

TUNE INTO ENGLISH

Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You

Dopo circa trent'anni può risultare quasi insopportabile, ma a Natale è ormai impossibile sfuggire a questa canzone, che per la cantante statunitense si è rivelata una vera e propria gallina dalle uova d'oro.



LOWER INTERMEDIATE **B1**

ON CD 5

GLOSSARY

- 1 **to top:** essere in cima
- 2 **charts:** classifiche
- 3 **billboard:** cartellone
- 4 **mogul:** magnate
- 5 **to damage:** danneggiare
- 6 **childlike:** infantile
- 7 **to reject:** rifiutare
- 8 **up-tempo:** a ritmo veloce
- 9 **to spawn:** generare (lett. deporre uova)
- 10 **reportedly:** secondo quanto riferito
- 11 **underneath:** sotto
- 12 **to make a wish come true:** realizzare un desiderio
- 13 **stocking:** calza
- 14 **upon:** sopra
- 15 **fireplace:** caminetto
- 16 **mistletoe:** vischio
- 17 **to stay awake:** rimanere sveglio
- 18 **reindeer:** renne
- 19 **to hold tight:** abbracciare forte
- 20 **laughter:** risata
- 21 **sleigh bells:** sonagli della slitta
- 22 **to dry:** asciugare

It's the best-selling holiday song of modern times, but Mariah Carey's *All I Want For Christmas Is You* took twenty-five years to top¹ the charts² in the US. Although recorded in 1994, it did not reach number one on the Billboard³ Hot 100 until 2019, and the following year in the UK.

Mariah was married to Sony Music mogul⁴ Tommy Mottola, who suggested recording a Christmas album. She worried it would damage⁵ her credibility, but decided to write a new song for the project. In *The Meaning Of Mariah*, her 2020 autobiography, Mariah explained that her childhood Christmases had always been ruined by her volatile family, but she had always wanted a perfect day.

"This song came from a childlike⁶ space," she writes. "When I wrote it, at twenty-two years old, I wasn't that far away from being a child."

Mariah Carey performs for the Rockefeller Center tree lighting ceremony on 30 November 2010.



Lyrically the song is very simple, with Mariah rejecting⁷ everything associated with the holiday season, just to be with her man. Co-writer and producer Walter Afanasieff explained that Mariah created a lyric that probably, to this day, is the only up-tempo⁸ Christmas love song. Recorded in August in a seasonally decorated studio, the track was completely arranged on a computer, with only the vocals being real.

All I Want For Christmas Is You has won three Guinness World Records, including the most streamed track in a single day on Spotify, and has spawned⁹ a book and an animated film. According to *The Economist*, the song, which reportedly¹⁰ took only fifteen minutes to write and compose, has earned Carey and Afanasieff over \$60 million in royalties to date. ☺

for my own: 'own' is an adjective here, referring to the person she wants.

hang my stocking there upon the fireplace: there are a lot of Christmas images in the song. Legend says three poor sisters left their stockings to dry²² on the fireplace and found them filled with gold coins²³ by Saint Nicholas the next morning.

Santa Claus/ Saint Nick: the 4th Century Greek bishop²⁴ Saint Nicholas was known as a patron of children and a magical gift giver, becoming associated with Christmas around the 16th Century.

I won't even wish for snow: Mariah said this was her favourite line "because I always wish for snow!"

gonna: an informal pronunciation of 'going to'.

mistletoe: the tradition of kissing under the mistletoe began in 18th Century England. Norse²⁵ mythology declared it a symbol of love with the god Frigg promising to kiss anyone who passed underneath it.

reindeer click: when reindeer walk, their tendons snap²⁶ over their foot bones, making a clicking sound.

sleigh bells ringing: Santa traditionally rides a sleigh²⁷ pulled²⁸ by eight reindeer.

wanna: an informal pronunciation of 'want to'.

I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
I don't care about the presents
Underneath¹¹ the Christmas tree
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true¹²
All I want for Christmas is you, yeah

I don't want a lot for Christmas
There is just one thing I need
And I don't care about the presents
Underneath the Christmas tree
I don't need to hang my stocking¹³
There upon¹⁴ the fireplace¹⁵
Santa Claus won't make me happy
With a toy on Christmas Day
I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
All I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

Oh, I won't ask for much this Christmas
I won't even wish for snow
And I'm just gonna keep on waiting
Underneath the mistletoe¹⁶
I won't make a list and send it
To the North Pole for Saint Nick
I won't even stay awake¹⁷ to
Hear those magic reindeer¹⁸ click
'Cause I just want you here tonight
Holding on to me so tight¹⁹
What more can I do?
Baby, all I want for Christmas is you
You, baby

Oh, all the lights are shining so brightly
everywhere
And the sound of children's laughter²⁰ fills the air
And everyone is singing
I hear those sleigh bells²¹ ringing
Santa, won't you bring me the one I really need?
Won't you please bring my baby to me?

Oh, I don't want a lot for Christmas
This is all I'm asking for
I just wanna see my baby
Standing right outside my door
Oh, I just want you for my own
More than you could ever know
Make my wish come true
Baby, all I want for Christmas... is you
You, baby
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
All I want for Christmas is you, baby
All I want for Christmas is you, baby



SCAN & WATCH



Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet and listen to the official song on YouTube while reading the lyrics.

GLOSSARY

- 23 **coins:** monete
- 24 **bishop:** vescovo
- 25 **Norse:** nordica, scandinava
- 26 **to snap:** schioccare
- 27 **sleigh:** slitta
- 28 **to pull:** trainare