hot 100 for fifteen weeks . On the week ending August 27 , 2005 , the song topped the Adult Top 40 and stayed in the position for five consecutive weeks . On the Billboard 's Radio Songs , the song peaked at number four on August 6 , 2005 . The song also appeared on the US Pop Songs at number thirty on the week ending April 30 , 2005 , and peaked at number two on the week ending July 9 , 2005 . It spent seven consecutive weeks at number two and was held off the top spot by Mariah Carey 's " We Belong Together " . It became the sixteenth ranked single of the 2000s decade on the Pop Songs chart compiled by Billboard . On January 31 , 2008 , " Behind These Hazel Eyes " was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . The song has sold 1 @,@ 508 @,@ 000 digital copies in the United States as of March 2013 .

Internationally , " Behind These Hazel Eyes " was a commercial success . In Australia , the song debuted and peaked at number six on the week ending July 3 , 2005 . In New Zealand , the song entered New Zealand Singles Chart and peaked at number seven on the week ending July 4 , 2005 as the highest debut of the week . In the United Kingdom , the song also debuted and peaked at number nine on the week ending October 1 , 2005 . In Ireland , the song debuted at number nine on the week ending September 22 , 2005 , and peaked at number four on the week ending November 3 , 2005 .

= = Music video = =

= = = Background and release = = =

The music video was directed by Joseph Kahn and was produced by Danyi Deats @-@ Barrett . It was shot for two days in April 2005 in Toronto at a Church and a sound stage while Clarkson was on tour . According to Kahn , Clarkson was sick during the production and could not speak . During Clarkson 's wardrobe fitting , they communicated together using notes written by her . Though she is seen speaking and is interviewed in the behind the scenes footage . Access Hollywood reported that a single sprinkler was used to produce rain in the music video . The concept of the music video was conceived by Clarkson . She explained , " The whole thing is a metaphor about a broken fairy tale [...] You think everything is going well , and then reality kicks your butt . It 's kind of a sad video , but it 's going to be my best one . It 's real , and that 's why people like me . " Clarkson also added that after the production of the music video was completed , she had bruises and a green @-@ and @-@ yellow splotch on her left biceps . The music video premiered online on May 9 , 2005 , on MTV . On May 16 , 2005 , it premiered on Total Request Live where it debuted at number five on the chart the following day .

= = = Synopsis = = =

The music video begins with Clarkson standing in a room wearing a white wedding dress . Holding a bouquet of red rose , she is surrounded by her bridesmaids as they prepare for her wedding . She sits down on a sofa and sees a wedding photo of her fiancé with another woman as a storm begins to form outside . The bridesmaids try to close the windows but fail so they run out of the room leaving Clarkson alone , who is seen dropping the bouquet of rose as well as the wedding photo from her hands onto the floor . The next scene shows Clarkson walking down the aisle in a church

wearing a black dress . She sees a bride standing at the altar with her fiancé , getting married . When she draws the veil of the bride , she realizes that the bride is the woman from the photo . Clarkson , who is now wearing a white wedding dress , runs out of the church and into a dark swamp . A montage of Clarkson singing with her band in a dark swamp is shown alternately with scenes of Clarkson running in the forest and laying on the ground . Clarkson is also seen standing inside an abandoned house , wearing a voluminous black dress . As the rain starts to fall , Clarkson finally collapsed , kneeling on the ground while looking at and being comforted by her other self who is singing with the band . The scene shifts to a present day , where Clarkson is standing at the altar , exchanging vows with her fiancé . Before he puts the ring on her finger , she looks at the guests and notices that the woman from the photo is among the audience . She sees her fiancé exchanging a smile with the woman as the woman blows him a kiss . Clarkson then reaches for the ring and throws it at her fiancé , before running away from the altar . She throws her wedding bouquet into the lap of the woman and shoves her way past the wedding guests who are trying to stop her from leaving . The video ends with Clarkson stepping out the doors into the bright sunlight .

= = = Reception = = =

James Dinh of MTV Newsroom listed " Behind These Hazel Eyes " as one of the music videos with " a bad case of the runaway bride syndrome , " writing , " Throughout the clip , Clarkson finds herself running through a swampy mud land until she snaps out of her visions , refuses to proceed with the wedding and makes a shocking escape out of the church . " Andrea Holmes of AOL ranked " Behind These Hazel Eyes " at number five in her list of " Top Wedding Music Videos : 15 Clips for the Big ' I Do ' . " She commented , " The perfect illustration of our point about wedding videos , ' Behind These Hazel Eyes ' takes an atypical approach to marriage [...] Throughout the video the weather is dark and rainy , matching the story line , but when Clarkson ditches the wedding and runs out of the church , she is greeted with sunshine . In an interview with MTV , the lead vocalist of Yellowcard , Ryan Key , praised Clarkson in the music video . He said , " She is so unbelievably gorgeous in that video that is all over TV right now [...] The wet wedding dress and the wet hair and ... come on , man ! Who knew ? She is so hot . She looks so good in it . " Robert Copsey of Digital Spy opined that the music video is Clarkson 's best video to date . The music video had a successful run at Total Request Live where it topped the chart for 33 days , a record that Clarkson holds for the longest stay by a female artist at number one on the chart .

= = Live performances = =

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " was included in the setlist of her Breakaway World Tour (2005) . During her concert tour at Germain Arena , Clarkson performed the song wearing the same wedding dress she wore in the song 's music video . Clarkson also performed " Behind These Hazel Eyes " on her All I Ever Wanted Tour (2009) . While touring at Hammerstein Ballroom , New York City , Clarkson sang the stripped down version of the song , accompanied by guitars and vocal . Caryn Ganz of Rolling Stone felt that Alanis ' influence was evident on the chorus of " Behind These Hazel Eyes " which was performed acoustically in the event . Clarkson explained that the arrangement was intended to maximize audience sing @-@ along potential in which Jim Cantiello of MTV thought was effective . On December 2011 , Clarkson also performed " Behind These Hazel Eyes " on Chicago Theatre as part of the Miracle on State Street benefit concert . Bob Gendron of Chicago Tribune reviewed Clarkson 's performance , writing " the Texas native could 've impressed simply by projecting her booming voice and relishing its prodigious range . Yet she seemed determined to reinforce female empowerment themes often missing from her mainstream @-@ pop contemporaries ' hits . "

= = Cover versions = =

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " was covered by Cassadee Pope in the third season of The Voice .

According to Pope , she decided to sing the song in order to reach out to her father who divorced from her mother when she was still 11 years old . Her rendition was praised by Christina Aguilera saying , " I got to feel your heart . "

= = Track listings = =

Digital download and CD single

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " (Album Version) ? 3 : 16

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " (Live @ Sony Connect) ? 3 : 39

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " (Enhanced CD Video) - 3 : 16

Behind These Hazel Eyes ? EP

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " (Joe Bermudez & Josh Harris Mixshow Edit) ? 3 : 29

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " (Joe Bermudez & Josh Harris Mixshow Remix) ? 5 : 24

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " (Joe Bermudez & Josh Harris Mixshow Instrumental) ? 5 : 25

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " (Joe Bermudez & Josh Harris Top 40 Radio Remix) ? 3 : 10

" Behind These Hazel Eyes " (Joe Bermudez & Josh Harris Acappella) ? 2 : 58

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded by Max Martin , Dr. Luke , Lasse Marten and Kevin M. Guarnieri at Maratone Studios , Stockholm , Sweden and Dr. Luke 's NYC & Westlake Audio , Los Angeles , California .

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Breakaway .

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = Release history = =