

= Complicated (Rihanna song) =

" Complicated " is a song by Barbadian recording artist Rihanna from her fifth studio album Loud (2010) . It was written and produced by Tricky Stewart and Ester Dean . " Complicated " is a dance @-@ pop , hip hop and trance music song , which also displays elements of pop , dance @-@ pop and R & B. It contains lyrical content explaining how two people in a relationship can find one another complicated at times . The song was acclaimed by critics , as the majority of reviewers concluded that it was one of the best tracks to be included on Loud . Reviewers also praised Rihanna 's vocal performance in the song . Upon the release of the album in November 2010 , the song charted at number 50 on the South Korea Gaon International Chart .

= = Background and inspiration = =

" Complicated " was written and produced by Tricky Stewart and Ester Dean , for Rihanna 's fifth studio album , Loud . The song was recorded in 2010 at Westlake Recording Studios , and Larrabee Sound Studios , both located in Los Angeles , California . In an interview with Sway Calloway for MTV , Rihanna explained the meaning behind " Complicated " and how it is applicable for both men and women , saying :

[Complicated is] not a sex thing . It 's not like only women can sing this song or only women can relate to this song , ' cause it 's an individual thing and sometimes , sometimes [sic] men are just too complicated and then again , men can find women complicated . But it all depends on the individual , because not all women think love is complicated and not all men think that , but there are some women and some men who strongly believe that love is just too complicated . Women , they 're the first to say , ' It 's your fault , ' but most of the time it is [the man 's] fault . But men are also great at turning that [shit] around on us and making us believe that we 're wrong for something that we didn 't even do . At the end of the day , love is [fucking] complicated .

= = Composition = =

" Complicated " is dance @-@ pop , hip hop and trance song , which lasts for 4 : 17 (four minutes , 17 seconds) . It also displays elements of pop , dance @-@ pop and R & B. Emily Mackay of NME described the song as " a clean , sharp dancepop number , backed by a dark and shuffling hip @-@ hop beat . " According to the digital sheet music published by EMI , " Complicated " is written in the key of A minor and is set in common time with a moderate electro @-@ ballad groove . The instrumentation of " Complicated " consists of synth beats and " crackling outbursts " of percussion and drums .

It also makes use of piano keys and guitar strings . Rihanna 's vocal range in the song spans from the lower note of G3 to the higher note of C5 . Mackay noted that the singer adopts a " melancholic pop vocal " for the duration of the song . Chad Grischow of IGN stated that Rihanna appears to be screaming the vocals during the hook , citing the key of the " jittery dance beat " as the reason for oversinging . However , Grischow commented that the singer sounds more pleasant to listen to during the verses , writing : " The song actually sounds great when the light , plucky verses are quietly building to the hook , allowing her to sing rather than shout . " Rihanna sings about the complications of a relationship , as well as how the protagonist can experience mood swings , whereby his or her feelings frequently change toward their lover .

= = Critical reception = =

" Complicated " garnered critical acclaim from music critics . Colin Gentry of 4Music named the song the highlight of the album , continuing to write that Rihanna pours her heart out to the listener as she sings about the intensity of her " despair " . Jon Parales of The New York Times described " Complicated " as being one of the more " emotional " songs on Loud . Emily Mackay of NME noted that the lyrics " Why do you make it so hard to love you ? / I hate it " were reminiscent of songs by

English pop girl group , Sugababes . Steve Jones of USA Today observed that Rihanna 's opinions of men are not just present on " Complicated " , but rather that it is a recurring theme on Loud , writing " On more than one occasion , she makes it clear that she likes her men complicated and that they can expect her to be the same . " Jones also listed it as one of his top songs to download from the album . Leah Greenblatt of Entertainment Weekly commented that the " spiraling dance @-@ floor siren " persona Rihanna adopted on the lead single from Loud , " Only Girl (In the World) " , was carried through onto " Complicated " . Greenblatt continued to praise Rihanna 's vocal performance , writing : " Even while telling a recalcitrant man how hard he is to love , she sounds almost buoyant , her newly expanded vocals eager to scale the song 's high @-@ altitude house beat . "

Nima Baniamer of Contactmusic.com praised Rihanna 's vocal performance and liked it to single track from Loud , " California King Bed " , writing : " Taking a seat back from the thumping club classics , tracks like California King Bed and Complicated are both emotional singles that reveal Rihanna 's surprisingly brilliant vocals . " Baniamer also expressed that it would be a " travesty " if the song was not chosen as a single from the album . Genevieve Koski of The A.V. Club was complimentary of the song , as well as single track " What 's My Name ? " , writing : " Her bubbly patois and soaring divatronics elevate the generic R & B and Euro @-@ dance flavors of ' What 's My Name ' and ' Complicated , ' respectively . " However , Bill Lamb of About.com was critical of the song , labeling it as " cluttered " and the album 's " low @-@ point " .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording

Recorded at Westlake Recording Studios , Los Angeles , California and Larrabee Sound Studios , Los Angeles , California .

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Loud , Def Jam Recordings , SRP Records .

= = Charts = =

Upon the release of Loud , " Complicated " debuted and peaked at number 50 on the South Korea Gaon International Chart for the issue dated November 14 , 2010 .