

= Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) =

" Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " is a song by American singer @-@ songwriter Janet Jackson with Carly Simon from Jackson 's seventh studio album , All for You ( 2001 ) . It was written and produced by Jackson , Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis , with additional lyrics by Simon . The R & B and hip hop song is built around a sample of 1972 's " You 're So Vain " by Simon , who also added some new spoken parts into the song ; it talks about an unidentified man who attempted to extort money from Jackson . An official remix featuring Missy Elliott was released as the third single from the album on December 11 , 2001 by Virgin Records .

The album version of " Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " received mixed reviews from music critics , with some calling it a highlight from the album , while others criticized Simon 's rapping . The remix version also received a mixed reaction from reviewers . The song reached number 28 on the US Billboard Hot 100 , becoming Jackson 's lowest @-@ charting single since 1983 , and also reached low positions worldwide . Its accompanying music video directed by Francis Lawrence depicts Jackson stalking a man in a hotel . " Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " was performed on the 2001 ? 02 All for You Tour .

= = Background and release = =

According to Jackson , she phoned American singer @-@ songwriter Carly Simon , asking for permission to use samples of her song " You 're So Vain " , but Simon wanted to re @-@ record her vocals . She agreed , with Simon wanting to write new lines . Jackson 's producer Jimmy Jam sent her the tracks they were already working on , and she went into a studio on Martha 's Vineyard to record some material . She rapped , initially thinking that Jackson and the producers would not use it , but they eventually liked it . They decided to marry both tracks , as the singers thought it " worked perfectly " , and it became a duet . Simon expressed that Jackson " could not have been sweeter or more appreciative " .

" Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " generated media speculation of who exactly the man described in the song was . Many journalists believed the song was about Jackson 's ex @-@ husband René Elizondo , Jr . Jackson responded : " Everybody says that . Actually , that song 's about a few people , not one person in particular . Everyone likes to [ say ] , ' Ah , I know that 's about Rene . ' It 's about a few people that have entered and exited my life . " Simon created a similar controversy when she released " You 're So Vain " . It was speculated to be about Warren Beatty or Mick Jagger , both of which she denied .

In 2000 , Jackson called American rapper Missy Elliott to reveal that she loved her work . She asked the rapper to work with her on a remix of the song " Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " . Elliott then wrote and rapped for the remix , and became the third single from All for You on December 11 , 2001 .

= = Composition = =

" Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " is an R & B and hip hop song which features a " rap poem " from Simon and samples her song " You 're So Vain " . Its composition excoriates an unfaithful lover for attempting to extort money , described as a " mean @-@ spirited duet that rails against enemies . " Jackson unveils anger and deceit , saying " Thought you 'd get the money too / Greedy motherfuckers try to have their cake and eat it too " . She also offers a comeuppance to a " baby gigolo " who hollers at " everything that walks / No substance , just small talk . " Simon also cited the claims of sampled song " You 're So Vain " to be written about Mick Jagger , singing " The apricot scarf was worn by Nick / There 's nothing in the words that refer to Mick " . In response to critics regarding it about her divorce , Jackson explained it was directed towards several people , while Jimmy Jam revealed it to be written in regards to music executives and lawyers .

= = Critical reception = =

Both the album and remix versions of " Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " received mixed reviews from music critics . While reviewing All for You , Dan Aquilante from New York Post commented that the track would be remembered as one of the highlights from the album . Michael Paoletta from Billboard magazine called the song a " clever sister @-@ to @-@ sister " song . The New Rolling Stone Album Guide called the duet between Jackson and Simon " harsh " , and found Simon 's rap " silly " . John Mulvey of Yahoo ! Music referred to it as " bizarre " , and criticized Simon 's rap , classifying it as " incompetent " . AllMusic 's contributor Stephen Thomas Erlewine also was one of the reviewers who were unsatisfied with rapping by Simon . Sal Cinquemani from Slant Magazine considered the song the album 's biggest misstep . He likened it to a car wreck : " impossible not to be horrified yet strangely intrigued " , and called Simon 's spoken @-@ word verses " embarrassing " .

Chuck Taylor from Billboard reviewed the remix version of " Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " and considered it " more of a breakdown than anything we might regard as a standard composition , but the ingredients somehow make musical gumbo " . Contactmusic.com criticized the number of guests on the single version , but said it created a " soulful and very catchy version " , and noted that its " Grover Washington style sax break and the kind of infectious percussion vibe that Masters at Work are so adept at making " .

= = Chart performance = =

" Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " debuted at number 72 on the US Billboard Hot 100 , before reaching a peak of number 28 . This peak became her lowest since 1983 , when " Come Give Your Love to Me " reached number 58 . Since the release of Control in 1986 , every single released by the singer had peaked within the top 10 , with the exception of " The Pleasure Principle " . The song additionally reached numbers 7 , 20 and 26 on the Hot Dance Club Play , Mainstream Top 40 and Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs component charts , respectively . In the United Kingdom , the song peaked at number 13 , remaining for 10 weeks inside the chart . The song debuted at its peak of number 20 in Australia , and reached number 49 in New Zealand . In Europe , " Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " failed to gain success . It peaked at number 69 in Germany , 54 in Romania , and 56 in Switzerland , although it achieved moderate success in Denmark , reaching the top 20 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " was directed by Francis Lawrence , with The Original Flyte Tyme Remix of the song being used . It was filmed at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles . In the video , Jackson is stalking a man ( played by Jerrell Scott ) in an abandoned hotel . She summons Elliott and a legion of zombies , including one that was created from a toilet . Jackson is also seen eating a spider , smashing jugs of water with a baseball bat , and taunting the man using telekinetic powers . Simon does not appear in the music video . A video for the P. Diddy Remix also was released , and uses the same footage of The Original Flyte Tyme Remix , with P. Diddy appearing in some parts .

The video was nominated for " Best Cinematography " at the MVPA Awards in 2002 . It was also placed as the seventh best music video of 2001 by Slant Magazine , who said " it 's been a while since we 've seen the reigning Jackson crank up a little attitude . It 's her own mini- ' Thriller ' , if you will " . The video was included on the 2004 video compilation From Janet to Damita Jo : The Videos . In 2002 , American singer Britney Spears referenced and was inspired by " Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " music video in her " Overprotected ( Darkchild Remix ) " video . It is seen in scenes of Spears walking down the hotel lobby and while in the elevator . Both videos also use the same hotel setting .

= = Live performance = =

" Son of a Gun ( I Betcha Think This Song Is About You ) " was performed by Jackson during the All for You Tour in 2001 and 2002 . Gina Vivinetto from St. Petersburg Times , while reviewing the concert , noted that fans cheered with the performance . The February 16 , 2002 final date of the tour at the Aloha Stadium in Hawaii , was broadcast by HBO , and had an appearance by Elliott on the performance of the song . This rendition was also added to the setlist at its DVD release , Janet : Live in Hawaii , in 2002 .

= = Track listings = =

= = Personnel = =

Credits adapted from Japanese promo CD single liner notes .

= = Charts = =