

Photograph (2005) Nickelback

LISTEN FOR

- Lyrics, acoustic guitars of country music
- Electric guitar sound, vocal delivery of hard rock
- Pop production values

CREATION

Songwriters Chad Kroeger (lyrics)
Chad Kroeger, Ryan Peake, Mike Kroeger, Daniel Adair (music)

Album *All the Right Reasons*

Label Roadrunner 8300

Instrumentation Chad Kroeger (guitar, lead vocals), Ryan Peake (guitar, backing vocals),
Mike Kroeger (bass), Daniel Adair (drums)

Producer Nickelback, Joey Moi

Recording 2005; stereo

Charts Pop 2

MUSIC

Genre Hard rock, post-grunge

Form Compound AABA

Note the consistent use of four-measure phrases throughout the song, which sets the listener up for several notable exceptions to this regular pattern, most notably in verse 6.

Key E-flat major

Meter 4/4

LISTENING GUIDE

Time	Form	Lyric Cue	Listen For
0:00 0:13	A Verse 1 (8)	"Look at this photograph"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The song begins with no introduction, featuring immediately multitracked acoustic guitar and vocals. The lyrics draw the listener immediately to images of the past. Notice how the verses are constructed of two four-bar phrases. The full band enters at the beginning of the second phrase.
0:27 0:53	Verse 2 (10)	"This is where I went"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More specific childhood references; the same instrumentation continues. The end of the second phrase is extended to create a dramatic anticipation for the chorus.
0:59	Chorus (8)	"Every memory"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thicker, hard rock sound in the electric guitars reflect the general nature of the chorus section. It is as if the protagonist steps back from the scene to contemplate in each of these sections.
1:26	Interlude (4)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple acoustic guitar solo over a chord progression slightly different from the one used as the basis for the verse and chorus.
1:40	A Verse 3 (8)	"Remember the old"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same instrumentation as verse 2.
2:07	Verse 4 (6)	"Kim's the first girl"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A shorter verse with only a single cycle through the chord progression and the same extension as verse 2.
2:27	Chorus (10)	"Every memory"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As before, but with a two-measure extension (which is similar to the end of the interlude).
3:00	B Bridge (8)	"I miss that town"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contrasting chord progression taken from the interlude (repeated twice). Notice the two distinct melody lines happening simultaneously singing the same lyrics.
3:27 3:33	A Verse 5 (3)	"If I could I relive"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A verse segment shortened even more than verse 4. With a momentary change to the original instrumentation, it might seem like the end of the song. The odd phrase length leads to a surprising return to the final chorus. Note the vocals that pan from left to right.
3:35	Chorus (8)	"Every memory"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As before, with an extra vocal melody over "hard to say it, time to say it."
4:03	Verse 6 (4)	"Look at this photograph"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A return to the original opening line and instrumentation signals a return to the beginning, a common technique in country music that represents the "cycle of life."

LYRICS

Look at this photograph
Every time I do it makes me laugh
How did our eyes get so red?
And what the hell is on Joey's head?

And this is where I grew up
I think the present owner fixed it up
I never knew we'd ever went without
The second floor is hard for sneaking out

And this is where I went to school
Most of the time had better things to do
Criminal record says I broke in twice
I must have done it half a dozen times

I wonder if it's too late
Should I go back and try to graduate?
Life's better now than it was back then
If I was them I wouldn't let me in

Oh, oh, oh
Oh, god, I

Every memory of looking out the back door
I had the photo album spread out on my
bedroom floor
It's hard to say it, time to say it
Goodbye, goodbye.
Every memory of walking out the front door
I found the photo of the friend that I was
looking for
It's hard to say it, time to say it
Goodbye, goodbye.

Remember the old arcade
Blew every dollar that we ever made
The cops hated us hangin' out
They say somebody went and burned it down

We used to listen to the radio
And sing along with every song we know
We said someday we'd find out how it feels
To sing to more than just the steering wheel

Kim's the first girl I kissed
I was so nervous that I nearly missed
She's had a couple of kids since then
I haven't seen her since god knows when

Oh, oh, oh
Oh, god, I

Every memory of looking out the back door
I had the photo album spread out on my
bedroom floor
It's hard to say it, time to say it
Goodbye, goodbye.
Every memory of walking out the front door
I found the photo of the friend that I was
looking for
It's hard to say it, time to say it
Goodbye, goodbye.

I miss that town
I miss the faces
You can't erase
You can't replace it
I miss it now
I can't believe it
So hard to stay
Too hard to leave it

If I could I relive those days
I know the one thing that would never change

Every memory of looking out the back door
I had the photo album spread out on my
bedroom floor
It's hard to say it, time to say it
Goodbye, goodbye.
Every memory of walking out the front door
I found the photo of the friend that I was
looking for
It's hard to say it, time to say it
Goodbye, goodbye.

Look at this photograph
Every time I do it makes me laugh
Every time I do it makes me...

SOURCES

- Katherine Charlton, *Rock Music Styles: A History*, 6th ed. (New York: McGraw Hill, 2011),
- John Covach and Andrew Flory, *What's That Sound*, 4th ed. (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015),
- Roberta Freund Schwartz, Course Notes for MUSC-309 at the University of Kansas.
- Joseph Schloss, Larry Starr, and Christopher Waterman, *Rock: Music, Culture, and Business* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012),
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