

= Liquor Store Blues =

" Liquor Store Blues " is a song recorded by American singer @-@ songwriter Bruno Mars for his debut studio album Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans ( 2010 ) , featuring vocals by Jamaican artist Damian Marley . It was released as the first promotional single from the record , on September 21 , 2010 by Elektra Records in the United States ; while in the rest of the world it was liberated by Warner Entertainment Group ( WEG ) . A reggae and dub track , " Liquor Store Blues " was produced by The Smeezingtons ( Mars , Phillip Lawrence , Ari Levine ) and Dwayne " Supa Dups " Chin @-@ Quee , while the writing was handled by the former three along with Damian Marley and Thomas Pentz , known professionally as Diplo . Musically , " Liquor Store Blues " has been described as borrowing " heavily from roots reggae " and from dub sounds , while lyrically it addresses a way of avoiding " foreshadowing " problems by drinking with hope that afterwards everything will be fine .

Upon its release , " Liquor Store Blues " received generally positive reviews from music critics , who praised its reggae style and Damien Marley 's appearance on the track , as well as , establishing comparisons to Mars ' cocaine bust in Vegas as the song arrived shortly after the event aforementioned . The song peaked at number 97 on the Canadian Hot 100 and Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 , a component of the Billboard Hot 100 , by peaking at number 105 . The music video , directed by Jake Summer , was released on March 8 , 2011 and features Bruno Mars and Damien Marley singing together with a colorful background and " acid @-@ trip " visual effects , during the whole video . The song was performed many times during Mars ' debut world tour , The Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans Tour ( 2010 @-@ 2012 ) , as the ninth track on its set list . During the 2016 Grammy Awards , Mars had a flask , filled with a drink , to " get some winners drunk " . The bottle is engraved with the lyrics , " One shot for my pain , one drag for my sorrow " from the song .

= = Background and production = =

In an interview with Sound on Sound , Levine said that the team , The Smeezingtons , never met Supa Dups personally and that " Liquor Store Blues " was finished by exchanging files of the song . The latter producer helped finishing the track by providing a dub sound , something the three of them " could just not nail it " . During an interview granted to Vibe Mars said that he never met Damien Marley , since the latter did " his part " after a show in Washington . Nevertheless , the singer explained how Marley was guested in the song :

" Liquor Store Blues " was written by Bruno Mars , Philip Lawrence , Ari Levine , Damien Marley and Thomas Pentz and produced by the former three , under their alias , The Smeezingtons , and Dwayne " Supa Dups " Chin @-@ Quee . The latter was in charge of programming and arranging the drums , which he played . Levine engineered the song at Levcon Studios in California . The mixing of the track was done at Larrabee Sound Studios in North Hollywood by Manny Marroquin , with Christian Plata and Erik Madrid serving as assistants . Stephen Marcussen mastered the song at Marcussen Mastering in California .

= = Composition and lyrics = =

" Liquor Store Blues " was described as borrowing " heavily from roots reggae " , being heavily influenced by dub music and having a moderate reggae groove . Its composition has been compared to his previous project with Travis McCoy on " Billionaire " and Sublime 's work . According to the digital sheet music published by Alfred Music Publishing , the song was composed in common time and in the key of C minor with a tempo of 144 beats per minute . Mars ' and Marley 's vocals range spans from the low note of G3 to the high note of C6 . The track is three minutes and fifty nine seconds . The song 's lyrics describe feelings of " pain " and " sorrow " , using alcohol as method to flee " bad fortune in an odd foreshadowing of events " . In the end , hope is found by " getting messed up today " since on the following day everything will be fine .

## = = Critical Reception = =

" Liquor Store Blues " received generally positive reviews by most music critics . DJ Gravy praised the fact that the song " has a more authentic yard vibe , thanks to Black Chiney 's Supa Dups " , when comparing it to Mars and Travis McCoy 's " Billionaire " . Slant Magazine 's Eric Henderson panned the song as " sway gently with a hint of reggae swagger " . Kevin Barber from the Consequence of Sound , who positively reviewed the album , wrote " In return for all of his generous favors he has given other artists , they give back as well . Damien Marley joins him on the reggae jam " . Idolator 's writer Robbie Daw had a mixed opinion towards the song by writing that the recording " isn't nearly as infectious as " Just The Way You Are " , [ but ] it should still make for a fairly decent album track in what we're hoping is a tasty plateful of catchy future singles " . He found the tune to be " reggae @-@ tinged jam " . Scott Mervis of Pittsburgh Post @-@ Gazette felt that " Liquor Store Blues " was in a " heavier dub zone with toaster Damian Marley " furthering a personal matter " the young singer should have stuck to the liquor store ' cause he was busted for cocaine in Vegas last month " . Andrew Winistorfer of Prefix Magazine criticized the artist , saying " After conquering the ladies who love weak pop music that is sung by a competent if boring singer , Bruno Mars has decided to try to carve off a chunk of Sublime 's fans " . He concluded by deeming the recording a " faux reggae track " . A writer for Rap @-@ Up magazine commented that the recording 's lyrics regard " a quick escape from his bad fortune in an odd foreshadowing of events " . Similarly , while reviewing the music video , Entertainment Weekly 's , Brad Wete stated that the content of the lyrics saying " Mars aims to " get messed up today " in hopes that he'll " be okay tomorrow " " .

## = = Commercial performance = =

After being released as a promotional single , " Liquor Store Blues " , entered the Canadian Hot 100 at number 97 . Around the same time , it failed to reach the Billboard Hot 100 , however it peaked inside of the Bubbling Under Hot 100 , which acts as an extension of the former chart , peaking at number 105 . On October 22 , 2010 it entered and peaked at number 20 on the US Latin Pop Airplay , spending 7 weeks on the former chart .

## = = Music video = =

### = = = Synopsis = = =

The music video was directed by Jack Summer , and was premiered exclusive on March 3 , 2011 for members of Bruno Mars ' official website . The video features Bruno Mars and Damien Marley singing together in a psychedelic room with a colorful background and " acid @-@ trip " visual effects . Throughout the clip " plumes of smoke " emerge in the screen in every direction with Marley " rapping about being " high as Superman " and shouting out pineapple kush " , while Mars is upset about something . They both drown " their sorrows in the colorful visuals " .

### = = = Reception = = =

The video has been described as " psychedelic " and as an anthem to Marijuana , rather than one about drunkenness . Brad Wete for Entertainment Weekly explained that Mars was " ready to drown his sorrows in a tall glass of alcohol " and tipped " find out what concoction Mars and Marley are whipping up " by watching the clip . Prefix Magazine 's Andrew Winistorfer gave the video a harsh critic , he wrote that the smoke was not the only featured in the video as anyone " get to see Damian Marley sell out in real time " . He furthered that Damian , " might as well be in McDonald 's commercials . I guess this song is supposed to make you THINK about stuff [ ... ] but mostly it makes me try to find someone to blame for this " .

= = Track listing = =

= = Credits and personnel = =

Recording and mixing

Recorded at Larrabee Recording Studios and Levcon Studios in Los Angeles , California ;

Mixed at Larrabee Sound Studios in North Hollywood , California .

Personnel

Credits adapted from the liner notes of Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans , Elektra Records .

= = Chart performance = =

= = Release = =

= = = Process = = =

On September 10 , 2010 , the song was released worldwide as the first promotional single as an iTunes Store @-@ exclusive prior to Doo @-@ Wops & Hooligans album release in October 2010 , under Elektra Records . In the countries outside the United States , such as Germany , it was released under WEG .

= = = History = = =