



# THE BEST

Mike Chapman - Holly Knight

TINA TURNER

1989

Records #

The lead single from the album **Foreign Affair**. Chart: #15. Time - 4:08 / 5:30. Flip Side: "Bold and Reckless". Released in U.S.A. August 21, 1989.

Recorded at The Hit Factory, New York, New York, USA. Produced by **Tina Turner** and **Dan Hartman**. Engineered by **Chris Lord-Alge**.

This was written for Paul Young, who turned it down, first released by Bonnie Tyler, and finally the best recording by Tina Turner. Bonnie's version was a hit in Norway, Italy and Finland, but flopped in the all important English-speaking world. Tina picked up on it, made some changes and had a hit. Edgar Winter gives a great sax solo. It wasn't her biggest chart hit, but over time became what many believe is her signature tune. It went on to be used in many high profile commercials. Because of the lyrics, it is miss quoted as "Simply the Best". --- Larry ---



## Personnel

**Tina Turner** - lead vocals, guitar  
**Pat Thrall** - guitar solo  
**Gene Black** - rhythm guitar  
**James Ralston** - rhythm guitar  
**Dan Hartman** - keyboards, acoustic guitar, backing vocals  
**T. M. Stevens** - bass  
**Phil Ashley** - keyboards, bass pulse  
**Elliot Lewis** - keyboards, strings  
**Art Wood** - drums  
**Philippe Saisse** - keyboards  
**Edgar Winter** - saxophone solo  
**Lance Ellington** - backing vocals  
**Tessa Niles** - backing vocals

## Holly Knight - Songfacts

"It can be so many things, and that's why it has taken on a life of its own. It can be a love song, it can be love for anything. But it also is very marketable and it has different trajectories depending on who is singing it and why they are singing it. I think when you find something, whether it's a thing or a person, when you've finally found something that's the masterpiece of whatever it is, 'The Best' really describes that. Part of me was writing it as a love song because I had someone in mind that I was writing it for, but we had no clue it was going to be a song that made the kind of impact that it did.

I wrote it for Paul Young. Remember Paul Young, who did "Every Time You Go Away?" At the time I was wanting to work with him, and we got together a few times. I wrote that song for him, and he passed on it. And so someone got it to Tina Turner, and she just fell in love with it. She'd already been cutting some of my tunes. She said, 'You could have written this easily for me.'"

## Holly Knight - 2021: This is Dig

"She called me up and said, 'I want to cut this song. I love it. It's a very special song. But it's not right.' I want you to change something. I want a bridge, and I want the key to go up. And I want the ending to be big and celebratory, so I can do my thing. Let's just cut loose.

She was absolutely right. Before, it was a great song. But when Mike and I rewrote it to have a bridge and a key change – she knew exactly what she was saying. And if you combine that with the fact that it was Tina Turner, and the title itself – there are so many moving parts that make this thing work... There's nothing better than 'the best', is there? By definition. And that's her.

It wasn't written for her, but it was meant for her. It was always meant for her... She shared her story with the world, and to be able to be victorious in the end, instead of a victim – this song captured that for her."

## Bonnie Tyler

"I recorded 'The Best' two years before Tina Turner and she had a hit with it all over the world, but she only gave me confidence back about my choice in material. And I have to be honest, she did it much better than I did."

**YOU TUBE STUDIO TRACK OFFICIAL VIDEO**

**YOU TUBE LYRIC VIDEO**

**YOU TUBE LIVE 1990, Barcelona, Spain**

**YOU TUBE LIVE 2000, Wembley Stadium, London, England**

**YOU TUBE BONNIE TYLER original version**

I call you when I need you, my heart's on fire  
 You come to me, come to me wild and wired  
 Oh, you come to me  
 Give me everything I need

Give me a life time of promises and a world of dreams  
 Speak the language of love like you know what it means  
 Mm, and it can't be wrong  
 Take my heart and make it strong, babe

You're simply the best  
 Better than all the rest  
 Better than anyone  
 Anyone I ever met  
 I'm stuck on your heart  
 I hang on every word you say  
 Tear us apart  
 Baby, I would rather be dead

In your heart I see the start of every night and every day  
 In your eyes I get lost, I get washed away  
 Just as long here in your arms I could be in no better place

You're simply the best  
 Better than all the rest  
 Better than anyone  
 Anyone I ever met  
 Ooh, I'm stuck on your heart  
 I hang on every word you say, oh  
 Tear us apart, now, now, now  
 Baby, I would rather be dead

Each time you leave me I start losing control  
 You're walking away with my heart and my soul  
 I can feel you even when I'm alone  
 Oh, baby, don't let go

Oh, you're the best  
 Better than all the rest  
 Better than anyone  
 Anyone I ever met  
 Oh, I'm stuck on your heart  
 I hang on every word you say  
 Oh, tear us apart  
 Baby I would rather be dead  
 You're the best

Oh, you're simply the best  
 Better than all the rest  
 Better than anyone  
 Anyone I ever met  
 Oh, I'm stuck on your heart  
 I hang on every word you say  
 Tear us apart, now, now, now  
 Baby I would rather be dead  
 Oh, you're the best

You're better than all the rest  
 Better than anyone  
 Anyone I ever met  
 Oh, you're the best