

= Happy Now ? (No Doubt song) =

" Happy Now ? " is a song recorded by American rock band No Doubt . It was released as the fifth single from their third studio album Tragic Kingdom (1995) . The single was issued on January 20 , 1997 as a CD single . It was written by Gwen Stefani , Tom Dumont , and Tony Kanal , with its production handled by Matthew Wilder . Its lyrics allude to Stefani 's relationship status with Kanal , who broke up their seven @-@ year relationship when creating Tragic Kingdom .

Musically , " Happy Now ? " is an alternative rock and ska punk song , like the majority of its parent album . The song received generally positive reviews from music critics , with one of them calling it an improvement over No Doubt 's previous releases . Commercially , the single was unsuccessful and the only from Tragic Kingdom not to peak on any record chart .

= = Background and release = =

" Happy Now ? " was recorded during sessions for No Doubt 's third studio album Tragic Kingdom (1995) . Band members Eric Stefani , Gwen Stefani , Tony Kanal , Tom Dumont , Adrian Young , and producer Gary Angle collaborated for the effort . However , after their record label Interscope brought in outside producer Matthew Wilder to improve the album 's sessions , Eric became distraught and decided to leave the group . The single was recorded at eleven different studios in California in 1995 .

A CD single featuring the song was released in both Australia and Sweden ; however , the single was the only one released from Tragic Kingdom that did not peak on any significant record chart . The Australian CD included three tracks : the album version of " Happy Now ? " , plus bonus tracks " Let 's Get Back " and a cover of Sublime 's song " D.J. ' s " . The Swedish CD featured the single and a cover of the ska @-@ holiday song " Oi to the World " . The CD 's cover art would be later used for Tragic Kingdom 's seventh and final single , " Hey You ! " .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Happy Now ? " was written by Gwen Stefani , Tom Dumont , and Tony Kanal , while Matthew Wilder solely produced it . A critic from Sputnikmusic stated the track had a " great melody " , while calling the guitar @-@ driven lead " melancholic " . Similarly , Thomas Bleach from his music blog stated it " brought back the ska / rock sound that they created on their earlier releases " . A critic from Classic Rock Review called it " a more vocal and lyric driven track with strong guitar riffing and chords " , while Maggie Lange of GQ labeled it a " real classic breakup song " .

Lyrically , the song details Stefani 's former relationship with Kanal . The same critic from Classic Rock Review agreed that it " deal [s] with Gwen Stefani 's recent breakup with Kanal " . Kenneth Partridge 's Billboard review stated that the song 's lyrics involved Stefani 's feelings towards Kanal , adding that it was " written about the guy that got away ? and who was standing a few feet away with a bass around his neck " . Similarly , David Browne of Entertainment Weekly approved of the " taunt [ing] " and " savor [y] " lyrics that describe a man who ended a relationship but " wants back in " , such as " All by yourself / You have no one else " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Happy Now ? " received generally favorable reviews upon its release . Mike Boehm of the Los Angeles Times favored the single and cited it as an " example of the band 's improved craft " . Kenneth Partridge , writing for the The A.V. Club , enjoyed the song , mentioning that although it " didn 't chart as high ... the damage was done " . A reviewer from Sputnikmusic listed it under his " recommended " tracks from Tragic Kingdom , while Thomas Bleach from his self @-@ titled blog similarly called it one of his favorites .

= = Track listings and formats = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits and personnel adapted from the Tragic Kingdom liner notes .
Personnel

= = Release history = =