

= Walk Away (Christina Aguilera song) =

" Walk Away " is a song by American recording artist Christina Aguilera , taken from her fourth studio album , Stripped (2002) . The song was written by Aguilera , Scott Storch and Matt Morris . Its production was handled by Storch , while Aguilera and E. Dawk served as vocal producers . The track is a piano @-@ driven ballad which talks about an abusive relationship , where Aguilera uses a " clever " metaphor .

Upon its release , " Walk Away " received mainly positive reviews from music critics , who praised its melody and deemed it as one of the stand @-@ out tracks from Stripped . On March 14 , 2008 , the song peaked at number 35 on the Danish Tracklisten chart , becoming the only non @-@ single entry from Stripped on the chart . Aguilera performed the track on two of her major concert tours : Justified & Stripped Tour (2003) and The Stripped Tour (2003) .

= = Background and recording = =

Following the release of the self @-@ titled debut album in 1999 , Aguilera had achieved major success with four worldwide number @-@ one hits . Despite the international success , the singer was dissatisfied with the music and image that her manager , Steve Kurtz , had created for her , having been marketed as a bubblegum pop singer because of the genre 's upward financial trend . She mentioned plans for her next album to have more musical and lyrical depth . Aguilera decided not to continue the contact with Kurtz . By late 2000 , after terminating Kurtz 's services , Irving Azoff was hired as her new manager . Aguilera decided to take a more prominent role in the musical direction of her next record . She also used her new alter ego , " Xтина " , and changed her appearance .

Speaking about the conception of the album , Aguilera told MTV News that " it is a new beginning , a re @-@ introduction of myself as a new artist in a way , because for the first time people are really seeing and getting to know who I really am " . She also revealed , " Coming off of the height of being a part of such a big pop @-@ craze phenomenon , that imagery of that cookie @-@ cutter sweetheart , without it being me , I just had to take it all down and get it away from me . And that is why I actually named the album Stripped , because it is about being emotionally stripped down and pretty bare to open my soul and heart " . " Walk Away " was written by Aguilera , Scott Storch and Matt Morris , with production handled by Storch .

= = Composition and critical reception = =

" Walk Away " is a piano @-@ driven waltz ballad . Written in the key of G major , it is a downtempo song , with a moderate slow and bluesy tempo of 52 beats per minute . It is followed by a chord progression of Em ? C7 in the verses . Aguilera 's vocal range on the song span nearly two octaves , from the low @-@ note of C3 to the high @-@ note of G5 . In the track , Aguilera uses a " sultry lower range " . Lyrically , " Walk Away " is about an abusive relationship , where she uses a " clever " metaphor . At the song 's beginning , the lyrics " What do you do , when you know something 's bad for you , and you still can 't let go ? " are spoken by Aguilera . In the first verse , she sings , " Your love was like candy / Artificially sweet , I was deceived by your wrapping " . The track was described as a non @-@ sense song by Amanda Murray for Sputnikmusic .

Upon its release , " Walk Away " received mainly positive reviews from contemporary music critics . Slant Magazine editor Sal Cinquemani chose " Walk Away " as one of the stand @-@ out ballads from Stripped . Janceen Dunn from Rolling Stone called it a " torchy can 't @-@ let @-@ go number " . Doug Elfman for Las Vegas Review @-@ Journal labelled it " gorgeous " , while Amanda Murray from Sputnikmusic wrote that the song " sounds sexy " , although it is " one of the only songs on the album that makes no effort to , certainly not lyrically " . In 2010 , Nick Levine from Digital Spy listed " Walk Away " as one of Aguilera 's ten best songs . He calls Aguilera 's vocals " emotive " and the song 's theme " heartfelt " , commenting that the song would have been a single .

= = Live performances = =

Aguilera first performed " Walk Away " on the Justified & Stripped Tour , a concert tour which was held in summer 2003 to support Justin Timberlake 's album Justified (2002) and Aguilera 's Stripped . In late 2003 , Aguilera continued to perform the track on the former 's extension , Stripped Live ... on Tour , which happened without Timberlake 's acts . The performance in London is included on the singer 's first full @-@ length DVD Stripped Live in the U.K. (2004) . Aguilera also performed " Walk Away " on the Late Show with David Letterman on January 16 , 2004 .

= = Charts = =

On March 14 , 2008 , " Walk Away " debuted and peaked at number 35 on the Danish Tracklisten chart , becoming the only non @-@ single song from Stripped to chart on the Tracklisten .