

= Luxurious =

" Luxurious " is a song by American singer and songwriter Gwen Stefani from her debut solo studio album , Love . Angel . Music . Baby . (2004) . Written by Stefani and Tony Kanal , the track contains a sample of The Isley Brothers ' 1983 song " Between the Sheets " .

In addition to the Isley Brothers sample , the song features use of keyboards , synthesizers , and electric guitars . " Luxurious " is an R & B ballad whose lyrics describe the persona 's desire to be rich in love , simultaneously comparing her lover with luxuries . The song also features Stefani 's then @-@ husband Gavin Rossdale who opens the song in French .

The song was released as the album 's fifth single in October 2005 along with a remix featuring rapper Slim Thug . A music video was also released which featured Slim Thug , as well as the Harajuku Girls . The track received mixed reviews from critics , who generally found it less impressive than the previous singles . It charted within the top 40 in several countries , but had mediocre success overall and was less popular than the previous singles from Love . Angel . Music . Baby .

= = Writing and development = =

Stefani had an emotional breakdown from difficulties collaborating with many other artists and songwriters , so No Doubt bassist Tony Kanal invited her to his house . Kanal had been working on a track , which later became " Crash " , the sixth single from the album . However , the two were unable to write anything following that , because they had differing ideas of how the music should sound . Stefani commented that " it was just frustrating and embarrassing to sit there and think we could write songs . " Six months later , the two returned to work and came up with the beginnings of a song while working in Kanal 's bedroom . The two experimented with combining various melodies and including what Stefani referred to as " this really kinda fast rappy part " . This was the last song she and Kanal wrote together for the album .

After Stefani and Kanal finished writing " Luxurious " , they visited record producer Nellee Hooper , who suggested a sample of The Isley Brothers ' 1983 song " Between the Sheets " . The song had previously been sampled in several songs such as Da Brat 's " Funkdafied " , Jim Jones ' " Summer wit Miami " , The Notorious B.I.G. ' s " Big Poppa " , and Whitney Houston 's " One of Those Days " . Stefani was reluctant to use the sample because it would mean losing some of the publishing rights to the song . Nevertheless , she decided to use it because " it sounded so amazing and meant to be " .

= = Composition = =

" Luxurious " is an R & B ballad , whose instrumentation consists of keyboards and synthesizers . It is written in common time in the key of A minor . The song uses a descending i @-@ vii @-@ VI @-@ V chord progression . The lyrics of the song include descriptions of wealth and riches , what one reviewer called " a world of Egyptian cotton , cashmere , tuberose , and , of course , diamonds " . Stefani stated that " [the] song really is more about a love relationship . If you really listen to the lyrics , it has nothing to do with money or luxury . It has to do with love , being rich in love . I just wanted to think of a clever way to express how you have to work really hard for the rewards of that . " The single version of the song contains an additional verse from rapper Slim Thug for release to urban radio and clubs .

The song begins with Stefani 's then @-@ husband Gavin Rossdale speaking in French and then leads into the first verse . The lyrics describe Stefani talking about " flying first class " and " livin ' like a queen " . She talks about being luxuriously in love and calls her lover Limousine and Treasure Chest . She talks about the increasing passion between her and her partner , and says , " Our passion it just multiplies " and " got in the fifth gear , baby " . In the chorus she tells that love is getting expensive and she and her partner have to work hard night and day to be rich in love , and after working hard , when they lay back together , they get the payback . After the second verse ,

the song gets slower and Stefani repeats " Cha @-@ ching , cha @-@ ching " four times alternated with lines talking about getting " hooked up with the love " and " hydroponic love " . The song ends with Rossdale speaking more lines in French .

= = Critical reception = =

" Luxurious " received mixed reviews from music critics . Bill Lamb of About.com commented , " If Madonna is wishing to pass on her ' Material Girl ' title , Gwen Stefani is happy to wear it proudly " , but noted that " [t] hings are wearing a little thin , and this song doesn 't have the striking impact of ' Rich Girl ' or ' Hollaback Girl ' . " Sam Shepherd of musicOMH agreed , writing that " ' Luxurious ' is by no means a bad song , but it is pretty ordinary when compared to the songs that have preceded it . " PopMatters ' Jason Damas found the track uninteresting and stated that Rossdale 's appearance " sounds like a blinged @-@ out Saint Etienne " . Alex Lai from Contactmusic.com called Stefani 's performance " as seductive as ever , and the production extremely polished , but it lacks the infectiousness of her other releases " ; he found Slim Thug 's remix unnecessary and viewed the single 's release as " a money @-@ spinning exercise " .

Laura Heaps from MyVillage agreed , stating that the single " just doesn 't stand out " and that Stefani " doesn 't do hip hop as well as she does quirky pop " , and Playlouder 's Richard Smirke described the track as a " sickly sweet R & B ballad " . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine called the lyrics " surprisingly sharp " ; Nick Sylvester of Pitchfork Media disagreed , dubbing the song a " soulless Nellee Hooper 90s R & B vanity affair " and a " zombied buy @-@ LAMB @-@ clothing mantra " . In August 2013 , Complex magazine placed " Luxurious " at number 19 on its list of " The Best R & B Songs by White Singers in the 2000s " .

= = Commercial performance = =

In the United States , " Luxurious " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 80 on the issue dated November 5 , 2005 . It failed to reach the top 20 , peaking at number 21 five weeks later , and remained on the chart for 20 weeks . It performed better on the pop @-@ oriented charts , reaching number three on the Pop 100 chart , number 10 on the Mainstream Top 40 chart , and number 37 on the Adult Top 40 chart . The track also had some crossover success , charting at number nine on the Rhythmic Top 40 chart and number 33 on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . In Canada , the single was released to radio on October 25 , 2005 , peaking at number 10 on the Canadian Singles Chart in its sixth week on the chart .

The song was released on December 5 , 2005 in Europe and Australia . It received very little promotion in the UK and continued the trend of Stefani 's lower @-@ charting singles since " Hollaback Girl " when it debuted at number 44 on the UK Singles Chart , spending three weeks on the chart . The single performed similarly throughout Europe , where it reached the top 40 in Ireland , Italy , the Netherlands , and Switzerland , but generally did not reach the top 30 . It did particularly well in Finland , where it charted at number two , becoming the highest @-@ peaking single of Stefani 's solo career in that country , although it spent only two weeks on the chart . Stefani 's previous four singles had been successful in Australia , where all reached the top 10 ; however , " Luxurious " did not reach the top 20 and reached a peak of number 25 . In New Zealand , " Luxurious " was moderately successful , where it reached number 17 but stayed on the chart for only 10 weeks .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Luxurious " was directed by Sophie Muller . In the video , Stefani plays a chola in high school . Then Stefani , accompanied by her Harajuku Girls , receive a manicure at a beauty salon , and styling her hair and applying cosmetics in front of a mirror . She shows off gold jewellery with her name carved on it . During his rap , Slim Thug appears in sequences with either Stefani or two Harajuku Girls . It concludes with Stefani joining her friends in a block party , where

they celebrate with breakdancing and a barbecue . The video is intercut with sequences of Stefani breaking open piñatas and lying on a candy @-@ covered floor , styled in a fashion resembling Mexican painter Frida Kahlo .

Stefani had generally developed music video concepts while writing the song , but since she had not expected " Luxurious " to become a single , she had not given much thought to a music video for the song . The image she had for her persona was a high school girl named Mercedes , who she described as " very inspiring " :

She 's this total like chola girl , white face , and she used to sit in class and put on tons of makeup . And I used to just watch her , mesmerized . And she would just wear this dark liner and this red lipstick and she had this safety pin and she 'd be picking her eyelashes apart . She hadn 't taken that mascara off for months .

Stefani called Muller , who had directed several videos for Stefani and No Doubt , to direct the music video . Muller did not understand Stefani 's vision for the video , so Stefani became involved in developing ideas for the video .

The video had limited success on music video programs . On MTV 's Total Request Live , the video debuted on October 25 , 2005 at number 10 . It peaked at number seven and left the countdown after only five days . After its October 21 debut on MuchMusic 's Countdown , it peaked nine weeks later at number 11 , remaining on the chart for 13 weeks . The video was featured on an episode of MuchMusic 's Video on Trial , where the reviewers found it a superficial attempt to market to various races .

= = Track listings = =

European and Canadian CD single

" Luxurious " (Album Version) ? 4 : 24

" Luxurious " (Remix featuring Slim Thug) [Radio Edit] ? 4 : 04

European CD maxi single and Australian CD single

" Luxurious " (Album Version) ? 4 : 24

" Luxurious " (Remix featuring Slim Thug) [Radio Edit] ? 4 : 04

" Cool " (Richard X Remix) ? 6 : 37

" Luxurious " (Video) ? 4 : 06

US 12 " single

A1 . " Luxurious " (Remix featuring Slim Thug) ? 4 : 22

A2 . " Luxurious " (Album Version) ? 4 : 24

B1 . " Luxurious " (A Cappella) ? 3 : 42

B2 . " Luxurious " (Instrumental) ? 4 : 24

Some vinyl copies accidentally have the Slim Thug remix twice on side A.

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Love . Angel . Music . Baby .

= = Charts = =