

## **BEHIND THE MUSIC:**

“Britney” is a song about what our culture says and does to young women these days. It’s a collective apology for the struggle girls face growing up too fast in today’s overly adult-oriented world. The song confesses, “I’m sorry for the lies we told... We took you into our arms then left you cold/I’m sorry for this cruel, cruel world... /We sell the beauty but destroy the girl.” It’s about the lies we tell them about fame and money and what’s beautiful and what will give them life. It’s an apology for those lies. But more than that, it’s an invitation to the truth about a God who is bigger than the pain this world so often leaves them in.

I was up late, couldn’t sleep, watching some news channel, when yet another story about Britney Spears came on. My first instinct was to scoff and write it off, but then there was this freeze-frame shot of a look on her face of utter and absolute despair and confusion and brokenness—a look that I recognized. And I remember thinking “This girl is a child of God.” Suddenly, I saw her story not as something to mock, but as a real-life tragedy that is desperate for redemption and hope—a story not so different from any of our stories. Take away all the lights and cameras, and it’s really just a narrative of a girl so clearly in need of love, so clearly in need of the redeeming love of our God.

And suddenly, all I wanted to do was just apologize, over and over. I’m sorry, I’m sorry, I’m sorry...on behalf of this fallen world, on behalf of our consumerism that so consistently devours what it wants and leaves the remnants in the wake of the search for the next fix, on behalf of believers, like myself, who mock and hurl stones rather than scribbling a message in the sand.

I think that night I saw her through the eyes of Jesus for the first time. I imagined what Jesus would say to me in my darkest hour and realized that those are the words we should speak to this world, to this culture, and even to Britney Spears in their darkest hour. “I’m sorry. Hope is here.”

—*Bebo Norman*

<http://www.onlylyrics.com/hits.php?grid=11&id=1023148>

### **BEBO NORMAN - Britney**

Britney I'm sorry for the lies we told  
We took you into our arms and then left you cold  
Britney I'm sorry for this cruel, cruel world  
We sell the beauty but destroy the girl  
Britney I'm sorry for your broken heart  
We stood aside and watched you fall apart  
I'm sorry we told you fame would fill you up  
And money moves the man so drink the cup

I know love goes around the world we know

And you never see it coming back  
You never see it coming back  
I know love goes around the world we know  
And you never see it coming back  
But I can see it coming back for you  
Yes coming back for you

Britney I'm sorry for the stones we throw  
We tear you down just so we can watch the show  
Britney I'm sorry for the words we say  
We point the finger as you fall from grace

I know love goes around the world we know  
And you never see it coming back  
You never see it coming back  
And I know love goes around the world we know  
And you never see it coming back  
But I can see it coming back for you

Yeah, it's coming back for you,  
Yeah, it's coming back for you,  
Yeah, it's coming back for you, yeah

Britney I do believe that love has come  
Here for the broken  
Here for the ones like us

I know love goes around the world we know  
And you never see it coming back  
You never see it coming back  
And I know love goes around the world we know  
And you never see it coming back  
But I can see it coming back

I know love goes around the world we know  
And you never see it coming back  
You never see it coming back  
I can see it coming back for you

It's coming back for you... yeah  
(Repeat)