

Time After Time

(Cyndi Lauper)

[Verse 1]

Lying in my bed, I hear the clock tick and
think of you
Caught up in circles, confusion is nothing
new
Flashback, warm nights almost left behind
Suitcases of memories, time after...
Sometimes you picture me, I'm walking too
far ahead
You're calling to me, I can't hear what
you've said
Then you say, "Go slow." I fall behind
The second hand unwinds

[Chorus]

If you're lost, you can look and you will find
me
Time after time
If you fall, I will catch you, I'll be waiting
Time after time
If you're lost, you can look and you will find
me
Time after time
If you fall, I will catch you, I'll be waiting (I
will be waiting)
Time after time

[Verse 2]

After my picture fades and darkness has
turned to gray
Watching through windows, you're
wondering if I'm OK
Secrets stolen from deep inside
The drum beats out of time

[Chorus]

If you're lost, you can look and you will find
me
Time after time
If you fall, I will catch you, I'll be waiting
Time after time

[Instrumental break]

[Bridge]

You said, "Go slow." I fall behind
The second hand unwinds

[Chorus]

If you're lost, you can look and you will find
me
Time after time
If you fall, I will catch you, I'll be waiting
Time after time
If you're lost, you can look and you will find
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Time after time
If you fall, I will catch you, I'll be waiting (I
will be waiting)
Time after time

[Outro]

Time after time
Time after time
Time after time
Time after time
Time after time
Time after time
Time after time
Time after time
Time after time
Time after... time...

"Time After Time" is the second single by American singer-songwriter Cyndi Lauper from her debut studio album, *She's So Unusual* (1983), with Rob Hyman (co-writer and founding member of the rock band The Hooters) contributing backing vocals. The track was produced by Rick Chertoff and released as a single on January 27, 1984. The song became Lauper's first number 1 hit in the U.S. The song was written in the album's final stages, after "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun", "She Bop" and "All Through the Night" had been written. The writing began with the title, which Lauper had seen in TV Guide magazine, referring to the science fiction film *Time After Time* (1979).

"Time After Time" is composed of simple keyboard-synth chords, bright, jangly guitars, clock-ticking percussion, and elastic bassline. Lyrically, it is a love song of devotion. Music critics gave the song positive reviews, with many commending the song for being a solid and memorable love song. The song has been selected as one of the Best Love Songs of All Time by many media outlets, including Rolling Stone, Nerve, MTV and many others. "Time After Time" was also nominated for a Grammy Award for Song of the Year at the 1985 edition. The song was a success on the charts, becoming her first number-one single on the US Billboard Hot 100 chart on June 9, 1984, and remaining there for two weeks. The song reached number three on the UK Singles Chart and number six on the ARIA Singles Chart.

The song is also known for its numerous covers by a wide range of artists, including Miles Davis, who recorded an instrumental version for his 1985 album *You're Under Arrest*, and Eva Cassidy, whose cover of the song appears on her posthumous album of the same name. R&B singer Lil Mo also covered the song for her 2001 debut album *Based on a True Story*. An acoustic version was sung by Lauper with Sarah McLachlan on her 2005 album *The Body Acoustic*. Lauper has performed the song live with Patti LaBelle twice in 1985 and 2004 and with Sarah McLachlan at the American Music Awards of 2005, as well as with rapper Lil' Kim in 2009.

While writing for her debut studio album, in the spring of 1983, Cyndi Lauper was introduced to American musician Rob Hyman, who was recommended by Rick Chertoff, the album's producer. Lauper had already recorded the majority of the album, including the songs "Girls Just Want to Have Fun", "She Bop" and "All Through the Night", but Chertoff insisted that she and Hyman needed to record just "one more song". Therefore, she and Hyman sat at a piano and started working on "Time After Time". The inspiration for the song came after both songwriters were going through similar situations in their respective relationships; he was coming out of a relationship, while she was having difficulties with her boyfriend, David Wolff. One of the first lines Rob wrote was "suitcase of memories", which according to Lauper, "struck her", claiming it was a "wonderful line", while other lines came from Lauper's life. The song's title was inspired after Lauper started writing for the song and needed a fake title as a placeholder for the time being. Thus, Lauper was looking in the TV Guide and saw a lot of movie titles, with the 1979 science fiction movie *Time After Time* being chosen.