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You Set My Dreams To Music

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Author

Topic

MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



USA
2606 Posts

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 06:29:50

I've always loved this song, from the first listen I had of it on *Simply...Dusty* in 2005. Just a fun, upbeat, catchy song, and perfect for her vocal range at the time. I know it reached #14 in the UK in 1989, and was never released in the US until *The Dusty Springfield Anthology* box set in 1997. This has to be my favorite song from the *Reputation* album.

I have to admit, though, I'm a bit baffled.

WHY was the song never released in the US? After the success of 'What Have I Done to Deserve This?', I think it could have been a sizeable hit on the Billboard charts and gained Miss Dusty a whole new fanbase who was listening to this kind of music at the time. EMI/Parlophone really missed the boat on that one.

WHY did the song only ever reach #14 in Britain? It's one of her strongest, most commercial singles, and I would think that it should have charted a lot higher, maybe top 5.

And as a bonus, here's the video from Youtube

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bi2mdrbXL4>

Feel free to comment on the song, discuss the lyrics, share you thoughts about it...

"I guess that's just the story of my life"

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 07:55:11

I can't comment on why 'In Private' wasn't issued in the US as I've no idea. I know that it was big in the clubs.

I had hoped that it would perhaps just manage to pull itself to #10 in the UK as it received a lot of airplay. Now I know that it's going to upset some folks but the success of 'What Have I Done to Deserve This?' was due to the PSB's being red hot at the time not the fact that it featured Dusty. Minnie Q Mouse could have sung on & it would still have been massive. The vast majority of PSB fans hadn't a clue who Dusty was and who could blame them as she'd been AWOL for years and hadn't been in the top 20 since '69! So Dusty solo was a whole new ball game in '89. She was really beginning all over again.

'Nothing Has Been Proved', her first solo single from the PSB era, stalled at #16 and that was her real comeback hit. It's failure to crack the top 10 shocked me. However 20 yrs later I realise that I shouldn't have expected it to achieve much more. Dusty had been away too long, musical styles had changed (even punk had been & gone), many of her older fans had 'left' for greener pastures and of course it's the kids who bought the majority of singles. So I can now understand why in the case of 'In Private' kids could not relate to 50 year old lady singing a disco-ish number.

Of course Dusty gained a lot of new fans with these hits but she also lost some along the way. The fact that she was able to restart her

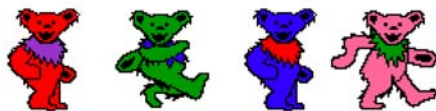
humboldt

I'll try anything



United Kingdom
1704 Posts

career with three solo top 40 hits was a great achievement. If the likes of the PSB's had met her 10 yrs earlier in '79 who knows what may have happened. That's a story for another day.



Humboldt



MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 06/01/2009 : 09:04:27



USA
2606 Posts

I'm sure you're right about the success of 'What Have I Done to Deserve This?'. I've played it for friends who know I'm a huge Dusty fan, and they usually respond with "Oh, yeah, I like this song!" and then they're surprised that Miss Dusty is the woman singing.

It does put things in perspective for me when you say "She was really beginning all over again". I hadn't really thought about it that way, but it's totally true. I guess that it can be looked at that way, that the "kids" buying singles wouldn't have known much about her, but recognized a great song when they heard it, regardless of who was singing it, or what age they were. I would think that people like a good song, regardless of the singer's age or their past hits. Maybe that wasn't the case.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."

Edited by - MissDustyFanatic on 06/01/2009 13:38:06



humboldt

I'll try anything

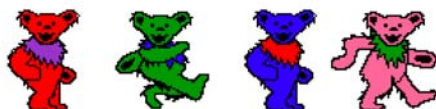


Posted - 06/01/2009 : 09:22:19



United Kingdom
1704 Posts

The '80's kids had heard their parents talk about Dusty being a '60's girl. When she appeared on the likes of TOTP singing 'In Private' it was the older generation who sat up & took notice. Thankfully some of the kids did likewise but there was definitely an age barrier. I know that in the '60's I would have never considered Petula Clark as being 'hip' or anyone over 30 for that matter. Now that I'm 'older' the age of an artist doesn't matter at all.



Humboldt



MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 06/01/2009 : 13:40:13



USA
2606 Posts

So in your opinion, Humboldt, you think her age and history were the major barriers to 'In Private' not charting in the Top 10?

I know when I was a kid in the early 80s, during Tina Turner's big comeback, I still thought she was great and liked her songs, though at 8 years of age, my purchasing power and music knowledge were severely limited 😊

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."

Edited by - MissDustyFanatic on 06/01/2009 14:35:00



humboldt

I'll try anything

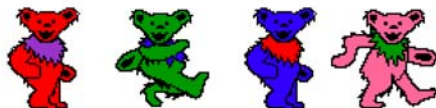


Posted - 06/01/2009 : 14:35:35



Yes, perhaps in part. I was disappointed that both it and 'Nothing Has Been Proved' stalled under the top 10 but now 20 years on I realise that they actually performed better than I had a right to expect. With an almighty push from the PSB's & Vicki Dusty began what was essentially a new career. Not many have achieved this that I can think of.

United Kingdom
1704 Posts



Humboldt

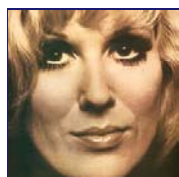


memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



Posted - 06/01/2009 : 14:43:30



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

I thought 'In Private' sounded too frivolous and camp. It was Hi NRG and made for the clubs especially the gay clubs. A few of my gay boy friends were still clubbing, dancing to this track, taking E and loving every beat. I think it may have been a club hit and sold a few additional copies on radio friendly 7". I can remember people I worked with - boring people - buying this single and the album. It was a funny old time because we were all buying Hi NRG whether we knew it or not from the pop style of Stock, Aitken & Waterman to harder core beats by Bobby Orlando and newer producers. It was a camp old time too. So the sound and time was right for Dusty and it gave her hit singles and a hit album (with bigger sales in Germany). But I didn't buy this single and I only bought the album around 2002.

I agree with Humboldt that 'What Have I Done to Deserve This?' would have been a hit in any case but it wouldn't have been a classic all time hit without Dusty. There was a big buzz at the time. Dusty was back. I can remember the excitement of hearing her on this track when she sings for the first time - wonderful! A lot of us were excited. The Pet Shop Boys and Dusty. It was just perfect. Then we saw her in the video. I could hardly recognise her. Was that really what she looked like now? This was a discussion point for at least 5 minutes! I include this because, like Humboldt says, Dusty really had no profile and this was a real and fabulous comeback and there was a lot of interest.

My generation had been brought up on mysterious tales of the legend of Dusty Springfield via older modtastic siblings, parents, vague memories of her on TV, archive photos and through her greatest hits which remained popular. And here she finally was. I call this period 'the rising like a Phoenix'.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 06/01/2009 : 14:47:01



USA
2606 Posts

So what do you think of 'In Private' now, Memphis?

It doesn't have a total SAW feel to it, IMO. It's certainly danceable and energetic, but with a classy sensibility that the PSBs production brings to it, which elevates it to a different level.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



Posted - 06/01/2009 : 14:53:01



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

The Reputation tracks remain amongst my least favourite but, of course, I like them better nowadays. 'In Private' is great fun and still frivolous. But the Dusty I was waiting for is on 'Arrested By You'.

Memphis
Ever since we met...

Edited by - memphisinlondon on 06/01/2009 15:09:34



MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 06/01/2009 : 14:57:22



Interesting...I love the whole Reputation album, and 'Arrested By You', but generally start really listening to it when the second, PSBs-produced half, of the album starts up. I can't help but smile and feel



uplifted by 'In Private'.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



USA
2606 Posts

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 14:58:43

The 12" mix of In Private is fabulous.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 15:02:50

The extended version? LOVE. IT. I think the song could be a hit today.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



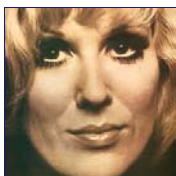
USA
2606 Posts

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 15:13:29

I think there are a few different mixes of 'In Private' aren't there? What we need is a re-release of Reputation with all the club mixes. Then we can have a Dusty Hi NRG party!

Memphis
Ever since we met...



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 15:16:42

I have the 'In Private' Remix CD (orange cover). It was only ever released as a 12" in England, and only as a CD in Germany. Perhaps in 2010, for 'Reputation's 20th anniversary? One can hope.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



USA
2606 Posts

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 15:19:16

By the way thanks for this thread. The best one of the year so far if I might say. 😊

Memphis
Ever since we met...



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 15:27:54

Haha! you're welcome, Memphis. The year's still young, though!



USA
2606 Posts

Angel
I'll try anything
★★

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



Posted - 06/01/2009 : 16:33:26

I love 'In Private' - it's def amongst my faves of Dusty's!



United Kingdom
1297 Posts

humboldt
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 16:45:04

Yes, most enjoyable thread.



United Kingdom
1704 Posts

boztiggs
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 06/01/2009 : 17:59:32

Humboldt



United Kingdom
3367 Posts

MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
★★★

This song was HUGE to my generation of gay clubbers at that time, and I mean HUGE. It had the same pull to the dancefloor that happened when hazel dean was played, if not bigger. The small club that i "grew up" in was packed to the rafters. I particularly love the 12 inch version cos when the place was bouncing and this song came on, everybody went wild. I also remember the buzz about dusty (through somewhat of a haze admittedly lol) I also think dustys comeback at this time started brilliantly, with a bang. The rest is history I guess. I swear that when "in private" comes on, i literally have to dance to it, even at 43! And you are right, great thread

neil 😊

" Here in the gloom, of my lonely room, i hold his photograph and pray ill see him soon oh-oh"



Posted - 07/01/2009 : 04:11:34

I'm so glad people are enjoying this thread. Humboldt, I've really appreciated your comments here; they're very insightful, and have helped me to understand the probable cause of 'In Private' not charting a lot higher. Now if I could figure out why it wasn't released in America! I really think EMI could have had a hot seller if they'd only released 'In Private', and followed it up with the *Reputation* album.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



USA
2606 Posts

daydreamer
Moderator
★★★★★

Posted - 08/01/2009 : 16:50:07

My memories of In Private don't include the club scene as with kids of 7 and 9, it wasn't quite what I was doing back then, or anytime really! But to this day, I can't keep still when that record starts up, it's a





United Kingdom
5404 Posts

stomping great sound and deserved a better chart placing here and a better video everywhere...one that doesn't make you dizzy. As already mentioned, In Private was huge in Europe and checking through some old Bulletins I found that it even made no.1 in Belgium! It got to no.8 in Holland and no.4 in Germany. It ended 1989 as Germany's 14th best selling single of the year and Dusty was the 15th best selling single artist of the year.

Carole x

"There's a part of you that's a part of me..."



MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 09/01/2009 : 09:06:03



As you say, it IS a "stomping great sound", and people of all backgrounds and ages seemed to like it, so I'm curious; why do you think it never charted higher than #14 in Britain, Carole?

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



USA
2606 Posts

daydreamer

Moderator



Posted - 09/01/2009 : 13:26:24



I honestly don't have an answer on why In Private only got to no.14 Taylor, but I think what Humboldt has already said makes good sense. And if you think about it, back then having a top 20 hit was a big deal, not like now when if you don't jump in at no.1 you've failed. We'll never know how big a hit she could have had with Daydreaming, had it been released. That will always remain a mystery.

Carole x

"There's a part of you that's a part of me..."

Edited by - daydreamer on 09/01/2009 13:27:18



MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 10/01/2009 : 03:17:42



I hadn't thought about it that way, Carole. I guess now that's true; if your song isn't an immediate Top 10 it's not a "hit". I wonder if 'Daydreaming' or 'I Want to Stay Here' could have cracked the Top 10. In any case, I'm glad she did have the success she did with 'In Private'. It must have been really gratifying for her to see that success after so long out of the charts.

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."

Edited by - MissDustyFanatic on 10/01/2009 03:21:41



memphisinlondon

Where am I going?



Posted - 10/01/2009 : 16:35:15



Some Top 20 charts from 1989 so you can see the kind of pop stuff that was around and who was having hits. Scroll down to see Dusty in the December chart. I'm surprised there's so much dross around in the 80s (that's why it's got a bad rep). On the other hand there's Lisa Stansfield and Soul II Soul - it was a huge year for British Soul. And then the Queen of British Soul had her own pop hit with 'In Private' in December. It's kind of a nice story.

<http://www.pure80spop.co.uk/chart1989jul-dec.htm>

Dusty in the Top 20 was amazing. This shouldn't be underestimated. As far as I remember the track was a hit on the basis of radio play and the clubs only - that's special. I don't recall seeing Dusty promote this on popular TV shows and I only saw the video on YouTube recently. And people over 40 don't usually make the Top 20 never mind the Top 10!

Here's another link to the Top Selling 1980s singles. Dusty doesn't feature here. The comeback single of 1989 was 'Something's Gotten Hold of My Heart' by Gene Pitney and Marc Almond. I bought this gorgeous single. It's another example of my generation pulling our '60s heroes back into the lime light.

<http://www.pure80spop.co.uk/bestsellersingles.htm>

Memphis
Ever since we met...



humboldt
I'll try anything
★★

Posted - 10/01/2009 : 23:56:56



Although it's not mentioned in 'The Complete Dusty Springfield', one of the few omissions, Dusty did indeed promote 'In Private' with at least a couple of TV appearances. TOTP & the Dame Edna Everage Show the latter of which I have on video. The music video for 'In Private' was in my opinion not good but it got heavy rotation on the likes of MTV so it did not make the top 20 solely on radio play.

United Kingdom
1704 Posts



Humboldt



memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 11/01/2009 : 04:22:28



Thanks H. I know that the video got played on MTV Europe but did we have MTV Europe in the UK back then? I'm not sure many of us did. But maybe there were more subscriptions across the channel and that would explain the better sales in eg Germany. I just can't remember seeing Dusty on TOTP (maybe I did see her on Dame Edna); that must have been a fun performance.

United Kingdom
3565 Posts

Memphis
Ever since we met...



MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 11/01/2009 : 07:09:56



It's nice to see that among the dross are some enduring talents (Tina Turner, Bette Midler, Linda Ronstadt, Chaka Khan, etc) and especially that Miss Dusty brought some sunshine to the charts in December 😊

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



USA
2606 Posts

memphisinlondon
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 11/01/2009 : 07:48:49



Yes, the charts aren't that bad I guess. And Liza Minelli's in there too with her Pet Shop Boys single.

Memphis
Ever since we met...



United Kingdom
3565 Posts

MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 12/01/2009 : 02:56:13



Come to think of it....Tina Turner was also 50 when 'The Best' and 'Look Me In The Heart' came out, so I'm not sure Miss Dusty's age played a huge part in 'In Private' not charting higher. I guess we'll never know, though 😊



USA
2606 Posts

dusty_freak
I've got a good thing
★★★★★

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



Posted - 12/01/2009 : 11:52:35

I quite dig this song, its very catchy! Definitely one of my favs from Reputation 😊

Clare xoxo

"You know you've got it if it makes you feel good..."



Australia
5805 Posts

whonose
I start counting

Posted - 16/01/2009 : 10:55:20

quote:

Originally posted by daydreamer

My memories of In Private don't include the club scene as with kids of 7 and 9, it wasn't quite what I was doing back then, or anytime really! But to this day, I can't keep still when that record starts up, it's a stomping great sound and deserved a better chart placing here and a better video everywhere....one that doesn't make you dizzy. As already mentioned, In Private was huge in Europe and checking through some old Bulletins I found that it even made no.1 in Belgium! It got to no.8 in Holland and no.4 in Germany. It ended 1989 as Germany's 14th best selling single of the year and Dusty was the 15th best selling single artist of the year.

Carole x

"There's a part of you that's a part of me..."

Germany
33 Posts

Hello there,

I just love the song. It was my song to become a Dusty fan. I was 13 when the single came out.

I am glad that you, Carole, reminded some of the readers that the song was such a huge hit in Germany which is one of the biggest record markets in the world. The single stayed in the German charts for 30 weeks (!!!) and reached no.4 as you posted. This is important as fans should not always only look at the UK chart positions to judge if a song was a big hit or not.

Remember that "Reputation", the single follow up, stayed in the charts for 17 weeks, which is not so bad, reaching no.29. So it charted better than in the UK as well.

Best regards,
Jan

Edited by - whonose on 16/01/2009 10:56:33



MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
★★★

Posted - 16/01/2009 : 22:38:11

That's interesting to note, Jan. Thanks! I find that people consider a singer's song a big hit based on how it charts in their native country, but that's not always the case as you point out =>

"And the answer will come back to you...like laughter in the wind..."



USA
2606 Posts

Will
Wasn't born to follow
★★★★★

Posted - 17/01/2009 : 00:10:30

Thanks for the info, Jan, and you are absolutely correct about not judging exclusively on the basis of the UK charts; after all, look how many artists make it big here then try to replicate their success across Europe, where the market overall is far greater.

As for 'In Private' - fabulous song, one of my favourites :)

Will

"..you're in my heart and on my mind.."

Gallery: www.askyofhoney.com



United Kingdom
7603 Posts

MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 05/06/2009 : 03:14:27



I've just been listening to the 'In Private' remix CD



USA
2606 Posts



....I'm still fascinated by this song...I can listen to it several times in a row and it still sounds fresh.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."



Posted - 05/06/2009 : 04:00:33



paula

Moderator



yes Taylor..Dusty songs don't age very much do they. 😊

paula x



USA
5012 Posts

MissDustyFanatic

Where am I going?



Posted - 05/06/2009 : 04:10:11



Thankfully, no! It's nearly 20 years old and still sounds current.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."



USA
2606 Posts

dancer8595

Little by little



Posted - 05/06/2009 : 09:28:33



I've got to go and play the 12" version of this RIGHT NOW. 'In Private' and strong cafetiere coffee - is there any better way to wake up in the morning?!

"she's a sweetheart except when she's moody/it's hard to get through to her then..."



United Kingdom
690 Posts

boztiggs
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 05/06/2009 : 20:16:47



In private takes me straight back to clubbing days, bouncing around off your t**s with all your friends and having a FABULOUS time

Neil 😊

" Here in the gloom, of my lonely room, i hold his photograph and pray ill see him soon oh-oh"

United Kingdom
3367 Posts



MissDustyFanatic
Where am I going?
☆☆☆

Posted - 05/06/2009 : 20:19:19



Hahaha! I only wish I could hear this in clubs nowadays.

"I've got to be where my spirit can run free..."

USA
2606 Posts



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