

= Sometimes (Britney Spears song) =

" Sometimes " is a song recorded by American singer Britney Spears for her debut studio album , ... Baby One More Time (1999) . Written by Spears and Jörgen Elofsson and produced by Per Magnusson and David Kreuger , the song was released as Spears ' second single on April 30 , 1999 by JIVE Records . " Sometimes " is a teen pop song that is influenced by bubblegum pop , and alludes to a relationship where a shy girl is reserved on expressing feelings to her lover . The song received generally mixed reviews from contemporary critics .

" Sometimes " attained worldwide success , peaking inside the top ten in eleven countries . In the United States , the song peaked at number twenty one . The song reached number one in Belgium (Flanders) , Netherlands and New Zealand , while reaching number two in Australia . In the United Kingdom , the song reached number three , and is also Spears ' third best @-@ selling single in the country . An accompanying music video , directed by Nigel Dick , was shot at the Paradise Cove in Malibu , California . It portrays Spears watching her love interest from afar . Spears has performed " Sometimes " in four of her concert tours , including at the ... Baby One More Time Tour (1999) , the Oops ! ... I Did It Again World Tour (2000 ? 01) , and the Dream Within a Dream Tour (2001 ? 02) .

= = Background = =

Before recording her debut album , Spears had originally envisioned it in style of " Sheryl Crow music , but younger [and] more adult contemporary " . However , the singer agreed with her label 's appointment of producers , who had the objective to reach a teen public at the time . She flew to Cheiron Studios in Stockholm , Sweden , where half of the album was recorded from March to April 1998 , with producers Max Martin , Denniz Pop and Rami Yacoub , among others . " Sometimes " was written by Jörgen Elofsson , and produced by Per Magnusson and David Kreuger . Spears recorded the vocals for the song in March 1998 , at Cheiron Studios in Stockholm , Sweden . It was also mixed at Cheiron Studios by Martin . Esbjörn Öhrwall played the acoustic guitar , while bass guitar was done by Thomas Lindberg . Keyboards and programming was done by Kreuger , and additional keyboards by Magnusson . Background vocals were provided by Anders von Hoffsten . Spears also co @-@ wrote and recorded a track called " I 'm So Curious " , produced by Eric Foster White , that was released as a b @-@ side to " Sometimes " . The track was recorded in 1997 at 4MW East Studios in New Jersey . " Sometimes " was released as the second single from ... Baby One More Time on April 30 , 1999 .

= = = Songwriting controversy = = =

The song created controversy over the writing credits . Steve Wallace , an Indiana songwriter , claimed he wrote " Sometimes " in 1990 , but didn 't copyright it until 2003 , four years after Spears registered the song 's copyright . Wallace claimed Spears confessed he wrote the song , by showing to the court a possible e @-@ mail from the singer , which said , " I now know for a fact that you wrote [' Sometimes '] . But there 's nothing I can do about it . That 's all I can say about it . " The e @-@ mail was considered fake and the lawsuit was dismissed on October 31 , 2005 , when Judge John D. Tinder claimed the singer didn 't steal the song .

= = Composition = =

" Sometimes " is a romantic teen pop song that is influenced by bubblegum pop , with a length of four minutes and four seconds . The song is composed in the key of B ? major and is set in time signature of common time with a moderately slow tempo of 96 beats per minute . After the bridge , it transposes to B major . Spears ' vocal range spans almost two octaves from the low note F3 to the high note E5 . The song has a sequence of Cm11 ? F7sus ? B ? ? B ? (9) / D ? F / A ? F as its chord progression . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of Allmusic noted " Sometimes " has " a catchy hook

and endearing melody , with a reminiscent euro @-@ dance rhythm . "

Lyrically , the song is a " heartbroken ballad " , where Spears declares on the introduction , " You tell me you 're in love with me / That you can 't take your pretty eyes away from me / It 's not that I don 't wanna stay / But every time you come too close I move away " . According to musicologist Melanie Lowe , " Spears shows a different side of her personality [with ' Sometimes '] than she does in her other songs . " Both of them also commented the song " lacks rhythmic drive and the backing track is fuller , with smoother and rounder synthesized instruments " , while describing Spears ' vocals as more natural when compared to " ... Baby One More Time " and " (You Drive Me) Crazy " .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" Sometimes " received mixed reviews from music critics . A reviewer from CD Universe commented that the song " warns a potential love of [Spears] need for time and patience , rolling along nicely with a slow groove and a big beat . " Amanda Murray of Sputnikmusic considered " Sometimes " a competent single , but claimed the song as unremarkable . Kyle Anderson of MTV said that the song " introduces the first sorta @-@ ballad to [... Baby One More Time] , " and considered it " reasonable enough , though through three songs Spears ' lyric approach appears to be entirely about guys . Like , she never stops thinking about them . " Caryn Ganz of Rolling Stone called " Sometimes " a " further hit " from ... Baby One More Time , along with " From the Bottom of My Broken Heart " and " (You Drive Me) Crazy " . Spence D. of IGN considered " Sometimes " a " [Max Martin] glossy grown @-@ up pop " song , while Annabel Leathes of BBC Online said the song " represent the innocent years when Britney annoyed and titillated in equal measure . " During the 2000 BMI Pop Awards , " Sometimes " was honored with the award of Most Performed BMI Song .

= = = Chart performance = = =

" Sometimes " achieved commercial success worldwide . The song reached number one in Belgium (Flanders) , Netherlands and New Zealand , and was certified Gold in the latter by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) , for selling more than 7 @,@ 500 physical units of the single . It also peaked at number two in Australia , where it was later certified Platinum by the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) , after shipping over 70 @,@ 000 units , and number four in Finland and Sweden , while reaching the top ten on other five music charts . " Sometimes " was also successful in the United Kingdom . It entered and peaked at number three on the UK Singles Chart on June 26 , 1999 . According to The Official Charts Company , " Sometimes " is Spears ' third best @-@ selling single in the United Kingdom , with sales over 456 @,@ 000 physical units . In the United States , the song peaked at number 21 on Billboard Hot 100 on the week of July 24 , 1999 , while reaching number 11 on the Adult Contemporary and number 29 on the Adult Pop Songs charts . It also managed to peak at number six on Pop Songs . " Sometimes " was also certified Silver by the Syndicat National de l'Édition Phonographique (SNEP) , for sales over 125 @,@ 000 units of the single in France , where it peaked at number 13 .

= = Music video = =

Spears started rehearsing for the music video for " Sometimes " in February 1999 . However , during the rehearsals , the singer injured her knee and was forced to start sessions of physical therapy . A month later , Spears released in a statement : " I want to thank my wonderful fans and all of the people who have offered their love and support during this time , " while revealing she wouldn 't be able to shoot the music video until April 1999 . The music video was later directed by Nigel Dick , who also directed her previous video for Spears ' 1998 debut single " ... Baby One More Time " . It

was shot at the Paradise Cove in Malibu , California . The music video was released on May 6 , 1999 on Total Request Live .

According to MTV , the initial concept for the music video was to portray Spears on the porch of a beachfront home watching a group of kids having fun , prompting flashbacks about her former boyfriend . The video begins with Spears going to the telescope , and Spears is looking through a telescope , The concept was later changed a man and a dog walk on the beach , portraying the singer as the girl next door , watching her love interest , played by model Chad Cole , from afar . The beach location was kept , and the music video intercuts with scenes of Spears ' dancing on the Paradise Cove pier with her dancers dressed all in beach @-@ friendly white attire , then Spears sits near a car . A writer of Rolling Stone noted the video is best known for " purifying the sexy persona Spears introduced in the ' ... Baby One More Time ' video " , while describing it as " a virginal Britney in a long , flowing white dress (and other demure outfits) gazes at a clean @-@ cut boy on the beach , then she walks on the balcony with a pink ball , then does some chaste choreography that features her dancers forming a heart while she sings that she only wants to " hold you tight , treat you right . " Spears is sitting on a picnic blanket wishing she was there with him . She leaves alone . " On February 20 , 2012 , behind the scenes footage of the music video leaked online .

= = Live performances and covers = =

Spears performed " Sometimes " in four concert tours , with the first time being on the ... Baby One More Time Tour (1999) , where she performed a cover of " Open Arms " by Journey before following into the performance of the song . The song was also performed in a medley with (You Drive Me) Crazy at the Teen Choice Awards in 1999 , at the Summer Music Mania in 1999 , at the UK version of Top Of The Pops in 1999 and at the U.S. Open Arthur Ashe Kid 's Day in 1999 along with ... Baby One More Time , (You Drive Me) Crazy and I Will Be There . It was performed again on 2000s Crazy 2k Tour before the show 's encore , and , in the same year , on the Oops ! ... I Did It Again World Tour (2000 ? 01) , wearing an outfit similar to the one she wore in the music video of the song during the performance . " Sometimes " was performed for the last time on Dream Within a Dream Tour . Right after the performance of " Overprotected " (2001) , a giant musical box was raised on the stage , and Spears emerged from the middle as a ballerina to perform the song in a medley with " Lucky " (2000) and " Born to Make You Happy " (1999) . the song was briefly sung at The Onyx Hotel Tour . She sang the lines sometimes I run sometimes I fall . " Sometimes " was covered by hardcore punk band Reach the Sky for the compilation album Punk Goes Pop (2002) . Jamaican singer Sanchez also covered the song in a reggae form for his album Simply Being Me (2000) .

= = Track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits for " Sometimes " and " I 'm So Curious " are taken from the single 's liner notes .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =