

# RATHER BE

## CLEAN BANDIT, FT. JESS GLYNNE

APPEARS IN  
ROCK & POP  
2018

⚡ Released: 2014 ⚡ Album: *New Eyes* ⚡ Label: Warner Music Group, Atlantic

### ABOUT THE SONG

'Rather Be' was released by British electronic music band Clean Bandit in January 2014 as the fourth single from *New Eyes*, the group's debut album. The track features Jess Glynne, a vocalist from London. Clean Bandit approached Glynne after hearing her vocal on 'My Love', a house track by producer Route 94, and being impressed by the subtlety of emotion in her voice.

The song was first played by BBC Radio 1 DJ Zane Lowe on 4 December 2013, as his *Hottest Record in the World*. It debuted at No. 1 in the UK and spent four weeks at the top of the charts. 'Rather Be' stayed in the top 75 for 73 weeks, setting a record for longest unbroken run. It was the third fastest selling single of 2014 and went triple Platinum.

### RECORDING AND PRODUCTION

Co-written by band members Jack Patterson and Grace Chatto, along with producer Jimmy Napes and songwriter Nicole Marshall, 'Rather Be' was recorded for free at South Kilburn Studios in North London, in return for the band taking on young people as apprentices. Glynne's vocals were recorded by Brett Shaw at 123 Studios in Shoreditch, London, and the piano part was recorded at Metropolis Studios, in Chiswick, London. The iconic staccato riff was created by Patterson using the soft-synth software instrument Operator. The string parts were recorded live, stacked up and overdubbed to achieve a big sound.

### COMPOSITION

'Rather Be' opens with a distinctive strings riff and has a euphoric dance feel. It features both classical and electronic influences; *Digital Spy* said it: 'blends classical-inspired violin with uplifting house beats... The result is an infectious sound that feels fresh and exciting'.

“  
KNOW WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART  
YOU CAN'T SHAME ME  
WHEN I AM WITH YOU  
THERE'S NO PLACE  
I'D RATHER BE  
”

'IT'S AN AMAZING PROJECT, YOU GET THE SPACE FOR FREE IF YOU GIVE BACK YOUR TIME TO HELP THE COMMUNITY BY TAKING ON A TRAINEE. WE TOOK ON LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE TO BECOME TRAINEES IN MUSIC PRODUCTION WHO ENDED UP BEING SINGERS ON OUR ALBUM.' JACK PATTERSON

### AWARDS

- ⚡ **Best Dance Recording**  
Grammy Awards 2015
- ⚡ **PRS for Music Most Performed Work**  
Ivor Novello Awards 2015
- ⚡ **Best Contemporary Song**  
Ivor Novello Awards 2015



## THE VIDEO

The success of 'Rather Be' is in part down to its music video, which went viral. Directed by Clean Bandit themselves, the video was filmed in Tokyo and features London-based Japanese actress Haruka Abe, who lip-syncs to Glynne's vocals throughout. Abe plays a Clean Bandit fan who starts to see the band members and logo appear in her daily life. It has had over 477 million views on YouTube since its launch in December 2013.



## THE ALBUM

*New Eyes* was released in 2014 by Atlantic Records. It was Clean Bandit's debut studio album and included the singles 'A+E', 'Mozart's House', 'Dust Clears' and 'Rather Be', among others. Produced by band members Grace Chatto and Jack Patterson, it features vocals from artists including Sharna Bass and Stylo G as well as Years & Years frontman Olly Alexander. *New Eyes* peaked at No. 3 on the UK album charts however it received mixed reviews from critics. *Digital Spy* called it a 'shimmering debut' with 'great melodies', but *The Guardian* commented on 'dodgy string arrangements' and 'uniformly awful lyrics'.

**'CLEAN BANDIT AREN'T TRADITIONAL POPSTARS... BUT THEY'VE DELIVERED A SHIMMERING DEBUT THAT FOLLOWS THE CARDINAL RULES OF POP: GREAT MELODIES, SIMPLE MESSAGES AND PLENTY OF HOOKS.'**  
DIGITAL SPY

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Clean Bandit formed in 2008 when band members Grace Chatto, Jack Patterson and Neil Amin-Smith were studying at the University of Cambridge. The lineup also includes Patterson's brother Luke. The group released the single 'A+E' in 2012, and 'Mozart's House' in 2013, which featured the vocals of original singer Ssegawa-Ssekintu Kiwanuka, who left to undertake a PhD soon after. The band moved on without a permanent vocalist, instead opening themselves up to collaborations. They performed 'Rather Be' with Jess Glynne on the BBC's *Later... with Jools Holland* in April 2014 before releasing *New Eyes* later that year. Further singles were released in 2015 and 2016, including 'Tears' featuring singer Louisa Johnson. In October 2016, the band announced the departure of Amin-Smith, but continued to release successful singles across 2016 and 2017, including 'Rockabye', featuring Sean Paul and Anne-Marie, and 'Symphony' featuring Zara Larsson.

Vocalist Jess Glynne rose to prominence after her collaboration with Clean Bandit on 'Rather Be'. After finishing secondary school, she worked for a music management company before completing a year-long Access To Music course. She followed the success of 'Rather Be' with her debut solo single 'Right Here', which made the top 10 in the UK Singles Chart. She went on to have several No. 1 singles including 'Hold My Hand' and 'Don't Be So Hard On Yourself'. Her first album, *I Cry When I Laugh*, debuted at No. 1 on the UK Albums Chart upon its release in 2015.

## MORE TO EXPLORE

**Songs:** 'My Love', Route 94 ft. Jess Glynne (2015), 'A+E', Clean Bandit (2012), 'Mozart's House', Clean Bandit (2013), 'Dust Clears', Clean Bandit (2014), 'Tears', Clean Bandit ft. Louisa Johnson (2016), 'Rockabye', Clean Bandit ft. Sean Paul & Anne-Marie (2016), 'Symphony', Clean Bandit ft. Zara Larsson. **Albums:** *I Cry When I Laugh*, Jess Glynne (2015). **Collaborators:** Anne-Marie, Brett Shaw, Jimmy Napes, Louisa Johnson, Nicole Marshall, Olly Alexander (Years & Years), Sean Paul, Sharna Bass, Stylo G, Zara Larsson. **Trinity Rock & Pop syllabus:** Vocals, Grade 5.

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