

TUNE INTO ENGLISH

# Miley Cyrus' Flowers

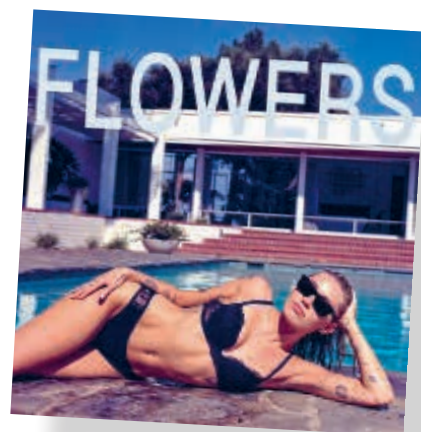
Questa canzone della ex star di Disney parla di una rottura sentimentale, ma anziché viverla con tristezza o rimorsi, rivendica la libertà e l'amor proprio.

Released on 13 January 2023, the song *Flowers* by American recording artist Miley Cyrus is the biggest-selling single of the year so far. It topped<sup>1</sup> the charts in over forty countries and broke<sup>2</sup> several streaming records. It is probably not a coincidence that the release date is also the birthday of Miley Cyrus' ex-husband, the Australian actor Liam Hemsworth.

While Cyrus hasn't yet<sup>3</sup> confirmed it, fans have interpreted the song as the story of her breakup<sup>4</sup>. The song references the Bruno Mars hit *When I Was Your Man*, which, it is said<sup>5</sup>, Hemsworth once dedicated to Miley. However, while Mars' song is filled with regret<sup>6</sup>, *Flowers* is more liberating and champions self-empowerment<sup>7</sup>. In the first

verse, in the past simple, Cyrus looks back on her relationship, including a time when they watched their house burn down: the couple's Malibu home was destroyed in the 2018 California wildfires<sup>8</sup>. Her sadness gives way<sup>9</sup> to the realisation<sup>10</sup> that she is better off without her partner. The chorus then lists things couples often do together, but that she can now do more enjoyably alone. She concludes that her love for herself is more important than his love for her.

An assertive anthem<sup>11</sup> to independence, *Flowers* has been compared to Gloria Gaynor's *I Will Survive* and, for the time being at least, is just as popular. ☺



SCAN, READ & LISTEN 06

LOWER INTERMEDIATE B1

GLOSSARY

- 1 to top: essere in testa
- 2 to break: battere (lett. rompere)
- 3 yet: ancora
- 4 breakup: rottura
- 5 it is said: si dice
- 6 regret: pentimento
- 7 self-empowerment: autopotenziamento
- 8 wildfires: incendi
- 9 to give way: cedere il passo
- 10 realisation: comprensione
- 11 anthem: inno
- 12 to hold someone's hand: prendere qualcuno per mano
- 13 nails: unghie
- 14 remorse: rimorso



Miley Cyrus performing at the iHeartRadio Music Festival in Las Vegas in September 2019.

**Kinda:** an informal contraction of 'kind of'.

**wanna:** an informal contraction of 'want to', often used in song and spoken English.

We were good, **we were gold**  
**Kinda** dream that can't be sold  
 We were right **'til** we weren't  
 Built a home and watched it burn  
 Mm, I didn't wanna leave you  
 I didn't wanna lie  
 Started to cry, but then remembered I  
 I can buy myself flowers  
 Write my name in the sand  
 Talk to myself for hours  
 Say things you don't understand  
 I can take myself dancing  
 And I can **hold my own hand**<sup>12</sup>  
 Yeah, I can love me better than you can

Chorus  
 Can love me better  
 I can love me better, baby  
 Can love me better  
 I can love me better, baby

Paint my **nails**<sup>13</sup> **cherry red**  
 Match the roses that you left  
 No **remorse**<sup>14</sup>, no regret  
 I forgive every word you said  
 Ooh, I didn't want to leave you, baby  
 I didn't **wanna** fight  
 Started to cry, but then remembered I  
 I can buy myself flowers  
 Write my name in the sand  
 Talk to myself for hours, yeah  
 Say things you don't understand  
 I can take myself dancing, yeah  
 I can hold my own hand  
 Yeah, I can **love me better** than you can

Chorus  
 Oh, I  
 I didn't want to leave you  
 I didn't wanna fight  
 Started to cry, but then remembered I  
 I can buy myself flowers (oh)  
 Write my name in the sand (mm)  
 Talk to myself for hours (yeah)  
 Say things you don't understand (never will)  
 I can take myself dancing, yeah  
 I can hold my own hand  
 Yeah, I can love me better than  
 Yeah, I can love me better than you can

Chorus

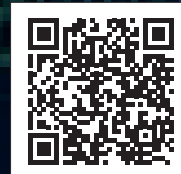
**we were gold:** this idiom describes someone who is special.

**'til:** a contraction of 'until'.

**cherry red:** there are over a hundred shades of red, Miley says both her nails and the roses are the same shade.

**love me better :** we usually use the reflexive pronoun 'myself' (as in the previous lines), but 'me' is also correct.

SCAN & WATCH



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

Fergal Kavanagh runs the website [www.tuneintoenglish.com](http://www.tuneintoenglish.com), the web's largest free resource for learning English through pop music.

Tune into English

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