

= Baby Don 't Lie =

" Baby Don 't Lie " is a song recorded by American singer and songwriter Gwen Stefani . Written by Stefani , Ryan Tedder , Benny Blanco and Noel Zancanella , and produced by Tedder and Blanco , " Baby Don 't Lie " is a midtempo electropop and reggae @-@ pop track . The song was made available for digital download on October 20 , 2014 , and a day later to mainstream radio stations . It serves as Stefani 's musical comeback as a solo artist ; her last solo single , " Early Winter " , was released in January 2008 .

Lyrically , " Baby Don 't Lie " discusses insecurities in a relationship . The song received generally mixed to favorable reviews , with some being receptive towards its reggae environment , while a few were ambivalent towards the song , noting that it wasn 't as assertive as they expected . Its music video was released on October 21 , 2014 and was directed by Stefani 's longtime collaborator Sophie Muller , who directed a handful of videos for Stefani 's solo career . Intended to be featured on Stefani 's third studio album , This Is What the Truth Feels Like , the single , along with others , was scrapped in favor of new material .

= = Background and release = =

After releasing two solo albums , Love . Angel . Music . Baby (2004) and The Sweet Escape (2006) , Stefani returned to work with her band No Doubt . In 2012 they released their sixth studio album , Push and Shove . During that time , she claimed , " I never need to do that or want to do it again . I 'm happy being in No Doubt . " However , after an appearance during Pharrell Williams ' performance at the 2014 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival , Pharrell teased that the rare live appearance from Stefani was the start of a comeback effort for the singer . In July 2014 , during an interview for Idolator , record producer Diplo announced that he had produced some songs for her new album . In September , during an interview for MTV News during New York Fashion Week , she confirmed to be working on a solo album and a No Doubt album , stating , " I 'm going into the studio tonight with Pharrell [Williams] , I 'm going to be writing and also just seeing what comes along my way . I 've been recording a few things . " Williams completed , " When I tell you she 's killing it , it 's another level . "

Later in the same month , music website Popjustice announced that Stefani was going to release a single called " Baby Don 't Lie " and it was set to premiere on October 6 , 2014 . The news was accidentally posted on Interscope 's playiga.com , a site that lists current and upcoming radio releases . Furthermore , the song was reportedly co @-@ written by Ryan Tedder and produced Benny Blanco , while its video was going to be directed by Sophie Muller , whom Stefani has worked numerous times on videos from No Doubt and her solo career . On October 18 , 2014 , the song leaked online , ahead of its premiere date , October 19 , 2014 . The same day , Stefani premiered the single 's cover art through her social media . As stated by Jocelyn Vena , " the coverart is a colorful piece of pop art , " with Stefani appear [ing] on it , in front of a clear blue sky , with bright yellow hair and neon pink lipstick , while holding a big gemstone up to her face . The song was released for digital download on October 20 , 2014 , and it officially impacted mainstream radio on October 21 , 2014 .

= = Composition = =

" Baby Don 't Lie " was written by Stefani , Ryan Tedder , Benny Blanco , and Noel Zancanella , with Tedder and Blanco also serving as the song 's producers . It is a midtempo electropop and reggae @-@ pop song which begins with Stefani announcing , " Uh huh , here we go , " to a rubbery bass line and hand claps . The song also has a hip hop @-@ inflected breakdown , in which Stefani raps , " You can tell me what you 're hidin ' boy / And you can tell me if I 'm gettin ' warm " . Lyrically , the song discusses insecurities in a relationship , where Stefani questions her man 's love . Nolan Feeney of Time complimented that the song is " about falling in love with someone who 's got a few skeletons in their closet . " As noted by Spin 's Brennan Carley , " Stefani sounds shattered as she

sings , " But there 's something behind those eyes / Those eyes / That you can 't that you can 't disguise / Disguise . " In the " stomping , infuriatingly catchy " chorus she sings , " Baby don 't , baby don 't , baby don 't lie ? / I don 't want to cry no longer . " Melodically , " Baby don 't Lie " is written in the key of B ? minor , performed in a common time moderate tempo of 100 beats per minute and follows the sequence B ? m - G ? - D ? as its chord progression . Stefani 's voice spans two octaves from the lowest note A ? 3 to the highest note A ? 5 .

= = Critical reception = =

" Baby Don 't Lie " received generally mixed to favorable reviews from music critics , who commended the song 's reggae @-@ flavour , but some dismissed Stefani 's performance on the track . Sal Cinquemani wrote for Slant Magazine that the single " doesn 't venture too far from her band 's established template , " claiming that " it finds Stefani effortlessly grooving to a reggae @-@ flavored beat and an admittedly catchy hook , complete with her signature yelp , but it hews too close to the sound of No Doubt 's slept @-@ on sixth album , Push and Shove . " Cinquemani also noted that during the song 's breakdown " she feels forced , even for the eternally youthful Stefani , on an otherwise breezy track . " Bradley Stern wrote for MuuMuse that the song is " dangerously catchy , and an obvious radio smash upon first listen . " Nolan Feeney of Time remarked that , " In less capable hands , ' Baby Don 't Lie ' would leave a weaker impression , but Stefani and all her vocal idiosyncrasies find a way to make it her own . "

Christina Lee from Idolator noted that " Stefani hiccups through her lyrics like Rihanna does in 2012 's Sia @-@ written " Diamonds " , save for the Love.Angel.Music.Baby @-@ ready sung @-@ rap breakdown " . However , Lee observed that , " Considering the song 's subject matter , her bold @-@ faced collaborators (Ryan Tedder , Benny Blanco and Noel Zancanella) and , of course , her own track record , Stefani 's new song isn 't nearly as assertive as I had expected . " Brennan Carley of Spin simply called it " a pretty broadly pop effort in line with 2012 's No Doubt record , Push and Shove . " Lucas Villa of AXS was mixed with the song , writing that " Gwen had always been ahead of the pop curve on her past two albums but ' Baby Don 't Lie ' sees her on par with everyone else currently on the charts . " Mike Ayers of The Wall Street Journal believed that Gwen " doesn 't sound too inspired here , " while Carolyn Menyes of Music Times disagreed , noting that the song " doesn 't seem to have quite the infectious annoyance of some of Stefani 's other works , but it 's a more solid , well @-@ rounded pop single " . Menyes also praised " her signature sassy , slightly reggae @-@ touched vocals , which according to herself , sells the emotions of this song . " Steven J. Horowitz from Billboard noted that even though the song " embraces her [Stefani] less experimental side , " it misses her " signature bite " , rating it three stars out of five .

= = Chart performance = =

" Baby Don 't Lie " charted moderately in North America after its release . The track debuted at number 35 on the Billboard Adult Pop Songs chart and at number 29 on the Billboard Pop Songs chart , respectively , for the week ending November 8 , 2014 . In the US , it debuted and peaked at number 46 on the Billboard Hot 100 , becoming one of Stefani 's highest charting single entries . On the Canadian Hot 100 , it peaked at number 21 for the week ending December 6 , 2014 and spent a total of 14 weeks on the chart , before dropping off the chart on the week ending February 14 , 2015 . In Europe , the track also received moderate success . In Belgium , the track peaked at number 26 on both Ultratip charts , while peaking at number 19 in Finland , number 58 in France , and number 26 in Germany . Elsewhere , the song peaked at the lower positions of several charts , including number 53 in Australia , number 78 in Italy , and number 128 in Russia .

= = Music video = =

= = Background and storyline = = =

The music video for the song was directed by Sophie Muller and Weirdcore ; Muller has worked with Stefani in numerous videos from her band No Doubt and her solo career . On October 20 , 2014 , Stefani posted on her Instagram a sneak peek of the behind the scenes from the video . It was released on October 21 , 2014 , the day after the song 's release . According to Daniel Kreps from Rolling Stone , the video , which is " a play on The Wizard of Oz , stars a wildly polygonal yellow brick road , an army of dancers and mountains of reoccurring Stefani patterns like bold black @-@ and @-@ white stripes , houndstooth and plenty of pink . " Kreps continued the description , commenting that , " in the eye @-@ popping video , Stefani and her dancers are shown with bright pink Beats by Dre headphones around her neck while using the Beats Music app . " Jason Lipshutz of Billboard added that the video has Gwen " tiptoeing down a morphing yellow road and showing off the first in her array of polka @-@ dotted outfits , " with " a dance troupe eventually arriv [ing] to jazz up the clip a little . " The beginning of the music video finds the singer in a gray world , but by the end of the video , the same scenes are now shown in full color .

= = = Reception = = =

The video received mainly divided reviews from critics . Lipshutz was disappointed , commenting that " the colorful video lacks the innovation of , say , Stefani 's ' What You Waiting For ? ' visual . " James Grebey of Spin stated how he was frustrated with the video 's " glitchy , low @-@ resolution land of colorful patterns and shapes , " calling it " a jarring rejection of aesthetic design , made all the more confusing when the last third of the video suddenly changes the scenery from a computer generated blunderland to a back alley filled with live @-@ action cars . " Jeff Benjamin of Fuse noted that the video is " not wacky and sassy like past Stefani visuals like ' Wind It Up ' or ' Hollaback Girl , ' but praised the video , writing that it " oozes sophistication while still adding Gwen 's signature quirky side with its crazy computer effects . " Carolyn Menyes of Music Times was favorable , remarking that the video " fits the song 's strong reggae vibes , with Stefani channeling everything that 's chaotic and trippy not just about her own genre but also about her single . " Bradley Stern was more negative , claiming that the video lacks a storyline , complaining about its resolution and named it a " phoned @-@ in green screen affair with some poorly rendered graphics . " Bianca Gracie wrote for Idolator that the video 's geometric and graphic animation is nothing new , but praised " the fun dance scene towards the end , which breaks the monotony of the video . "

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Baby Don 't Lie " ? 3 : 21

Digital download (The Remixes)

" Baby Don 't Lie " (Kaskade & KillaGraham Remix) ? 3 : 01

" Baby Don 't Lie " (Dave Matthias Remix) ? 5 : 06

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =