

= Grenade (song) =

" Grenade " is a song by American singer and songwriter Bruno Mars from his debut studio album , Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans (2010) . A pop and R & B ballad , " Grenade " was written and produced by The Smeezingtons (Mars , Phillip Lawrence , Ari Levine) with additional songwriting by Brody Brown , Claude Kelly , and Andrew Wyatt . The song was developed from an unreleased track with similar lyrical themes played by record producer Benny Blanco to Mars . " Grenade " was completely rearranged and re ? recorded two days before the album 's release . The song 's lyrics carry a message of unrequited love and how Mars ' heart was broken , despite his best efforts to show her his love . Initially released as a promotional single on September 28 , 2010 , it was later announced as the album 's second single , released by Atlantic and Elektra Records .

" Grenade " was well received by critics , praising the vocals and emotional lyrics of the song and also considered it as one of the stand @-@ out tracks on Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans . The single reached number one in fifteen different countries , giving Mars his third number one single on the Billboard Hot 100 , and topping the Canadian Hot 100 for three non @-@ consecutive weeks . " Grenade " was certified seven times platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and six times by Music Canada (MC) . Worldwide , it was the second best selling digital single of 2011 with sales of 10 @. @ 2 million copies .

A music video for the single , directed by Nabil Elderkin , was released on November 19 , 2010 . In the video , Mars is seen dragging an upright piano through Los Angeles , by the time he arrives at the home of his beloved , he discovers she is with another man , so he decides to leave and ends up by killing himself . Mars performed " Grenade " on The Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans Tour (2010 ? 12) and The Moonshine Jungle Tour (2013 ? 14) . The song has been covered by a variety of performers . It was nominated for both Song of the Year and Record of the Year at the 54th Annual Grammy Awards .

= = Background and conception = =

" Grenade " was written and produced by The Smeezingtons (Mars , Phillip Lawrence , Ari Levine) with additional songwriting by Brody Brown , Claude Kelly , and Andrew Wyatt . The song was recorded at Larrabee Recording Studios and Levcon Studios in Los Angeles , California . In an interview with Idolator , Mars revealed the song 's conception and inspiration , saying that he was with his friend Benny Blanco and he was playing a couple of songs to Mars , including one which lyrics were similar to the ones in " Grenade " . Blanco added that the band to which the song belonged was not signed , and that the CD was not released . Mars replied " I can relate to that so much , I want to take that and make it my own " . Mars confessed that the song was inspired by " his love for a girl who did not love him back " . He admitted to be " a bit of a drama queen in that song " and that the track was therapeutic to him . Afterwards , Blanco contact the dude , and Mars started writing his version .

It 's a heartbreaking , heartbreak song , and I think everyone can relate to that . You 're so in love with this woman and you don ? t understand , ' What am I doing wrong ? What am I not giving to you ? I 'll go as far as putting a bullet in my brain for you , and why can 't I get that kind of love in return ?

In the same interview , the singer expressed desire to release the song as a single , claiming it was a " personal favorite " . Before the official release of the song as a single it was released on September 28 , 2010 as a promotional single along with " Liquor Store Blues " , which features Damian Marley , an iTunes Store @-@ exclusive prior to Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans album release in October 2010 . On October 21 , 2010 in an interview with Digital Spy , Mars revealed the intention to follow the hit single " Just the Way You Are " with " Grenade " . Elektra Records released the song on September 28 , 2010 through iTunes . On November 29 , 2010 a CD Single was released on Europe to promo the song , " Grenade " . Later , on February 4 , 2011 , it was released a CD single on Germany and on the UK , which included a Carl Louis & Martin Danielle Classic Mix of " Just the Way You Are " and the single " Grenade " . An EP with different versions of Grenade ,

including the music video for the song was released on May 8 , 2011 , on iTunes .

= = Production and writing = =

The original version of " Grenade " had an " uptempo 1960 's surf @-@ style sound " and before a live show in New York , Mars " slowed and stripped it down " . The reworked song was the last track added to the album . In an interview with Sound on Sound , engineer Ari Levine from The Smeezingtons , who carried out the recording and instrumentation on " Grenade " , explained that the song was original recorded with " a more guitar ? based arrangement " , 15bpm faster . Mars ended up by playing the song live in a slower tempo , receiving praise from the label . The song was reproduced in the way you hear it . To do so , the team completely rearranged and re ? recorded t , including the vocals , " two days before the album was supposed to be handed in " . Levine , added " There was quite a bit of deadline stress involved in that . " Despite the time that Grenade took to produce , the writing was among the most difficult songs in album since it took several months to complete . Later , on April 21 , 2012 , the team said that the last line of the song was the conflict , since it took two months for them to come up with " but you won 't do the same " . Levine explained which instruments and software was involved in the song :

The drums in ? Grenade ? came from a combination of my MPC and some software drums , and I created the piano sound in the Fantom . The rest of the synth sounds came from the Virus , and I use the V ? synth and the MicroKorg on pretty much everything . Bruno and I played the keyboards and Brody Brown played the bass . He ? s an incredible musician who has a great feel and he can play everything .

" Grenade " was recorded at Larrabee Recording Studios and Levcon Studios in Los Angeles , with Ari Levine , Bruno Mars and Brody Brown playing all the instruments on the track and recording them . Levine was also responsible for engineering the song at Levcon Studios in California . The mixing of the track was finished at Larrabee Sound Studios , in North Hollywood by Manny Marroquin , with Christian Plata and Erik Madrid serving as the assistants . Stephen Marcussen mastered the song at Marcussen Mastering in California .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Grenade " is a Power pop and R & B ballad with an instrumentation that features piano , keyboards , drums and bass . The song contains elements of Wilco 's " I 'll Fight " . Mike Senior of Sound on Sound said that the " piano riff sounded like Coldplay 's ' Clocks ' " , adding the idea of a " powerful kick / bass combination and good vocal intelligibility is audible when the chorus hits " and a " snare only added at the start of the second verse " . According to the The New York Times music reviewer , Jon Caramanica , the song contains elements of 1980s pop and is accompanied by drums similar to those used by Kanye West . It has been described by critics as " pure and clean vocals over a pounding drum beat " .

According to Sony / ATV Music Publishing " Grenade " is set in the key of D minor and was published in common time , with a moderate tempo of 108 beats per minute . Mars ' vocals span from A3 to D5 and background vocals are heard throughout . The New Zealand Herald 's Scott Kara described its beats as " Shakira @-@ esque " . Both Roberto Mucciacciaro for MTV and Robert Copsey from Digital Spy noticed the similarities with Michael Jackson 's ' Dirty Diana ' . The later describe it as an " haunting piano melody and thunderous drum claps " . Spencer Hawk from Little Village notice that the song " doesn 't rely on a hook , and its mostly Mars ? voice with a simple piano riff and a pulsing drum beat " . On the other hand , Aamir Yaqub of Soul Culture believes that the production of " Grenade " resembles the one in " Just The Way You Are " .

Lyrically , the song contains masochistic themes and tells the story of heartbreak caused by a failed relationship : " Gave you all I had / And you tossed it in the trash " . The chorus has Mars singing , " I 'd catch a grenade for ya , " and speaks of unrequited love when the subject girl of his affections " won 't do the same " . Tim Byron , writer for The Vine , " ' Grenade ' is about the feeling of withdrawal " . The critic added , " Mars knows she is bad for him , that 's she 's preventing him from

thinking straight , that he can 't actually have her the way he wants , but he still nonetheless has crazy desires for that rush of romantic cocaine that he gets from her . " As Mars commented in an interview to Blues & Soul : " ' Grenade ' represents the OTHER side of love ? where you 're in love with a woman and you know for a fact that she doesn 't love you the way you love HER . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical = = =

The song received generally positive reviews from most music critics . Robert Copsey of Digital Spy gave a review of four stars out of five , praising Mars ' vocals , " Mars has the vocal chops ... to carry that off " , and emotional lyrics on a track that has a strong influence and similarity to Michael Jackson 's " Dirty Diana " . The latter reminiscent was also noted by Roberto Mucciacciaro for MTV , who added that the song was coincidentally covered on several occasions by Mars . CBBC (a division of BBC) gave it four stars in their review , praising the " epic chorus " of the song . Entertainment Weekly 's Leah Greenblatt called " Grenade " the " atmospheric opener " of Mars ' debut studio album , adding that it is a " captivating masochist ? s anthem " , enjoying it as one of the album 's highlights , as did The Washington Post 's Sean Fennessey . Rolling Stone 's Jody Rosen recommended it as proof of Mars ' capabilities as a " lavishly gifted melodist " . Tom Gockelen @-@ Kozlowski of The Daily Telegraph complimented " the Kanye West @-@ style genre @-@ bending on Grenade and other tracks that joins the dots between Michael Jackson and Bob Marley . "

Consequence of Sound 's Kevin Barber praised the track and Mars , since it " showcases his Michael Jackson @-@ esque vocal range " and it 's " heavy , heartbreaking lyrics " . Ken Tucker for NPR noticed that " It 's hard to resist the clever come @-@ on refrain of " Grenade " ? " I 'd catch a grenade for ya " , adding that the song had a " creamy melody " . Reviewers , Meredith Whitmore and Adam R. Holz , for Pluggedin , think that " Grenade " is the reverse side of " Just The Way You Are " , commenting that the song " ponders what happens when that flower fades and dies " . However , Slant 's Eric Henderson dismissed its unrealistic lyrics , while AllMusic 's Tim Sendra thought the song was " over @-@ the @-@ top " ? one of the weaker ones on the album . Spencer Hawk from Little Village criticized the song by calling it " fairly innovative " and notice that the shouting of the lyrics " doesn 't feel genuine " , however he felt that " It ? s very safe while being a little risky , and Mars is a solid singer " . Music @-@ News.com , reviewer David Spencer , stated " great pop but little in way of surprise " .

= = = Accolades = = =

" Grenade " received several nominations . In 2011 , it was nominated for " Choice Music : Break @-@ Up Song " at the 2011 Teen Choice Awards and at the 2011 MTV Europe Music Awards the song received a nomination in the category of Best Song . In 2012 , " Grenade " was nominated for three Grammy Awards , including : Record of the Year , Song of the Year , and the newly introduced Best Pop Solo Performance , losing all of them to British singer Adele . In the same year , the single received a nomination for " Best Hit International " at the Swiss Music Awards . At the 2012 ASCAP Pop Music Awards the song was able to win the title of " Most Performed Song " . The song was nominated for the 2011 The Record of the Year ceremony .

= = Chart performance = =

= = = North America = = =

" Grenade " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 the week of October 16 , 2010 at number 81 and climbed the chart to number five for the week ending December 18 , 2010 . On January 8 , 2011 , it

peaked at number 1 , making it Bruno Mars ' third number one single on the chart , the others being B.o.B 's " Nothin ' on You " , on which he was featured , and " Just the Way You Are " . The peak position was reached due to 559 000 downloads and 89 million listener impressions , taking Digital Gainer and Airplay Gainer awards . Around this time , the song had become his second solo single to top the 2 million mark in downloads . The song dropped and rose back to the top spot two more times , making it one of only six singles in Billboard history to have three distinct runs at number one . In February , it topped the 3 million mark . The song spent 36 weeks on the Hot 100 . Months after the RIAA awarded five platinum to the song by selling five million copies in the country . As of October 2015 , the song has sold 6 @. @ 1 million digital copies in the United States . On July 1 , 2016 the single was certified seven times platinum by RIAA . It was Mars ' second single to sell over 5 million , just a week after " Just the Way You Are " achieved that feat , and it was only the third time in Billboard history that back @-@ to @-@ back singles have both sold 5 million copies in the digital era . The song has peaked at number one in the Canada . It replaced " The Time (Dirty Bit) " by The Black Eyed Peas , before being dethroned by " Hold It Against Me " by Britney Spears . On February 12 , 2011 it took the top spot from Usher 's song " More " . Two weeks later it was replaced by Lady Gaga 's " Born This Way " .

= = = Europe and Oceania = = =

In Australia it debuted at number 48 in the ARIA Singles Chart and five weeks later reached number one , taking " The Time (Dirty Bit) " by The Black Eyed Peas from the top spot . On its second run in Australia it dethroned " Who 's That Girl " by Guy Sebastian featuring Eve , thus being replaced by the same a week later . After its success in the country , Australian Recording Industry Association certified it five times platinum for selling 350 000 digital copies . In the first week in the UK , the song topped the list with a total of 149 834 copies sold , blocking Lady Gaga 's " Born This Way " . Thus , Mars achieved the best opening week of January on the list since 1996 " Spaceman " by Babylon Zoo debuted with 383 000 units . In July 2013 , the BPI awarded him a platinum record by selling 600 000 copies . In Austria , the song reached the second position and remained there for three non @-@ consecutive weeks . The song was , eventually , certified Platinum by IFPI Austria . In Germany the song debuted at 8 , and three weeks later reached the top spot , where it stayed for six non @-@ consecutive weeks . Then , BVMI gave Mars three gold records for the sale of 450 000 downloads . On the Italian chart it entered at ninth place and then ascended into eight where he spent another week before leaving the count . Although it only spent three weeks in the Italian chart , it has received a platinum by the FIMI .

In New Zealand , the song spent twenty @-@ nine weeks on the chart and it was number one for three , after taking " The Time (Dirty Bit) " by The Black Eyed Peas from the top spot . Grenade sold 30 000 copies sold , earning a double platinum certification by the RIANZ . Other countries where the song rose to the top include Norway and Denmark , after taking the top spot from Fallulah 's single " Out of It " . It was certified platinum by IFPI Denmark . As of February 4 , the song spent 4 weeks on the top of the Irish Singles Chart , on its first week it has replaced Matt Cardle 's " When We Collide " . On the Swedish music chart , " Grenade " dethroned " Born This Way " by Lady Gaga (on its second run at number one) . On the Swiss Singles Chart it replaced the duet between Diddy @-@ Dirty Money and Skylar Grey 's " Coming Home " . It was certified three times platinum by the IFPI Switzerland . In the two regions of Belgium the song reached the top ten and received a gold certification in the Ultratop 50 Flanders . In Slovakia and Finland the song peaked at number 3 , while on the Dutch Top 40 the song peaked at number 2 . Nevertheless , the success of " Grenade " was lower in other countries ; it just spent two weeks on the Japan Hot 100 chart and reached the peak position of 36 . Despite its low reception in Spanish territory , it only peaked at number 21 , the song was the ninth most played song in the Spotify streaming service in 2011 .

" Grenade " reached number one in fourteen different charts and sold a total of 10 @. @ 2 million digital copies in 2011 , making it the second most sold single of that year , after " Just the Way You Are " . As of March 2015 , the song has sold over 10 @, @ 6 million digital copies worldwide .

= = Music video = =

= = = Development and synopsis = = =

Nabil Elderkin directed the music video for the song . In a behind @-@ the @-@ scenes video , Mars explained , " The concept of the video is my struggle , to tell this girl I 'd do anything for her , so I 'm going as far as dragging a piano to get to her just so I can sing my heart out . " Mars , sarcastically , replied to rumors related to the use of special effects : " A lot of people think this is a camera trick , but that is a heavy piano . Luckily , I ? ve been doing about , you know , 800 to 967 push @-@ ups every day , so it ? s not a big deal , I can handle it . " Regardless , this achievement , Mars was cautious : " The actions in this video serve as a metaphor , and should not be taken literally . I am aware of the power of visual media , and I encourage everyone who watches this video to understand that it is an artistic interpretation of the song , and not something to imitate " .

The music video was released on November 19 , 2010 on MTV and MTV.com. and it involves Mars 's efforts to sing to a woman he loves after dragging an upright piano with a rope tied to it through Los Angeles . Scenes also feature the singer singing in a dark bedroom , looking out of a rainy window . He wears a suit and encounters a gang and a pit bull along the way . When he reaches the woman 's house and finds out she is with another man , he drags himself and the piano in front of a train to attempt suicide . As the train approaches Bruno at full speed , the video cuts to black .

= = = Reception = = =

The video received mixed reviews by critics . Robbie Daw of Idolator complemented the video by saying that the " standout track from Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans , and it ? s given an extra sheen thanks to a quirky , unconventional video that doesn ? t shy away from the dark tone of the song ? s lyrics " . Brian Zacher from AXS.com said that the video shares the " greatness " with the previous one , " Just the Way You Are " . James Montgomery of MTV News gave a mixed review on the video , in which he said " after all , it would ? ve been easy ? and expected ? to make something slick , sexy and / or saccharine , a glossy thing where he croons from a rooftop somewhere , removes his shirt , and somehow ends up with the girl . None of that happens here . Rather , we see Mars struggling and sweating , being taunted and tempted , falling and rising again ... He ends up alone , unloved . He probably gets flattened by a train " . On another review by Montgomery , the singer redemption is refereed because Mars " distances himself from his smooove @-@ crooning contemporaries , and he does it simply by being real . Really dramatic , really emotional , really clever . This one ? s a winner , even if , at the end of it , Mars has lost everything . "

The video itself earned Mars three nominations at the 2011 MTV Video Music Awards , in Best Male Video , Best Pop Video and Video of the Year . At the 2012 MTV Platinum Video Plays Awards , was given " Double Platinum " award for the number of times played on MTV channels around the world . The video was also one of the most seen online on the United Kingdom , in 2011 . Mark Graham for VH1 ranked the video as the second best of 2011 , the top spot went for " Rolling in the Deep " by Adele .

= = Cover versions and remixes = =

Some artists made their own versions and remixes of the song . The American group Boyce Avenue covered " Grenade " and included it in their sixth EP , Acoustic Sessions , Vol . 1 , released on December 6 , 2010 . Gavin Mikhail included his version of the song and it 's instrumental in his album , Grenade . American rapper Lil Wayne published the first official remix of the song on February 12 , 2011 . The remix is identical to the song , except for the 16 @-@ bar introduction verse that Wayne provides . Mars was so surprised with the remix when he saw it online , he recalls " I was like , ? What ? Press play " . He called it , " Awesome " . MTV critique , Jayson Rodriguez , described it as " Lil Wayne delivering a spoken word @-@ style flow , expressing devotion for his

love interest " . RichGirl , a R & B girl group , created a remix to the song , released on their Fall in Love with RichGirl mixtape .

Nathaniel Drew and Salt Lake Pops Orchestra remixed the song , with the vocal collaboration of Alex Boye and Lindsey Stirling , it was released as a single on July 13 , 2012 . Gerrie van Dijk @-@ Dantuma and Michelle Chamuel , contestants on The Voice of Holland and its US version , respectively , sang the theme for the competition and released it digitally through iTunes . Japanese singer Gille included her version of the track on her debut EP Lead the Way , released on May 16 , 2012 . Will Chase , who guest starred as Michael Swift in the TV series Smash , sang the song during the episode titled " Enter Mr. DiMaggio " , which originally aired on January 20 , 2012 .

American metalcore band , Memphis May Fire covered the track for the compilation album Punk Goes Pop 5 , which was released on November 6 , 2012 . The song was officially released for digital download on October 2 , 2012 . In order to celebrate its fifteen years in the music industry , Dutch symphonic rock band , Within Temptation covered several songs by other artists , including " Grenade " , during a special program on the Belgian radio station Q music , called Within Temptation Friday . The band chose this song because " It 's a really good song and instead of making a grenade go off on stage , we figured we ? d make a bomb of astonishment go off in the studio " , in the words of the lead vocalist Sharon den Adel . On April 19 , 2013 Within Temptation 's cover was released and available for download as part of their cover album The Q @-@ Music Sessions . Nevertheless , the song peaked at number 73 , in their home country , on the Dutch Charts .

= = Live performances = =

Mars performed the song at the Bowery Ballroom in New York City on August 25 , 2010 , with him and his four @-@ piece band dressed in blue tuxedos and black skinny ties . John Macdonald for Spin said " Despite a couple pitch problems here and there , Mars proved to be nearly as good a performer as he is a songwriter " . The song was also performed in a similar manner on the October 9 , 2010 episode of Saturday Night Live , as part of a segue from " Nothin ' on You " , the debut single was also performed . His performance was well received by critics . Billboard 's magazine critique Walter Frazier analysed the performance and commented " Mars ' backing band ... dressed as a 1950s rockabilly group , while Mars resembled something of a modern @-@ day Elvis , surely inspiring swoons for the " SNL " audience . " The performance was also praised by Mawuse Ziegbe , MTV reviewer , who wrote : " Mars peppered the performance with hip @-@ swaying moves Elvis would be proud of and wrapped up the set in classic rock @-@ star style with an enthusiastic jump in the air . " On October 21 , 2010 , a soulful arrangement of the song was sung for a Billboard Tastemakers video session . On May 5 , 2011 Mars expressed his apprehension about performing the song because fans have been throwing dummy grenades on stage , some of which are metal and have posed a safety hazard .

Additionally , Mars performed on the Late Show with David Letterman , on November 11 , 2010 , with a soul redemption of " Grenade " accompanied by an all @-@ female string section . Robbie Draw from website Idolator wrote a positive review , commenting " Bruno Mars hit up the Late Show With David Letterman last night and left a piece of his heart on the stage after turning out an emotional , bluesy rendition of his new single ? Grenade ? " . Story Gilmore of Neon Limelight also praised the performance , calling it " nothing short of awesome " and noticed that Mars " takes this performing thing seriously . Even when he ? s doing something as simple as a late night show performance , he makes sure he ? s on his A game " . The song was performed at NBC ? s The Today Show on November 22 , 2010 , as part of the Toyota Concert Series and at the 2010 Soul Train Music Awards on November 28 , 2010 . On January 6 , 2011 , Mars performed " Grenade " on The Ellen DeGeneres Show with a guitar , " backed by three background singers , a strings section , and pianist " . He also performed the song on the Dutch television show The Voice of Holland on January 21 , 2011 . On February 13 , 2011 he performed the song live at the 2011 Grammy Awards , along with B.o.B. and Janelle Mon  e . In Germany , Mars performed " Grenade " on two different shows Wetten , dass .. ? and at the Echo Awards , on 19 and 28 March 2011 , respectively . It was

the eleventh song of his debut worldwide tour , The Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans Tourand was
thirteenth on the set list of his second worldwide tour , The Moonshine Jungle Tour (2013) .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at : Larrabee Recording Studios and Levcon Studios in Los Angeles , California ; mixed
at Larrabee Sound Studios in North Hollywood , California .

Personnel

Source :

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =

= = = Promotional release = = =

= = = Single release = = =