

12. Toi et moi | BAND-MAID | *Epic Narratives* (2024)

Song Notes & Context (Integrated)

“Toi et moi” was written to serve as a **dark, aggressive anchor** for *Epic Narratives* — a song Kanami felt the album *needed* to stay balanced. While other tracks explore warmth, motion, or emotional complexity, this one is about **impact**. As Kanami described it, she wanted “a strong riff that is typical of BAND-MAID and a bit dark,” intentionally building the song almost entirely around that central riff.

Multiple versions of the riff were written and tested before the band collectively landed on the one that best captured that unmistakable BAND-MAID energy. Immediacy was key. Kanami explained that they wanted a song that “really draws you in with a riff,” which is why the track is shorter and more compact than others on the album. There’s no slow build here — the song hits hard from the first second and never loosens its grip.

Visually and sonically, Kanami leaned into confrontation. She paired Kobato’s opening shout with what she described as “an image of the guitar shouting as well,” blurring the line between voice and instrument. Even the guitar solo was designed with intention: something “easy to copy and fun to play,” encouraging listeners to physically engage with the song rather than just observe it.

Lyrically, “Toi et moi” marks a turning point for Kobato. She openly described the song as “definitely aggressive,” explaining that she wrote it with the intention of being stronger and more direct than ever before. In contrast to her earlier lyrical approach — which often left space for interpretation — this song draws clear lines. Kobato acknowledged that SAIKI’s influence helped push her in this direction, making her more comfortable saying “OK!” to boldness she might previously have hesitated over. She even joked that some listeners might enjoy being “scolded” by the song.

The title, “**Toi et moi**” — French for “*you and me*” — reinforces this tone. Rather than suggesting closeness, it emphasizes distance. Miku and Saiki noted that French films often depict powerful, self-possessed women, which aligned perfectly with the song’s assertive mood. As Kanami summed it up, she “poured [her] energy into the main riff” to ensure the track fully embodies BAND-MAID’s confidence, power, and refusal to compromise.

Natural English Translation (with Context in Mind)

Intro

No.

Ah-ah-ah...

Ah-ah-ah...

Verse 1

Isn't that fine, really?

As long as it's within limits, no problem.

But once you notice the discomfort —

I meant you.

Yes. You.

Pre-Chorus

In the end, we're still strangers.

Whether this is "okay" or not —

that's my call.

Annoying.

How dare you say something like that to me?

Chorus

Shut your eyes. Use your head.

I ain't a good girl anymore.

You can't just shut your eyes.

That illusion — it isn't me.

Don't say a word.

Don't even say a word!

Verse 2

Read the context.

That attitude — you've misunderstood.

Take a step back and look.

Isn't the limit getting close?

Pre-Chorus 2

Don't confuse supply and demand.

No wonder we don't align.

Toi et moi —

you and me.

Chorus

Shut your eyes. Use your head.

I ain't a good girl anymore.

You can't just shut your eyes.

That illusion — it's only a dream.

Don't say a word.

Don't even say a word!

Bridge

Keep your distance — no closer than this.
Another unnecessary comment would be,
honestly, tacky.
Don't talk to me about
one-sided "love."

Final Chorus

Shut your eyes.
Use your head.
I ain't a good girl anymore.
You can't just shut your eyes.
That illusion — it isn't me.
Don't say a word.
Don't even say a word!

Outro

Don't say a word.
Don't even say a word!
No, no, no...
Ah-ah-ah...
Ah-ah-ah...

Translation Notes & Interpretation

"Toi et moi" — distance, not intimacy.

"You and me" here does not imply connection.
It highlights separation.
Two sides that do not meet.
The title itself is ironic.

Rejecting the "good girl."

"I ain't a good girl anymore" isn't rebellion for effect.
It's the end of pleasing,
the end of shrinking,
the end of silence for the sake of comfort.

This song draws a boundary — clearly and unapologetically.

Illusions and projections.

The repeated line "*That illusion isn't me*" confronts imagined versions,
idealized expectations,
and narratives imposed from the outside.

The speaker refuses to perform someone else's fantasy.

Silence as power.

"Don't say a word" isn't avoidance.

It's control.

The conversation is over — not because there's nothing to say,
but because nothing more is owed.

Overall Reflection

"Toi et moi" is not about heartbreak.

Not drama.

Not rage.

It's about clarity.