

TUNE INTO ENGLISH

Madonna's Like a Virgin

Madonna Louise Ciccone ha recurrido a menudo al imaginario católico para crearse esa reputación provocadora que la ha convertido en una estrella global del pop. Las alusiones sexuales en uno de sus primeros éxitos son más que evidentes.

robably her best-known song, Like A Virgin propelled American singer Madonna to superstardom. She was already successful as a pop artist, but this song also appealed to rock fans and became her first No.1 single, listed on Rolling Stone's "100 Greatest Pop Songs". Madonna, the granddaughter³ of Italian immigrants on her father's side, performed the song at the 1984 MTV Video Awards, seven weeks before its release4. Dancing around the stage in a wedding dress, she gave a performance which is considered one of the most iconic pop performances of all time, and it turned the singer into a household 5 name. Coupled 6 with a video filmed in Venice in Italy, the song caused controversy with its provocative theme; some listeners regarded 7 it as blasphemous.

Lyrically the song is very simple, mostly in the past simple. 'Like' here is a preposition, meaning 'similar to'. Madonna said: "I liked the play on words⁸; I thought they were clever9. They're so geeky10, they're cool. I certainly wasn't a virgin, and, by the way, how can you be like a virgin?"

Nile Rodgers, famous for his 1970s disco hits with Chic, produced the album of the same name. For the debut single

he borrowed¹¹ the bassline¹² from *The* Four Tops' I Can't Help Myself¹³ (1965) and recorded all the instruments live, emphasising the drums 14. He expressed surprise at the song's success: "I thought that every song on that album was better than that single. I was shocked at how



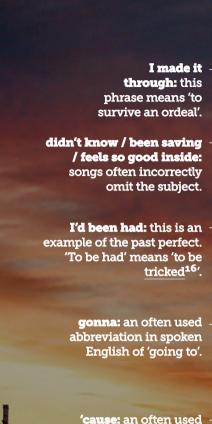


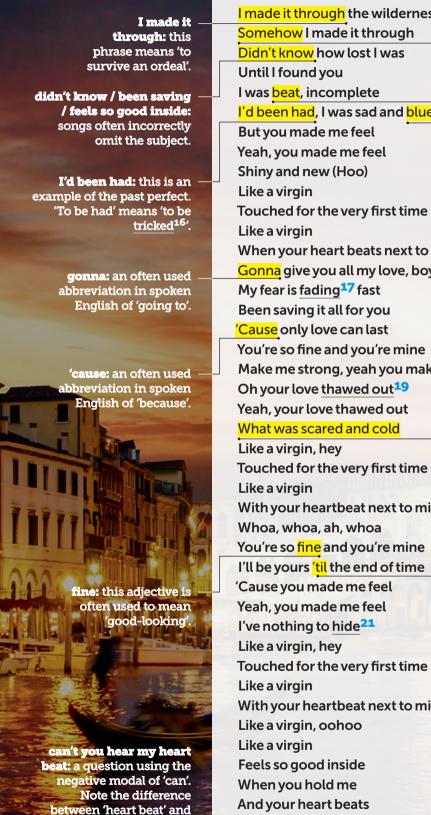
LOWER INTERMEDIATE **B1**



☐ GLOSSARY

- 1 to propel: catapultare
- 2 to appeal: attrarre
- 3 granddaughter: nipote
- 4 release: lancio
- **5** household: familiare
- 6 to couple: accoppiare
- 7 to regard: considerare
- 8 play on words: gioco di parole
- 9 **clever**: intelligenti
- 10 geeky: nerd
- **11 to borrow**: prendere in prestito
- **12** bassline: linea di basso
- 13 I can't help myself: non posso evitarlo
- 14 drums: batteria
- 15 to do well: funzionare
- **16 to trick**: ingannare 17 to fade: svanire
- 18 bold: audace
- 19 to thaw out: scongelare
- 20 to melt: sciogliere
- 21 to hide: nascondere





'heartbeat' earlier in the

song. The former is a noun

+ verb, the latter is a noun.

I made it through the wilderness Somehow I made it through

Didn't know how lost I was

I'd been had, I was sad and blue

But you made me feel

Yeah, you made me feel

Touched for the very first time

When your heart beats next to mine

Gonna give you all my love, boy

My fear is fading 17 fast

Been saving it all for you

'Cause only love can last

You're so fine and you're mine

Make me strong, yeah you make me bold 18

Oh your love thawed out 19

What was scared and cold

Like a virgin, hey

Touched for the very first time

With your heartbeat next to mine

Whoa, whoa, ah, whoa

You're so fine and you're mine

'Cause you made me feel

Yeah, you made me feel

With your heartbeat next to mine

Like a virgin, oohoo

Feels so good inside

And your heart beats

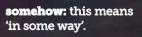
And you love me

Oh oh, oh

Ooh, baby, yeah

Can't you hear my heart beat

for the very first time?



beat: this adjective is often incorrectly used for 'beaten'.

blue: this means 'to feel sad'.

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





what was: 'what' here refers to 'the thing', so his love melted²⁰ the thing that was scared and cold (her heart).

abbreviation in spoker English of 'until'.

