

= Daughters (Nas song) =

" Daughters " is a song by American rapper Nas , released on July 17 , 2012 , by Def Jam Recordings as the third single from his 2012 album Life Is Good . He wrote it as a reflection on the growth of his daughter Destiny Jones . It was produced by No I.D. and was one of the first songs recorded for the album .

" Daughters " features lyrics about raising a daughter and vignettes about fatherhood . Nas ' lyrics address his daughter 's behavioral problems and are self @-@ critical of his parenting skills . No I.D. 's soul @-@ influenced production incorporates samples of Cloud One 's 1979 song " Dust to Dust " and Wayne McGhie and the Sounds of Joy 's 1970 song " Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye " .

" Daughters " was released to positive reviews from music critics while charting at number 78 on Billboard 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . It also earned Nas two Grammy Award nominations , one for Best Rap Performance and another for Best Rap Song .

= = Writing and recording = =

With " Daughters " , Nas wanted to write a song that expressed him observing the growth of his daughter Destiny Jones , who was 17 years old at the time . Nas said in an interview with XXL :

" She 's so important to me and she always has been . They grow so fast and time flies man . Before you know it , you ? re looking at a little lady . She 's my first kid , my first time watching a child become a teen and a little adult before my eyes . That 's one of the most important things in my life . She is . I can ? t get away from talking about it . "

" Daughters " was one of the first tracks Nas recorded for his 2012 album Life Is Good . Recording sessions for the song took place at 4220 Studios , Conway Recording Studios , and EastWest Studio in Hollywood , and at Record One in Sherman Oaks , California . It was produced by No I.D. , who incorporated live instrumentation , including guitar by Steve Wyreman and keyboards by James Poyser and Kevin Randolph . Kaye Fox sung additional vocals on the song .

Destiny Jones was in the studio when they were recording " Daughters " . " We were in a big studio so Destiny was doing other things " , Nas later told Vibe . " She walked into the room where I was recording it and heard a few words and said , ? What ? s going on ? ? The whole room just started laughing and she kind of smiled and walked backwards out of the room . She didn ? t know what it was about and she didn ? t want to listen to it , but later on she heard the song . "

= = Music and lyrics = =

" Daughters " uses samples of Wayne McGhie and the Sounds of Joy 's 1970 song " Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye " and Cloud One 's 1979 song " Dust to Dust " . According to Artistdirect critic Rick Florino , the song draws on " shimmering " soul music and personal vignettes about fatherhood by Nas , who dedicates the song to " my brothers with daughters . "

According to Ken Capobianco of The Boston Globe , " Daughters " is " an emotionally complex paeon to raising a girl " by a father who " struggles to let her find her way " . Pitchfork Media 's Jayson Greene said the song " finds him examining the responsibilities of fatherhood with fond bewilderment . " New York Times critic Jon Caramanica remarked that Nas sounded conflicted " between forgiving his daughter her occasional transgressions and indicting himself for not being a stern enough parent " . In the opinion of Billboard 's Erika Ramirez , he drew on an allegory of fatherhood that seemed universal .

Nas made reference to finding his daughter 's letter to a man in jail and the controversy that ensued when she posted a photo of a box of condoms on Instagram . According to Kyle Ellison from Drowned in Sound , Nas also commented on gender expectations in his rap , citing the line " when he date , he straight , chip off his old papa / when she date , we wait behind the door with a sawed off / ' cause we think no one is good enough for our daughters . "

= = Release and reception = =

" Daughters " was premiered on DJ Prostyle 's radio show on Power 105 @. @ 1 on April 26 , 2012 . Chris Robinson directed a music video for the song , which premiered on May 27 and was " visualized through the eyes of [Destiny Jones] ? from her third birthday party to her high school years to getting into trouble with boys " , Rap @- @ Up reported . On July 17 , Def Jam Recordings released " Daughters " as a single , the third from Life Is Good . It was performed by Nas on the Late Show with David Letterman that same day . Nas also wanted to record a remix of the song with Eminem , who turned the offer down , explaining that he had spoken enough on the subject of fatherhood in his own music . He also reached out to Jay @- @ Z , but their busy schedules did not permit them to record together .

" Daughters " peaked at number 78 on the U.S. Billboard Hot R & B / Hip @- @ Hop Songs , on which it charted for nine weeks . It was received positively by critics , including AllMusic editor David Jeffries , who found it " well written " , and Robert Christgau , who named it a highlight on Life Is Good . Greene deemed it a " sweetly reflective response " by Nas to his daughter 's behavior , while Amidon found his level of honesty on the song " intense " and " probably the most honest we ? re ever going to hear Nas " . Alex Macpherson of Fact called it " a song that 's as likely to make fathers everywhere misty @- @ eyed as it is to make teenage girls cringe in horror " . Respect. magazine deemed it a worthy example of when hip hop transcends its entertainment value in " an effort to celebrate and share the complexities of raising a daughter in the hip @- @ hop community " . " Daughters " was nominated for two Grammy Awards , one in the category of Best Rap Performance and another for Best Rap Song . Complex ranked it number 39 on its list of 2012 's 50 best songs .

Carmen Bryan , Nas ' ex @- @ wife , was critical of the song , calling it a " disappointment " while claiming via Twitter , " He had nothing positive to say about our daughter and his depiction of her is false ! " In response , American rapper Common defended Nas for his personal songwriting and likened " Daughters " to his own 1997 song " Retrospect for Life " , which he wrote about his girlfriend 's abortion . " I 've had people come to me because of those type of songs and say it changed their life " , Common told XXL . " Or somebody be like , ' Man , that song made me decide to have my child instead of having an abortion . ' Something that Nas said in that song may inspire somebody to be a better father so I think it ? s worth it . " In an interview for Vibe , Nas said of his daughter 's reaction to the song :

" I think she understands where I was coming from . She can hear me saying that I wasn ? t always around and I wasn ? t always the best dad , but I care . And there are a lot of fathers like me . To me , ? Daughters ? lets all those fathers out there know , ? Hey , don ? t end up like me in terms of not being there all the time . ? You should really pay attention to the most precious thing in the world . Destiny and I hang out all the time . She never beefs with me about it . "

= = Track listing = =

Digital single

= = Personnel = =

Credits are adapted from the liner notes for Life Is Good .

Kaye Fox ? additional vocals

Rob Kinelski ? mixing , recording engineer

Nas ? composer , performer

No I.D. ? composer , producer

James Poyser ? keyboards

Kevin Randolph ? keyboards

Brian Sumner ? recording engineer

Anna Ugarte ? assistant engineer , mixing assistant

Steve Wyreman ? guitar