

= Back to the Shack =

" Back to the Shack " is a song by the American rock band Weezer . It was released as the first single from their ninth studio album Everything Will Be Alright in the End on July 22 , 2014 . The song was sent to radio stations and uploaded to Weezer 's YouTube channel a day before the single 's official release . It was written in response to the band 's past several albums , with lead vocalist Rivers Cuomo wanting to return to their roots . The song received generally favorable reviews .

= = Background and composition = =

" Back to the Shack " was written by Rivers Cuomo and Jacob Kasher Hindlin . The song was produced by Ric Ocasek . Cuomo wrote a majority of the song , with Karl Koch describing Jacob Kasher Hindlin 's contribution to the song as " randomly singing out the title while hanging out on the couch listening to [ Rivers Cuomo ] strumming the song . It doesn 't take much to get half a songwriting credit . " At one point , the song was performed with the bridge containing the lyric " we belong in the rock zone " , before Cuomo , based on fan suggestions changed it from " rock zone " to " rock world " . Regarding the composition of the song , Cuomo stated that he " tried to find different melodies and different beats and all these different things . " Further , he stated that as he " couldn 't crack the code " they had to go ahead and record it anyway . Ocasek introduced a synth melody line to the song during this period .

Cuomo explained that the lyrics refer to how he feels bad for the direction the band has taken on some of their past material . He admitted that sometimes he " went over the edge " . He explained his desire to create " a classic alt @-@ rock record . " The word " shack " serves as a reference to Amherst house , a home where some of the original Weezer members had lived and recorded a few of their demos .

Lyrically , " Back to the Shack " deals with the theme of nostalgia and a wish to return " to [ the band 's ] 1994 roots " . Dave Lewis stated the song serves as a thematic continuation of two previous Weezer songs , " In the Garage " and " Memories " . It also deals with Weezer 's relationship with their fans and serves as " basically an apology for the past two decades and a promise to embrace their nerdy roots . " The song 's opening lines ? " I 'm sorry guys , I didn 't realize that I needed you so much " ? in particular reinforce this theme . The song has been categorized under alternative rock and power pop .

= = Critical reception = =

" Back to the Shack " received generally positive reviews from contemporary music critics . Carolyn Menyes from Music Times regarded " Back to the Shack " to be instrumentally similar to the band 's second album Pinkerton , and stated that the song " features hooks for days , and the turn of events in the chorus is nothing short of a pure earworm . " Mike Ayers of The Wall Street Journal described the song as " three minutes of pure Weezer joy " , particularly for " its simple , yet heavy riffs and self @-@ deprecating lyrics " , while Spin critic Colin Joyce complimented the song for its " anthemic choruses and guitar anti @-@ heroics " . HitFix reviewer Dave Lewis called the song " generic rock " , although he went on to compliment the middle eight and considered the song as a whole to be " a lot more promising " , than their more recent releases .

Chris Payne of Billboard ranked it as the band 's fifth best lead single , beating out " Hash Pipe " , " ( If You 're Wondering If I Want You To ) I Want You To " , " Pork and Beans " , and " Memories " . Hilary Hughes of Fuse praised it as a return to the band 's old sound , saying " a promising look at what 's sure to be a satisfying listen for new and old fans alike . " Ian Rogers from The Vine commented that it " Sounds exactly like a highly professional , crassly commercial L.A. rock band performing a Weezer @-@ styled song about Weezer returning to their roots . "

= = Release and live performances = =

" Back to the Shack " was released as the first single from Everything Will Be Alright in the End on July 22 , 2014 . The day before its release , the song was sent to radio stations , and uploaded to the band 's YouTube channel .

Prior to release , the song was performed in February during the 2014 Weezer Cruise . The band performed it on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon on July 23 , the song 's first performance on television . In August , the song was played during Musikfest .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Back to the Shack " was directed by Warren Fu and released on September 29 , 2014 . The video features the band playing the song on the moon .

= = Chart performance = =