

= Broken @-@ Hearted Girl =

" Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " is a song recorded by American singer Beyoncé for her 2008 double album I Am ... Sasha Fierce . Written by Beyoncé , Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds , and production duo Stargate , it was initially a classic rhythm and blues song until Babyface changed the arrangement and chords . The track appears on the I Am ... disc , the songs on which give a behind @-@ the @-@ scenes glimpse of Beyoncé 's life stripped of her make @-@ up and celebrity trappings . It is a midtempo pop ballad accompanied by piano , strings , and drum machine beats . The lyrics describe heartache and the insecurities of love .

The song was initially announced as the sixth single from I Am ... Sasha Fierce in the United States and the fourth elsewhere , but was replaced with " Sweet Dreams " . Columbia Records released " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " outside the US on August 28 , 2009 . Critics praised Beyoncé 's emotional vocals on the track but had divided opinions on the production . The single reached the top twenty on the singles charts of Australia , Brazil , the Czech Republic , Germany , and Ireland . Sophie Muller directed a monochrome music video in which Beyoncé 's character reminisces about her relationship on a beach in Malibu , California . Beyoncé performed " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " on the I Am ... World Tour (2009 ? 10) .

= = Writing and production = =

Beyoncé wrote " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " alongside the Norwegian production team Stargate , which comprises of Tor Erik Hermansen and Mikkel Storleer Eriksen . The duo initially composed " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " as a traditional rhythm and blues song but co @-@ writer Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds changed one chord and added falsetto vocals . His recording a demo version preceded a rewrite of the backing track chords and the addition of a four @-@ on @-@ the @-@ floor piano ; the result was a " grand @-@ piano ballad " . According to the sheet music published by EMI , " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " was composed at a tempo of 84 beats per minute using common time in the key of D minor . Eriksen explained , " I suppose many of our songs are in minor keys . We probably lean towards more a moody , melodic expression . It 's what comes most natural for us . "

Stargate and Beyoncé produced " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " in 2008 at Roc the Mic Studios in New York City . Beyoncé arranged & performed the vocals , which Jim Caruana recorded . Eriksen assisted in recording the instrumental track & , along with Hermansen , arranged the music & played the instruments . Mark " Spike " Stent and Matt Green then mixed the track . " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " is included on the double album I Am ... Sasha Fierce as part of the I Am ... disc , which features ballads that describe Beyoncé 's insecurities about love and depict the person she is " underneath all the makeup , underneath the lights and underneath all the exciting star drama " . Beyoncé said she likes to sing ballads because " the music and the emotion in the story is told [sic] so much better . It 's a better connection because you can hear it and it 's not all these other distractions . [On the I Am disc ,] I really wanted people to hear my voice and hear what I had to say . "

= = Composition and lyrical interpretation = =

" Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " is a midtempo pop ballad with an emo @-@ soul texture . Beyoncé 's vocals are accompanied by strings , a drum machine beat and a cascading melancholy piano that opens the song . The ballad has a Dm ? B ? ? F (add9) ? F ? C / E chord progression and a verse @-@ chorus structure . Beyoncé sings the introduction in a low vocal register that heightens her vocal power ; in the song , her voice ranges from F3 to F5 .

According to Beyoncé , the lyrics of " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " concern a woman 's fear of the downsides of love . The protagonist sings about heartache , and the possibility of a breakup due to the decline of her relationship with an unfaithful lover . She wishes that she did not have to experience this emotional hurt . While her lover is out cheating on her , at home the woman wonders

if she has the courage to continue the relationship , " now that her rock has turned out to be made of mud " , as interpreted by Fraser McAlpine of BBC Music .

The protagonist accepts that her feelings for her lover are too strong , and that she does not have the courage to leave him . She decides to fight for her love and not become the victim , singing emotively : " I don 't want a broken heart / And I don 't want to play the broken @-@ hearted girl " . Despite the desire to have her lover back , she sings , " I know that I love you but let me just say / I don 't want to love you in no kind of way " . The woman gains confidence , and towards the end of the song , she wants to spend her life with her lover despite the previous letdowns .

= = Release = =

Babyface 's demo was released online on June 15 , 2009 . " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " and " Ego " were initially planned for simultaneous release as singles in the United States , but " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " was replaced with " Sweet Dreams " , which became the sixth single from the I Am .. Sasha Fierce . " Ego " and " Sweet Dreams " are both on the Sasha Fierce disc , while the other joint @-@ releases from I Am .. Sasha Fierce included one song from each disc to demonstrate the concept of Beyoncé 's conflicting personalities ? the album 's central theme . " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " was subsequently released as the seventh overall single from I Am .. Sasha Fierce and the fifth outside the US . The ballad was made available in a two @-@ track digital download in Australia and New Zealand on August 28 , 2009 . A CD single , featuring the album version of " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " and an extended remix of " Video Phone " , was released in Germany on October 20 , 2009 .

French electronic musician Alan Braxe produced a different version of " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " that was released in Europe . It is a bubblegum dance and disco remix with guitars , horns , synthesizers , whips , and snare drums . Braxe reworked the ballad 's bridge and made changes to Beyoncé 's vocals , such as increasing the speed of her singing . On October 30 , 2009 , a maxi single was released in Europe that features a radio edit and four remixes . Another maxi single was made available on November 2 in the United Kingdom by RCA Records . Digital extended plays later came out on November 20 , 2009 , in Australia , New Zealand , and Europe .

= = Critical reception = =

" Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " received a mixed response from critics . Nana Ekua Brew @-@ Hammond of Village Voice described the song as " romantic @-@ comedy soundtrack fare " , and Colin McGuire of PopMatters commented that the balladry is more similar to the work of Canadian pop singer Celine Dion than American soul singer Aretha Franklin . A writer for the Eastern Daily Press noted that it is a ballad in the vein of Beyoncé 's 2008 single " If I Were a Boy " and that Dion would be proud of its " insipid [and] sentimental " balladry . David Riva of The Michigan Daily saw " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " as " a powerful and emotionally stirring ballad with universal resonance " and one that shows Beyoncé 's growth as a songwriter . Jay Lustig of New Jersey On @-@ Line felt that the only standout on the I Am ... disc was " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " , which he noted to have a " stately , classic @-@ soul vibe " in contrast to the other ballads on the disc .

Critics had polarized opinions on the production of " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " . Spence D. of IGN Music wrote that " strings create a mournfully thoughtful tone " on the ballad . Mayer Nissim of Digital Spy commended " the pleasant mix of cascading piano and tender strings " , but criticized the drum sounds for their hollowness . He nevertheless added that the drums do not prevent the song from being " a classy , well @-@ constructed pop ballad " . Nissim concluded that although " the emotion @-@ filled vocals offer yet more proof that [Beyoncé] is one of the finest pop singers of her generation " , " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " is not as catchy as her best work . Darryl Sterdan of Jam ! called it a " grand @-@ piano ballad " that may stand out from pop songs on a regular studio album , but seems monotonous on I Am ... Sasha Fierce as it is on a disc that contains ballads only . Negative reviews came from The A.V. Club 's Michaelangelo Matos , who felt that " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " sounded " unfinished " , and Paste magazine 's Jessica Suarez , who said Beyoncé 's

" commanding voice sounds unusually thin " on the ballad . She was unconvinced by the lyrics , noting that the line , " I don 't want to play the broken @-@ hearted girl " , " rings false " . Ben Westhoff of Las Vegas Weekly wrote that it was difficult to guess what inspired the development of the breakup ballad as Beyoncé married Jay @-@ Z a few months before the album 's release .

= = Chart performance = =

On November 14 , 2009 , " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " reached number twenty @-@ seven on the UK Singles Chart . Starting on November 21 , 2009 , the single descended the chart for twelve weeks , last appearing on November 19 , 2009 . It has been certified silver by the British Phonographic Industry (BPI) , for shipment of 200 @,@ 000 copies in the United Kingdom . " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " entered the Irish Singles Chart at number thirty @-@ nine on October 8 , 2009 , and reached number twenty on November 5 , 2009 . The single spent nine consecutive weeks on the chart , on which it last appeared on December 3 , 2009 . It attained top twenty positions on the Czech Republic Airplay Chart and the German Singles Chart , respectively peaking at number fifteen and fourteen . " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " debuted and peaked at number thirty @-@ eight on Austrian Singles Chart . On the Swiss Singles Chart , it peaked at number sixty @-@ two , and charted for three non @-@ consecutive weeks . The ballad made its way to the top ten of the Belgian Tip Charts .

On Australia 's ARIA Singles Chart , " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " debuted at number twenty @-@ eight on September 21 , 2009 , and ascended to number fifteen the following week . On October 5 , 2009 , it rose to number fourteen , and was there for an additional week ; it lasted for nine consecutive weeks on the chart . " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " peaked at number four on the ARIA Urban Singles Chart , and emerged as the thirty @-@ seventh best @-@ selling urban single of 2009 in Australia . It reached number ten on the Brazilian Hot 100 Airplay chart in the October 2010 issue .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " was directed by Sophie Muller . It was released on the remix and video album Above and Beyoncé ? Video Collection & Dance Mixes on June 16 , 2009 , and through iTunes Stores on November 20 , 2009 . Most of it had been filmed in black @-@ and @-@ white on a beach in Malibu , California , in late February 2009 . The protagonist (Beyoncé) reminisces on an isolated beach about a relationship that went wrong .

The video begins as the protagonist parks her car and cries following an argument she has had with her lover . She then leaves the car , walks towards the sea , and lets down her hair . Flashbacks of the woman and her lover on the beach are shown . With teary eyes , she heads into the sea as waves break the shore . Back in the car , she imagines her lover holding her hands . The video transitions into color , as Beyoncé 's character appears on the beach in a green dress and holds a rose without its petals , which she later restores . The video then flashes back to black @-@ and @-@ white memories of the woman resting her head on her lover 's shoulder . She eventually realizes that she must set her relationship back on the right track . In the end , she drives off with a smile .

A critic for The Daily Telegraph found the video " sultry " . Alison Maloney of The Sun commented that Beyoncé " is tapped in to her well @-@ honed acting skills " , and " looks amazing in [the video] as she sings the ballad with the waves crashing behind her " . He noted that she suffers from " panda eyes after a good cry " . Peter Gigas of E ! News wrote that Beyoncé " [looks] exceptionally stunning " even while crying over a poor relationship . He noted that the clip is " simple and straightforward " , and connects effectively with viewers who like the ballad . A writer of Daily Mail noted that the scenes of Beyoncé and her love interest on the beach in the video were inspired from the film From Here to Eternity (1953) . The writer further praised Beyoncé 's " enviable " figure and the outfit worn by her .

= = Live performances = =

" Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " was in Beyoncé 's set list of the worldwide I Am ... World Tour (2009 ? 10) , which was in support of I Am ... Sasha Fierce . The performances of her uptempo songs were followed by a rapid costume change . Wearing a white dress , she sang three ballads from the album in a row ; she performed " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " after singing " Smash into You " , on the top of a staircase , and " Ave Maria " , for which she changed into a wedding dress . A recorded version of the performance was previewed on the music video website Vevo . It was released on her live album I Am ... World Tour on November 29 , 2010 .

Jay Lustig of New Jersey On @-@ Line commented that the song 's performance at the Madison Square Garden on June 21 , 2009 , had " plenty of blues grit " . Jayson Rodriguez of MTV News noted that Beyoncé displayed her softer side while performing the ballad , while Jim Farber of the Daily News said she showed " something more internal and deep " . Ben Ratliff of The New York Times criticized the performance , writing that it was " the evening 's most comical moment , in a concert involving a bustier made with motorcycle lights " . Speaking of her London O2 Arena performance on November 15 , 2009 , Tamara Hardingham @-@ Gill of the Daily Mail wrote , " Her incredible vocal abilities were showcased during ballads such as ' Broken Hearted Girl ' ... where she was note perfect throughout . " Michael Cragg of musicOMH highlighted that Beyoncé 's performance of " Broken @-@ Heated Girl " was better than those of the previous two ballads " because it is allowed to exist on its own terms ; a simple song , sung beautifully " . The Observer 's Barbara Ellen commented that Beyoncé , singing in Zurich in May 2009 , was " clawing pathos " on " Broken @-@ Hearted Girl " and " can shape @-@ change at will " .

= = Formats and track listings = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits are taken from the I Am ... Sasha Fierce liner notes .

Jim Caruana ? recording engineer (vocals)

Kenneth " Babyface " Edmonds ? songwriter

Mikkel Storleer Eriksen ? instruments , music recorded by , songwriter

Matt Green ? assistant mixing engineer

Tor Erik Hermansen ? instruments , songwriter

Beyoncé ? vocals , producer , songwriter

Stargate ? producer

Mark " Spike " Stent ? mixing engineer

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =