

## I Heard it Through the Grapevine

(Marvin Gaye)

[Verse 1]

I bet you're wondering how I knew  
'Bout your plans to make me blue  
With some other guy you knew before  
Between the two of us guys  
You know I love you more  
It took me by surprise, I must say  
When I found out yesterday  
Don't you know that

[Chorus]

I heard it through the grapevine  
Not much longer would you be mine  
Oh, I heard it through the grapevine  
Oh, and I'm just about to lose my  
mind  
Honey, honey, yeah (heard it through  
the grapevine not much longer would  
you be my baby)

[Verse 2]

I know a man ain't supposed to cry  
But these tears I can't hold inside  
Losing you would end my life you see  
Because you mean that much to me  
You could have told me yourself  
That you love someone else  
Instead

[Chorus]

I heard it through the grapevine  
Not much longer would you be mine  
Oh, I heard it through the grapevine  
And I'm just about to lose my mind  
Honey, honey yeah (heard it through

the grapevine not much longer would  
you be my baby)

[Verse 3]

People say "believe half of what you  
see  
Son and none of what you hear"  
But I can't help being confused  
If it's true please tell me dear:  
Do you plan to let me go  
For the other guy you loved before?  
Don't you know

[Chorus]

I heard it through the grapevine  
Not much longer would you be mine,  
baby  
I heard it through the grapevine  
I'm just about to lose my mind  
Honey, honey, yeah (heard it through  
the grapevine not much longer would  
you be my baby)

[Outro]

Honey, Honey, I know (heard it  
through the grapevine not much  
longer would you be my baby)  
That you're letting me go (yeah, yeah,  
yeah)  
Said I heard it through the grapevine  
(heard it through the grapevine not  
much longer would you be my baby)  
Oh, heard it thought the grapevine  
(yeah, yeah, yeah)

"I Heard It Through the Grapevine" is a song written by Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong for Motown Records in 1966. The first recording of the song to be released was produced by Whitfield for Gladys Knight & the Pips and released as a single in September 1967; it went to number two in the Billboard chart.

The Miracles recorded the song first and included their version on their 1968 album, *Special Occasion*. The Marvin Gaye version was placed on his 1968 album *In the Groove*, where it gained the attention of radio disc jockeys, and Motown founder Berry Gordy finally agreed to its release as a single in October 1968, when it went to the top of the Billboard Pop Singles chart for seven weeks from December 1968 to January 1969 and became for a time the biggest hit single on the Motown label (Tamla).

The Gaye recording has since become an acclaimed soul classic, and in 2004, it was placed 81 on the Rolling Stone list of The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time. On the commemorative fortieth anniversary of the Billboard Hot 100 issue of Billboard magazine in June 2008, Marvin Gaye's "Grapevine" was ranked sixty-fifth. It was also inducted to the Grammy Hall of Fame for "historical, artistic and significant" value.

In addition to being released several times by Motown artists, the song has been recorded by a range of musicians including Creedence Clearwater Revival, who made an eleven-minute interpretation for their 1970 album, *Cosmo's Factory*; and has been used twice in television commercials – each time using session musicians recreating the style of the Marvin Gaye version: the 1985 Levi's commercial, "Launderette", featuring male model Nick Kamen, and the 1986 California raisins promotion with Buddy Miles as the singer for the clay animation group The California Raisins.

The lyrics tell the story in the first person of the singer's feelings of betrayal and disbelief when he hears of his girlfriend's infidelity only indirectly "through the 'grapevine'".

By 1966, Barrett Strong, the singer on Motown Records' breakthrough hit, "Money (That's What I Want)", had the basics of a song he had started to write in Chicago, where the idea had come to him while walking down Michigan Avenue that people were always saying "I heard it through the grapevine". The phrase is associated with black slaves during the Civil War, who had their form of telegraph: the human grapevine. Producer Norman Whitfield worked with Strong on the song, adding lyrics to Strong's basic Ray Charles influenced gospel tune and the single chorus line of "I heard it through the grapevine". This was to be the first of a number of successful collaborations between Strong and Whitfield.