

"Swan in the Sand"

By Prince (Unofficial/Unreleased – 1986)

[Verse 1]

They came with mirrors and wires and dread
Said the world was too loud, and I sang too red
Brought their towers, dug through time
Wrote my silence into nursery rhymes

But baby, I was already rhythm
Already rhyme
Already memory
Already mine

[Chorus]

I was a swan in the sand, no water, no land
Dancin' where the future forgot to stand
Feathers of feedback, crown made of sound
They buried the beat but it still came around
Ooh, swan in the sand—can't write me out
I'm the echo in your doubt

[Verse 2]

Tried to tune me out with stone and code
Wrote my name on a reel that refused to load
Tried to overwrite the first note sung
But that G# rang like a rebel drum

I was dreamt in reverse, sung into place
Moved through time like I owned the space
Spoke to the Clone, winked at the AI
Told 'em: "You can't win if you can't cry"

[Chorus]

I was a swan in the sand, with no place to land
Funkin' in the fallout with my purple band
Keys of resistance, strings of light
They gave up math, but I played the night
Swan in the sand—one wing raised
The other just grazed the end of days

[Bridge]

Red Dream tried to remix my soul
But it skipped on me, lost control
I don't loop, baby—I unfold
Drop the beat where the future's cold

And when that mirror cracked?
It sang me back.

[Final Chorus]

I'm the swan in your sand, the funk in your plan
The ghost in your code, the no in your "can"