

= Ring the Alarm =

" Ring the Alarm " is a song recorded by American singer Beyoncé Knowles for her second studio album , B 'Day (2006) . It was composed by Knowles , Kasseem " Swizz Beatz " Dean and Sean Garrett . Columbia Records released " Ring the Alarm " as the second single from B 'Day in the United States on October 17 , 2006 , while " Irreplaceable " (2006) was serviced as the album 's second international and third US single . The song 's development was motivated by Knowles ' role in the Broadway musical adaptation Dreamgirls (2006) . The cover art of " Ring the Alarm " proved controversial because Knowles used alligators during the photography session . People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) , declared that Knowles ' posing with a baby alligator was arguably abusive to an animal .

" Ring the Alarm " is an R & B song with punk rock influences . Its introduction features a blaring siren , which sets an aggressive tone . The song 's lyrics revolve a woman who feels threatened , and is unwilling to allow another woman to profit from the protagonist 's efforts to improve her lover 's life . The lyrics were rumored to be about Barbadian recording artist Rihanna 's relationship with Jay @-@ Z ; Knowles refuted the allegation in an interview with Seventeen magazine . The song was received with mixed reception for contemporary music critics , who noted that it was different from Knowles ' previous work . While some commended her willingness to take risks , others were polarized about her aggressive vocals . " Ring the Alarm " was nominated for Best Female R & B Vocal Performance at the 49th Grammy Awards .

The single debuted at number 12 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , becoming Knowles ' highest US debut at the time . It reached number 11 on the chart , becoming her first solo single to peak below the top 10 . Its accompanying music video was inspired by the 1992 film Basic Instinct and was directed by Sophie Muller . It was filmed inside a cavernous hangar on the Brooklyn waterfront in New York City . The video garnered generally mixed reviews critics , who universally thought that it was eccentric . Knowles promoted " Ring the Alarm " through various live performances on televised shows and awards ceremonies , including the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards . The song was included on her set list on The Beyoncé Experience (2007) in Los Angeles and her world tour , I Am ... Tour . (2009 ? 10)

= = Writing and production = =

After six months of filming for the Broadway musical adaptation of Dreamgirls , Knowles was on vacation . Inspired by her role in the film , she said : " [When filming ended ,] I had so many things bottled up , so many emotions , so many ideas " . After contacting American songwriters and record producers Sean Garrett along with Rodney Jerkins , Rich Harrison , and Kasseem " Swizz Beatz " Dean , Knowles rented Sony Music Studios to begin working on her second solo album B 'Day . Garret said : " I came to the studio and saw the zone ... everybody in here is banging out . Rodney Jerkins had his session , Rich Harrison had his session going on ... I started banging out some shit . " " Ring the Alarm " was produced by Knowles , Garrett and Swizz Beatz ; its lyrics were being written at the same time by the trio . Swizz Beatz stated : " [' Ring the Alarm ' is] just one of the many presents I gave [Knowles] for her B 'Day . I have the most tracks on her album as a single producer " . " Ring the Alarm " was co @-@ arranged by Knowles and recorded in the same studio . She said about her collaboration with Swizz Beatz , " I love working with Swizz . He 's challenging . His beats are so complex it 's hard to find a melody . But [' Ring the Alarm '] just clicked " .

= = Composition and lyrical interpretation = =

" Ring the Alarm " is an R & B song that incorporates elements of punk rock , According to the sheet music published by EMI Music Publishing , it is composed in the key of A minor but changes to E major in the bridge and changes to A minor , and set in common time at a moderately slow tempo of 85 beats per minute . The instrumentation of " Ring the Alarm " includes drums , clattering percussion instrument , treble synthesizers , and bass instrument . It also makes use of a slapping

backbeat , an air horn , titanic handclaps , plonks , and breathing noises . A blaring siren is used as the song 's introductory sound , setting an aggressive tone , which is augmented by Knowles ' throaty mezzo @-@ soprano growl . Tim Finney of Pitchfork Media described her vocals as " thrillingly sharp with anxiety and paranoia " , and Tom Breihan of The Village Voice commented that she sings with " a frantic intensity " . Knowles ' vocals range from the note of A3 to F5 . Her strong shout vocal styling is meshed with the grooves , and enhanced with echo and shimmer , which overlap with one another , creating a neo @-@ warm vibe .

Knowles commented on the song , " It 's energetic , aggressive and filled with hard beats " . She explained that the album was completed in three weeks , which is the reason most of the record , including " Ring the Alarm " sounds aggressive . She further clarified that she did not intend to write an angry song , " Swizz 's [' Ring the Alarm '] had that tough vibe , like the guy had cheated , and I wanted to write something honest . If you 're in a relationship , even if the man 's cheating and you end up not wanting him , the thought of another woman benefiting from the lessons you taught him . " " Ring the Alarm " features Knowles as the female protagonist impersonating a threatened woman involved in a love triangle . She is unwilling to allow another woman to profit from all the efforts she put on to make her lover a better man . Frances Romero of Time magazine noted that Knowles ' anger is due to her man 's wandering eye , her desire to leave , and the thought of having to give him up to some unworthy woman .

Tamara Coniff of Billboard magazine noted that the verses of " Ring the Alarm " resemble those of Aretha Franklin 's songs . Tom Breihan commented that Knowles " [wails] with force and purpose on the verses " . As the song opens , she tells her lover , " I can 't let you go " , and that she will not allow another woman to take everything she owns , including the chinchilla coats and the house on the coast . Knowles screams the refrain ? " Ring the alarm , I 've been doin [g] this too long / But I 'll be damned if I see another chick on your arm " ? " through a thick fog of distortion " , as noted by Jody Rosen of Entertainment Weekly . Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe added that she chants the lines with grit and urgency , while Breihan wrote that she sings them " with a frantic intensity " . Knowles later declares that her relationship is " not the picture perfect movie everyone would assume " .

= = Single selection and release = =

In June 2006 , Knowles invited Tamara Coniff of Billboard magazine to a New York recording studio where she played " Ring the Alarm " and " Freakum Dress " (2006) for the prospect of the next US single , and she also had plans for " Green Light " (2007) and " Get Me Bodied " (2007) to hit international markets . However , she ultimately opted for " Ring the Alarm " to be released as the second single of the album in the US , following " Déjà Vu " (2006) . On September 10 , 2006 , it was added to US urban contemporary radio playlists . A two @-@ track CD single was released on October 3 , 2006 , and a five @-@ track remix CD was later made available on October 17 , 2006 . Knowles approached English production team Freemasons to remix " Ring the Alarm " . A club @-@ oriented version was produced and included on the band 's debut album , Shakedown , released in 2007 .

= = Controversies = =

The lyrics of " Ring the Alarm " were rumored to be about singer Rihanna 's relationship with rapper Jay @-@ Z. According to media speculation , Knowles , Rihanna and Jay @-@ Z were part of a love triangle in 2006 . It was rumored that Jay @-@ Z had always been faithful to Knowles until he met Rihanna , whose popularity grew considerably during that year . She tempted Jay @-@ Z to live a romantic relationship with her while he was still with Knowles . As commented by Tom Breihan of The Village Voice , Knowles took advantage of " [people 's] sympathy and unleash [ed] a burst of public rage in the form of [' Ring the Alarm '] " . In an interview for Seventeen magazine , she however clarified that the lyrics had no connection with Rihanna , before adding that she was unaware of the rumors that had been circulating . Concerned that someone was trying to sabotage

Knowles ' second studio album , Knowles ' father and manager , Mathew Knowles , released an official statement :

It is apparent that there is a consistent plan by some to create chaos around Beyoncé 's B 'Day album release on September 4 in the US . First , it was a petition against the single , ' Déjà Vu ' , then a rumor regarding conflict between Beyoncé and Rihanna , seizures caused by the ' Ring the Alarm ' video , putting out a single to compete with LeToya 's album and now to add to all the ridiculous rumors , is my plan to postpone the release of her ' B 'Day ' album . What will be next ? Beyoncé 's cut off all her hair ? Dyed it green ? Maybe she 's singing the songs in reverse with some hidden subliminal message !

The cover art of " Ring the Alarm " , caused controversy because alligators were used during the photography session . Knowles affirmed that using the animal , and taping their mouths shut , was her idea . People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) , which had previously confronted her after she used furs for her fashion line 's clothing design , contacted a biologist who wrote a letter to Knowles , " As a specialist in reptile biology and welfare , I 'm concerned about your posing with a terrified baby alligator for your new album cover . Humans and alligators are not natural bedfellows , and the two should not mix at events such as photo shoots . In my view , doing so is arguably abusive to an animal . "

= = Critical response = =

= = = Reviews = = =

" Ring the Alarm " received polarized responses from contemporary music critics , who noted that it was a marked departure from Knowles ' previous material . Eb Haynes of AllHipHop wrote that the song is " emotionally high @-@ powered . The Boston Globe 's Sarah Rodman noted that it finds Knowles in " full hell @-@ hath @-@ no @-@ fury mode " , singing with grit and urgency that feel genuine . A critic of Billboard magazine viewed " Ring the Alarm " as a memorable release even though he wrote that it is not as good as Knowles ' 2003 single " Crazy in Love " . He praised her distorted vocals and the " ranting assault of a lyric " , which she uses to convince her love interest . Jody Rosen of Entertainment Weekly called " Ring the Alarm " torrid , and wrote that Knowles " sounds positively horrified by the prospect of relinquishing the luxury goodies her boyfriend has bought her " . Brian Hiatt of Rolling Stone stated that she sings with " enough frantic , quavering intensity to make you believe she really is crazy in love " . Marcos Chin of Vibe magazine described " Ring the Alarm " as " both a sexual invitation and a threat " . Darryl Sterdan of Jam ! described " Ring the Alarm " as a " shrill tantrum of green @-@ eyed monsterdom " , and Kelefa Sanneh of The New York Times described it as a " canny display of emotional vulnerability " . Tom Breihan of The Village Voice commented that " Ring the Alarm " may become Knowles ' " You Oughta Know " .

Spence D. of IGN Music commented that the best examples of Knowles vocal stylings come on " Ring The Alarm " , adding that it is one of the few tracks on the album where she goes for a throaty growl . Sal Cinquemani of Slant Magazine wrote that it was a bold choice for a single Dave de Sylvi of Sputnikmusic noted that " Ring the Alarm " was a brave choice for a single , called it " angry and lyrically incendiary " , and noted that Swizz Beatz 's beats are " unusually intricate " . Norman Meyers of Prefix Magazine noted that the song is evidence of Knowles ' willingness to take chances . Calling " Ring the Alarm " a " bunny @-@ boiling bonanza " and a " killer club track " , Rach Read of TeenToday wrote that it is a definite highlight and that " it 's great to see an artist at the top of her game prepared to take risks with a track as unhinged as this . " Chris Richards of The Washington Post defined Knowles ' character in the song as a " jealousy @-@ crazed ex " , and expressed his disappointment that it could not manage a " more convincing refrain " . Andy Kellman of Allmusic called it " an angered , atonal , and out @-@ of @-@ character song " . Tim Finney of Pitchfork Media wrote , " the siren @-@ assisted caterwaul of second single ' Ring the Alarm ' sounds genuinely (and marvelously) incoherent . " Bernard Zuel of The Sydney Morning Herald described " Ring the Alarm " as a " posturing and eventually annoying " track .

= = = Recognition and accolades = = =

Vibe magazine ranked " Ring the Alarm " at number forty @-@ eight on its list of the Top 60 Songs of 2006 , complimenting the vocal distortion and the way Knowles shouts on the chorus and the hook . Frances Romero of Time magazine listed " Ring the Alarm " at number nine on her list of the Top 10 Angry Breakup Songs of the 2000s decade , writing : " Critics had mixed feelings about the song ... In the end , what it does show is that Beyoncé will have her way . " Staff members of Pitchfork Media ranked the song on their list of The Top 100 Tracks of 2006 at number 85 . The song was nominated for Best Female R & B Vocal Performance at the 49th Grammy Awards but lost to Mary J. Blige 's 2005 single " Be Without You " . Jody Rosen from The New Yorker credited the jarring timbral and tonal variations on the song for giving a new musical sound that didn 't exist in the world before Knowles . He further wrote , " If they sound ' normal ' now , it 's because Beyoncé , and her many followers , have retrained our ears . "

= = Chart performance = =

For the week ending September 23 , 2006 , " Ring the Alarm " debuted at number 12 on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart , following its entry at number seven on the US Hot Digital Songs chart , selling around 56 @, @ 000 digital downloads . It was the highest US debut that week , and was the highest debuting song of Knowles ' career until " Formation " and " Sorry " debuted at numbers 10 and 11 , respectively , in May 2016 . The song peaked at number 11 on the Hot 100 chart issue dated September 30 , 2006 , and was Knowles ' lowest peaking single until " Get Me Bodied " , which peaked at number 68 . Several weeks after leaving the Hot 100 chart , " Ring the Alarm " re @-@ entered it for the week ending January 13 , 2007 , at number 81 ; it remained on the chart for 14 non @-@ consecutive weeks .

" Ring the Alarm " was more successful on Billboard 's component charts . It topped the US Hot Dance Music / Club Play chart , US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Singles Sales chart and US Hot 100 Singles Sales chart , and reached number three on the US Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs chart . The song additionally charted at number 21 on the US Rhythmic Top 40 chart and at number 19 on the US Pop 100 chart . Though not released outside the US , " Ring the Alarm " charted at number 57 on January 15 , 2007 , in Sweden .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Ring the Alarm " was the second video of Knowles ' to be directed by Sophie Muller , who worked on " Déjà Vu " . The video was filmed inside a cavernous hangar located on the waterfront in Brooklyn , New York City . It remakes a scene from the 1992 film Basic Instinct , referred to by Natalie More of In These Times as an infamous scene . Knowles wears a white skirt and turtleneck to emulate Sharon Stone . She told Elysa Gardner of USA Today that she considered the video to be a movie scene ; " I put six months aside , worked with a coach for two months . And that carried through to my music . I treated the video for ' Ring the Alarm ' like a movie scene . I was thinking , ' I 've got to make my acting coach proud . " The video premiered at Yahoo ! Music on August 16 , 2006 and was released to US iTunes Store on November 21 , 2006 . It debuted on MTV 's Total Request Live at number 10 on August 22 , 2006 , reached number one , and remained on the show for 35 days until it was replaced by the music video for " Irreplaceable " (2006) .

The video starts with Knowles laying on a table , lit with a flashing bright red light . While a siren is blaring , she half @-@ stands and sings while dancing on the table . She proceeds to an interrogation room similar to the one in the film Basic Instinct . Knowles sings the first verse in a house with a seashore backdrop . She wants to escape , and struggles with masked and uniformed guards in a hallway . She is then returned to the interrogation room . In between cuts , she sings in a corner of a room , is seen reflected in a mirror while screaming , and among a group of reporters . As the song closes , Knowles is shown crying . The video ends with a close @-@ up view of

Knowles putting on red lipstick . The scene shows only her lips .

The music video gained mostly mixed reviews from critics . Andy Kellman of Allmusic wrote that it " invited all kinds of perplexed analysis " . Jose Antonio Vargas of The Washington Post described Knowles ' persona as a " ranting , angry woman " . Elizabeth Goodman of Rolling Stone speculated that the use of guards in riot gear is a reference to Alias . Tom Breihan of The Village Voice described the clip as a " quick @-@ and @-@ dirty " video and a " fast montage of disconnected and disconnecting images " . Roger Friedman of Fox News called it a " bizarre video depicting a wildly angry and unappealing Beyoncé telling off someone (maybe Jay @-@ Z ?) for cheating as if she were an enraged guest on Maury Povich . " The staff members of Pitchfork Media included the music video at number 21 on the list of Top 25 Music Videos of 2006 . Ryan Dombal further wrote that it was " Almost as good as Basic Instinct 2 : Risk Addiction " . In 2013 , John Boone and Jennifer Cady of E ! Online placed the video at number 6 on their list of Knowles ' 10 best music videos .

= = Live performances = =

Knowles performed " Ring the Alarm " at the 2006 MTV Video Music Awards on August 31 , 2006 , wearing a flowing trench coat , a corset and hotpants . The performance referenced Janet Jackson 's " Rhythm Nation " routine . James Montgomery of MTV News commented that as Knowles sang , she " ... stripped and stalked . " Jocelyn Vena of the same publication , wrote that she had a " frantic performance " of the song along with a " fiercely choreographed breakdown " at the end . Erika Ramirez of Billboard magazine put the performance at number five on her list of " Beyoncé 's 5 Biggest TV Performances " saying that Knowles " kill [ed] " the live performance . She later performed the song on the American morning news and talk show , Good Morning America . " Ring the Alarm " was included on Knowles ' set list for her The Beyoncé Experience concert in Los Angeles , and I Am ... Tour venues .

During a performance of " Ring the Alarm " in Orlando , Florida on July 26 , 2007 , Knowles fell down a flight of stairs on stage and was videoed by several fans . She told her audience that it " hurt so bad " and requested , " Don 't put [the footage] on YouTube . " However , the next morning , several clips of Knowles ' fall were available on YouTube , and reported in the media . The videos were quickly removed from YouTube because users had transgressed the website 's terms of use . " A representative from YouTube said that users posting their footage of the incident were guilty of infringement because " even if [they] took the video [themselves] , the performer controls the right to use his / her image in a video , the songwriter owns the rights to the song being performed and sometimes the venue prohibits filming without permission . " After being removed , clips of Knowles ' fall were later reposted on YouTube and other video @-@ sharing sites like eBaum 's World and Dailymotion . Jay @-@ Z later stated on radio that even though Knowles is " ... a great performer who 's on point 99 percent of the time , she 's still human . "

Knowles performed " Ring the Alarm " on August 5 , 2007 , at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan , wearing a long red overcoat . Jon Pareles of The New York Times praised her performance , stating : " Beyoncé needs no distractions from her singing , which can be airy or brassy , tearful or vicious , rapid @-@ fire with staccato syllables or sustained in curlicued melismas . But she was in constant motion , strutting in costumes . " In Los Angeles , Knowles performed song , dressed in a long red overcoat . She was accompanied by several backup dancers and live instrumentation . When she sang " Ring the Alarm " in Sunrise , Florida on June 29 , 2009 , Knowles was wearing a glittery gold leotard . Animated graphics of turntables , faders and other club equipment were projected behind her , the dancers and the musicians . Knowles was accompanied by two drummers , two keyboardists , a percussionist , a horn section , three backup vocalists and a lead guitarist . " Ring the Alarm " was included on her 2007 live album The Beyoncé Experience Live .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits are taken from B 'Day liner notes .

Recorded by : Jim Caruana

Assisted by : Rob Kinelski

Mixed by : Jason Goldstein and Swizz Beatz

Assisted by Steve Tolle

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = In popular culture = =

" Ring the Alarm " has featured in the third series premiere of popular UK teen drama Skins .