

= Wannabe ( song ) =

" Wannabe " is the debut hit single by the British girl group the Spice Girls . Written by the group members with Matt Rowe and Richard Stannard during the group 's first professional songwriting session , it was produced by Rowe and Stannard for the group 's debut album Spice , released in November 1996 . The song was written and recorded very quickly ; the result was considered lacklustre by their label , and was sent to be mixed by Dave Way . The group was not pleased with the result , and the recording was mixed again , this time by Mark " Spike " Stent .

" Wannabe " is an uptempo dance @-@ pop song that incorporates a mix of hip hop and rap . The lyrics , which address the value of female friendship over the heterosexual bond , became an iconic symbol of female empowerment and the most emblematic song of the group 's Girl Power philosophy . Despite receiving mixed reviews from music critics , the song won for Best British @-@ Written Single at the 1997 Ivor Novello Awards and for Best Single at the 1997 BRIT Awards .

" Wannabe " was heavily promoted by the group . Its music video , directed by Johan Camitz , became a big success on the British cable network The Box , which sparked press interest in the group . Subsequently the song had intensive radio airplay across the United Kingdom , while the group performed it on television programmes and started doing interviews and photo shoots for teen magazines .

Responding to the wave of public interest in the group , Virgin released the song as the group 's debut single in July 1996 , well ahead of the planned release date of the Spice album . " Wannabe " topped the UK Singles Chart for seven weeks and has received a double Platinum certification by the British Phonographic Industry ( BPI ) . In January 1997 it was released in the United States , topping the Billboard Hot 100 for four weeks . It was the group 's only number @-@ one single in that country . By the end of 1996 , " Wannabe " had topped the charts in 22 nations , and by March 1997 this number had climbed to 37 . " Wannabe " became the best @-@ selling single by a female group in the world , with 1 @,@ 360 @,@ 000 and 2 @,@ 910 @,@ 000 copies sold in United Kingdom ( by 2015 ) and United States ( by 2014 ) , respectively , and over 7 million copies worldwide by the end of 1997 . In 2014 , it was rated as the most easily recognisable pop song of the last 60 years .

= = Background = =

In March 1994 , father @-@ and @-@ son team Bob and Chris Herbert , together with financier Chic Murphy , working under the business name of Heart Management , placed an advertisement in The Stage , which asked the question : " Are you street smart , extrovert , ambitious , and able to sing and dance ? " After receiving hundreds of replies , the management had narrowed their search to a group of five girls : Victoria Adams , Melanie Brown , Melanie Chisholm , Geri Halliwell , and Michelle Stephenson . The group moved to a house in Maidenhead and received the name " Touch " . Stephenson was eventually fired because she lacked the drive of the other group members . She was replaced by Emma Bunton . In November , the group ? now named " Spice " ? persuaded their managers to set up a showcase in front of industry writers , producers , and A & R men at the Nomis Studios in Shepherd 's Bush , London . Producer Richard Stannard , at the studio for a meeting with pop star Jason Donovan , attended in the showcase after hearing Brown , as she went charging across the corridor . Stannard recalls :

More than anything , they just made me laugh . I couldn 't believe I 'd walked into this situation . You didn 't care if they were in time with the dance steps or whether one was overweight or one wasn 't as good as the others . It was something more . It just made you feel happy . Like great pop records .

Stannard stayed behind after the showcase to talk to the group . He then reported to his songwriter partner , Matt Rowe , that he had found " the pop group of their dreams " . Chris Herbert booked the group 's first professional songwriting session with the producers at the Strongroom in Curtain Road , East London , in January 1995 . Rowe recalls feelings similar to Stannard 's : " I love them . Immediately . [ ... ] They were like no one I 'd met before , really . " The session was productive ;

Stannard and Rowe discussed the songwriting process with the group , and talked about what the group wanted to do on the record . In her autobiography , Brown recalls that the duo instinctively understood their point of view and knew how to incorporate " the spirit of five loud girls into great pop music " .

= = Writing and inspiration = =

The first song the Spice Girls wrote with Stannard and Rowe was called " Feed Your Love " , a slow and soulful song that was recorded and mastered for the group 's debut album ; the song was not used because it was considered too rude for the target audience . The group next proposed to write a track with an uptempo rhythm . Rowe set up a drum loop on his MPC3000 drum machine . Its fast rhythm made Stannard remember the scene where John Travolta and Olivia Newton @-@ John perform " You 're the One That I Want " in Grease . Stannard commented that the only pre @-@ planned concept for the song was that it should represent the essence of what they were . The group then added their own contributions to the song , Rowe recalls :

They made all these different bits up , not thinking in terms of verse , chorus , bridge or what was going to go where , just coming up with all these sections of chanting , rapping and singing , which we recorded all higgledy @-@ piggledy . And then we just sewed it together . It was rather like the way we 'd been working on the dance remixes we 'd been doing before . Kind of a cut @-@ and @-@ paste method .

" Wannabe " was written in thirty minutes ? mainly because the group had written parts of the song beforehand ? in what Brown describes as a " sudden creative frenzy " . During the session , Brown and Bunton came up with the idea of including a rap near the end of the song . At this point the group got very motivated , and incorporated the word " zigazig @-@ ha " into the lyrics . Chisholm told Billboard magazine : " You know when you 're in a gang and you 're having a laugh and you make up silly words ? Well we were having a giggle and we made up this silly word , zigazig @-@ ha . And we were in the studio and it all came together in this song . "

= = Recording and production = =

While most of the other songs on the Spice album required two or three days of studio time , " Wannabe " was recorded in less than an hour . The solo parts were divided between Brown , Bunton , Chisholm , and Halliwell . Victoria Adams missed most of the writing session and communicated with the rest of the group on a mobile phone . In her autobiography she wrote : " I just couldn 't bear not being there . Because whatever they said about how it didn 't matter , it did matter . Saying ' Yes , I like that ' or ' Not sure about that ' down the phone is not the same " . She contributed backing vocals and sings during the chorus . Rowe stayed up all night working on the song , and it was finished by morning , the only later addition was the sound of Brown 's footsteps as she ran to the microphone .

The group parted with Heart Management in March 1995 because of their frustration with the management company 's unwillingness to listen to their visions and ideas . The girls met with artist manager Simon Fuller , who signed them with 19 Entertainment . The group considered a variety of record labels , and signed a deal with Virgin Records in July . The original mix of " Wannabe " was considered lacklustre by the label 's executives . Ashley Newton , who was in charge of A & R , sent the song to American producer Dave Way for remixing ; the result was not what the group had hoped to achieve . As Halliwell later described it , " the result was bloody awful " . She elaborated in her second autobiography , Just for the Record : " Right at the beginning of the Spice Girls , [ ... ] Ashley Newton had tried to turn us into an R & B group . He sent " Wannabe " over to America to be remixed by some hot R & B producers . He brought us jungle versions and hip @-@ hop mixes and I hated them all . Although Mel B [ rown ] was a big fan of R & B , she agreed with me that these versions just didn 't work so we exercised our Spice veto ! " Fuller gave the song to audio engineer Mark " Spike " Stent , who thought that it was a " weird pop record " . Stent remixed it in six hours , in what he described as " tightening it up " and " getting the vocals sounding really good " .

## = = Composition = =

" Wannabe " is a dance @-@ pop song with influences of hip @-@ hop and rap . Written in the key of B major , it is set in the time signature of common time and moves at a moderate tempo of 110 beats per minute . It uses the sequence B ? D ? E ? A ? A ? as a bass line during the refrain , the chorus , and the bridge , and uses a chord progression of F ? ? G ? m ? E ? B for the verses . The song is constructed in a verse @-@ pre @-@ chorus @-@ chorus form , with a rapped bridge before the third and final chorus . Musically , it is " energised " by a highly @-@ syncopated synthesised riff , and by the way the repetitive lyrics and rhythm are highlighted during the bridge . " Wannabe " presents a different version of the traditional pop love song performed by females ; its energetic , self @-@ assertive style expresses a confident independence that is not reliant on the male figure for its continuance .

The song opens with Brown 's laugh , followed by " undislodgable [ sic ] piano notes " . Over these notes , the first lines of the refrain are rapped in a call and response interaction between Brown and Halliwell . The words " tell " , " really " and " I wanna " are repeated , so that the vocal tone and lyrics build up an image of female self @-@ assertion . The refrain ends with the word " zigazig @-@ ha " , a euphemism for female desire , which is ambiguously sexualised or broadly economic . The first verse follows ; Brown , Halliwell , Chisholm , Bunton sing one line individually , in that order . In this part , the lyrics have a pragmatic sense of control of the situation ? " If you want my future , forget my past " ? which , according to musicologist Sheila Whiteley , tap directly into the emotions of the young teenage audience .

During the chorus , the lyrics ? " If you wanna be my lover / You gotta get with my friends " ? address the value of female friendship over the heterosexual bond , while the ascending group of chords and the number of voices creates a sense of power that adds to the song 's level of excitement . The same pattern occurs , leading to the second chorus . Towards the end , Brown and Halliwell rap the bridge , which serves as a presentation to each of the girls ' personalities . The group repeats the chorus for the last time , ending the song with energetic refrains ? " Slam your body down and wind it all around " ? and the word " zigazig @-@ ha " .

## = = Release and promotion = =

After signing the group , Virgin Records launched a major campaign for their debut song to promote them as the new high @-@ profile act . There was a period of indecision about what song would be released as the first single ; the label wanted to get everything right for the campaign , because the all @-@ girl group format was untested . The group , led by Brown and Halliwell , was adamant that the debut song should be " Wannabe " , they felt it served as an introduction to their personalities and the Girl Power statement . Virgin 's executives believed that the first single should be " Say You 'll Be There " , which they considered a much " cooler " track . At the beginning of 1996 the impasse between the group and their record label about the release of the single was temporarily solved . In March , Fuller announced that he agreed with Virgin in that " Wannabe " should not be the first single . The label wanted a song that appealed to the mainstream market , and nothing considered too radical . Halliwell was shocked and furious ; she told Fuller , " It 's not negotiable as far as we 're concerned . ' Wannabe ' is our first single . " Fuller and the executives at Virgin relented , and the song was chosen as their first single .

The trigger for the Spice Girls ' launch was the release of the " Wannabe " music video in May 1996 . Its quick success on the British cable network The Box sparked press interest , despite initial resistance to the all @-@ girl group idea . The same month , their first music press interviews appeared in Music Week , Top of the Pops , and Smash Hits , and their first live TV slot was broadcast on LWT 's Surprise Surprise . A month after the video 's release , the song was receiving intensive airplay on the main radio stations across the UK , while the group started to appear on television ? mainly on kid 's programmes such as Live & Kicking ? and doing interviews and photo shoots for teen magazines . A full @-@ page advertisement appeared in the July issue of Smash

Hits , saying : " Wanted : Anyone with a sense of fun , freedom and adventure . Hold tight , get ready ! Girl Power is comin ' at you " . The group appeared on the television programme This Morning with Richard and Judy , and performed at their first Radio One road show in Birmingham .

" Wannabe " was released in the United Kingdom on 8 July 1996 in two single versions . The first one , released in two formats ? a standard CD single and a cassette single ? included the radio edit of the track , the Motiv 8 vocal slam remix , and the B @-@ side , " Bumper to Bumper " . The group wrote " Bumper to Bumper " with Paul Wilson and Andy Watkins ? the songwriter @-@ production duo known as Absolute ? and British singer @-@ songwriter Cathy Dennis . The second version , released on maxi single format , featured the radio edit , an instrumental version , the Motiv 8 dub slam remix , and the Dave Way alternative mix . This version came with a fold @-@ out postcard inlay and a stickered case .

During the weeks following the UK release , the group began promotional visits abroad . They did three trips to Japan and brief visits to Germany and the Netherlands . On a trip to the Far East , they visited Hong Kong , Thailand , and South Korea . In January 1997 they travelled to North America to do a promotional campaign that Phil Quartararo , president of Virgin Records America , described as " absolutely massive " . During their visit to the US , the group met with influential radio programmers , TV networks , and magazines . In addition , Virgin persuaded fifty radio stations to playlist the song before it was released , while the music video was placed into heavy rotation by MTV .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

" Wannabe " received mixed reviews from UK music critics . Paul Gorman of Music Week called the group " smart , witty , abrasive and downright fun . " He described the song as a " R & B @-@ lite debut single , " and noted influences from Neneh Cherry in it . In a review conducted by the British pop band Deuce for Smash Hits magazine , the group described " Wannabe " as " limp , " " awful , " and " not strong enough for a debut single . " Kate Thornton , editor of Top of the Pops magazine , commented that the all @-@ girl group idea was " not going to happen ; " she considered it too threatening . In her review for The Guardian , Caroline Sullivan called it a combination of " cute hip pop and a vaguely feminist lyric , " she was also surprised that " considering the slightness of ' Wannabe , ' " the group had an overwhelming amount of offers from record companies . The NME characterised the song as " a combined force of Bananarama , Betty Boo and Shampoo rolled into one . " Dele Fadele of the same magazine called the rap during the song 's bridge " annoying , " and added , writing of the group 's music : " It 's not good . It 's not clever . But it 's fun . " The magazine named " Wannabe " the worst single of the year at the 1997 NME Awards . Conversely , it won for Best Single at the 1997 BRIT Awards , and for International Hit of the Year and Best British @-@ Written Single at the 1997 Ivor Novello Awards presented by the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters . In October 2011 , the NME placed it at number 111 on its list " 150 Best Tracks of the Past 15 Years . "

In the United States , reaction to the song was also mixed . In a review of the group 's debut album , Edna Gundersen of USA Today said that " Wannabe " is " a melodious but disposable tune that typifies this debut 's tart bubblegum and packaged sexiness . " Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune called it " insidiously snappy , [ ... ] [ that ] is shaping up as this year 's ' Macarena . ' " Karla Peterson of The San Diego Union @-@ Tribune said that " ' Wannabe ' has UGH written all over it , " adding that it was " relentlessly catchy and horrifyingly hummable . " The Buffalo News 's Anthony Violanti called it " irresistible . " Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe described it as a " maniacally zippy single , " and Stephanie Zacharek of Salon.com referred to it as an " unapologetically sassy dance hit . " Melissa Ruggieri of the Richmond Times @-@ Dispatch commented that " based on their efficacious American debut single , [ ... ] the Spice Girls might be expected to deliver more of that zingy pop on their debut album , " but she felt that " aside from ' Wannabe , ' the album 's dance

tracks are color @-@ by @-@ numbers bland . " Larry Flick of Billboard magazine said that " fans of the more edgy girl @-@ group [ ... ] may find this single too fluffy , " but added that " everyone else with a love of tasty pop hooks , lyrical positivity , and jaunty rhythms is going to be humming this single for months to come . "

Some reviewers noticed the combination of musical genres . Christina Kelly from Rolling Stone magazine criticised the group 's image , and added that their songs , including " Wannabe , " were " a watered @-@ down mix of hip @-@ hop and cheesy pop balladry , brought together by a manager with a marketing concept . " Matt Diehl of Entertainment Weekly said that it was " more a compendium of music styles ( from ABBA @-@ style choruses to unconvincing hip hop ) than an actual song , " and Sara Scribner of the Los Angeles Times described it as " a bubblegum hip @-@ hop confection of rapping lifted off Neneh Cherry and Monie Love albums . " Charles Aaron of Spin magazine called it " a quickie , mid- ' 80s teen paperback come to life [ ... ] so gooey it melts in your hands , not in your mouth . " The song ranked at fifteenth on Village Voice 's 1997 " Pazz & Jop " critics ' poll , conducted by music journalist Robert Christgau .

Present @-@ day reviews from critics , however , are mostly positive . Stephen Thomas Erlewine of AllMusic said that " none of the girls have great voices , but they do exude personality and charisma , which is what drives bouncy dance @-@ pop like ' Wannabe , ' with its ridiculous ' zig @-@ a @-@ zig @-@ ahhh ' hook , into pure pop guilty pleasure . " Dam Cairns of The Sunday Times said that the song " leaves a bad taste in the mouth : [ because ] the true legacy of Girl Power is , arguably , a preteen clothing industry selling crop tops and other minimal garments to young girls , " but added that it " remains the same two minutes and 53 seconds of pop perfection that it ever was . " In a review of their Greatest Hits album , IGN said that after ten years it " still sound reasonably fresh , " while Digital Spy 's Nick Levine said that " Wannabe " still remained an " exuberant calling card . "

== = Chart performance = = =

As part of Virgin 's strategy to make the group an international act , " Wannabe " was released in Japan and Southeast Asia two weeks before the British release . After the song was placed into heavy rotation on FM stations in Japan , the Spice Girls made promotional tours in May , July , and September 1996 . The group received major press and TV exposure , appearing in programmes such as Space Shower . The single was released by Toshiba EMI on 26 June 1996 , and sold 100 @, @ 000 copies by October 1996 .

" Wannabe " debuted on the UK Singles Chart at number three , six days after its physical release , and climbed to number one the next week . It spent seven weeks at the top , the second @-@ longest stay by an all @-@ female group , only behind Shakespears Sister 's " Stay " . With eighteen weeks in the top forty and twenty @-@ six weeks in the top seventy @-@ five , it became the second @-@ biggest selling single of the year , and as of November 2012 has sold over 1 @. @ 32 million copies , the biggest @-@ selling single by a female group in the UK .

" Wannabe " was commercially successful in the rest of Europe . On 14 September 1996 the song reached the top of Eurochart Hot 100 , where it stayed for nine consecutive weeks , when it was replaced by the group 's second single , " Say You 'll Be There " . " Wannabe " topped the singles charts in Belgium ( both the Flemish and French charts ) , Denmark , Finland , France , Germany , Ireland , the Netherlands , Norway , Spain , Sweden , and Switzerland , and peaked inside the top five in Austria and Italy . The song was a success in Oceania . In Australia , it debuted at number sixty @-@ four , reached the top of the ARIA Charts for eleven weeks , and ended at number five on the 1996 year @-@ end chart . In New Zealand , it debuted on 1 September 1996 at number thirty @-@ eight , reaching the top position ten weeks later . Despite only being at the top position for one week , it spent an amazing seventeen consecutive weeks inside the top ten . At the beginning of 1997 , the Spice Girls had their first three songs " Wannabe " , " Say You 'll Be There " and " 2 Become 1 " all holding a position in the top ten on the New Zealand singles chart , an amazing feat . " Wannabe " also topped the singles charts in Hong Kong and Israel .

In Canada , it debuted at the eighty @-@ ninth position of the RPM singles chart on the week

beginning December 16 , 1996 , a full month before it hit the US charts . It peaked at nine in its eighth week , and ended at number sixty @-@ eight on the year @-@ end chart . The song performed better on the dance chart , where it reached the top for three weeks , and ended at the top of the year @-@ end chart . In the US , the song debuted on 25 January 1997 at number eleven . At the time , this was the highest @-@ ever debut by a British act , beating the record previously held by The Beatles for " I Want to Hold Your Hand " at number twelve . It reached the top of the chart in its fifth week , and stayed there for four consecutive weeks simultaneously with the group 's fourth single ( " Mama " / " Who Do You Think You Are " ) being at number one in the UK . " Wannabe " reached the sixth position of the Hot 100 Airplay chart , and topped the Hot 100 Singles Sales chart for four consecutive weeks , selling over 1 @.@ 8 million copies as of January 1998 . It peaked at four on the Mainstream Top 40 , and was a crossover success , topping the Rhythmic Top 40 , peaking at twenty on the Hot Dance Club Play and at nine on the Hot Dance Singles Sales chart . New remixes of the song were produced in 2007 in conjunction with the release of their Greatest Hits CD and these rose to number 15 on the Billboard Dance Charts . " Wannabe " also remains the best selling song by a female group in the United States with 2 @,@ 910 @,@ 000 physical singles and downloads combined , according to Nielsen SoundScan in 2014 .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Wannabe " was the first for director Johan Camitz . Camitz was hired on Fuller 's recommendation because of his commercials for Volkswagen , Diesel , and Nike . His original concept for the video was a one @-@ take shoot of the group arriving at an exotic building in Barcelona , taking over the place , and running a riot ? the same way they did when they were looking for a manager and a record company . A few days before the shoot on 19 April 1996 , Camitz was unable to get permission to use the building , and the shoot was relocated to the Midland Grand Hotel in St Pancras , London .

The video features the group running , singing , dancing , and creating mischief at an eccentric bohemian party . Among their antics is Chisholm 's back handspring on one of the tables . Because the video needed to be taken in one shot , the group rehearsed the routine several times through the night , while a steadycam operator followed them . About the experience , Halliwell wrote : " The video I remember as being very chaotic and cold . It wasn 't very controlled ? we didn 't want it to be . We wanted the camera to capture the madness of the Spice Girls " . Virgin 's executives were horrified with the final result : " the girls were freezing cold , which showed itself in various different ways " , Ashley Newton recalled . The video was later banned in some parts of Asia because of Brown 's erect nipples . Additionally , the lighting was considered too dark and gloomy ; the best takes showed the girls bumping with the furniture and looking behind them . Virgin was concerned that old people appeared on the video , the part when they jump up on the table , and Halliwell 's showgirl outfit would be considered too threatening by music channels . Virgin immediately opened discussions about a re @-@ shoot of the video or creating an alternate one for the US , but the group refused . The video was sent for trial airing in its original form .

When the music video first appeared on the British cable network The Box , it was selected so frequently that it reached the top of the viewers ' chart within two hours of going on air , and stayed at number one for thirteen weeks . It was aired up to seventy times a week at its peak and became the most requested track in the channel 's history . The video premiered in the U.S. on January 25 , 1997and was an instant hit , winning Best Dance Video at the 1997 MTV Video Music Awards , and Best Video at the 1997 Comet Media Awards . It was also nominated for Best British Video at the 1997 BRIT Awards , and was ranked at number forty @-@ one in the Top 100 Pop Videos of all time by Channel 4 .

= = Live performances = =

The Spice Girls were in Japan when " Wannabe " went to number one in the UK . The group made their first appearance on Top of the Pops by satellite link from Tokyo , where they used a local

temple as a backdrop for their mimed performance . They have performed the song several more times on the show , including the programme 's 1996 Christmas special . It was performed many times on television , in both Europe and the US , including An Audience with ... , the Bravo Supershow , Sorpresa ; Sorpresa ! , Fully Booked , Live with Regis and Kathie Lee , The Oprah Winfrey Show , and Saturday Night Live . The performance at Saturday Night Live on 12 April 1997 was the first time the group ever performed " Wannabe " with a live band ? their previous performances had all been either lip @-@ synched or sung to a recorded backing track .

The group performed it at awards ceremonies such as the 1996 Smash Hits ! Awards , the 1996 Irish Music Awards , the 1997 BRIT Awards , and the 1997 Channel V Music Awards held in New Delhi , where they wore Indian costumes and entered the stage in auto rickshaws . In October 1997 the group performed " Wannabe " as the last song of their first live concert at the Abdi ?pekçi Arena in Istanbul , Turkey . The performance was broadcast on Showtime in a pay @-@ per @-@ view event titled Spice Girls in Concert Wild ! , and was later included in the VHS and DVD release Girl Power ! Live in Istanbul .

The Spice Girls have performed the song on their three tours , the Spiceworld Tour , the Christmas in Spiceworld Tour , and the Return of the Spice Girls . After Geri Halliwell left the band at the end of the European leg of the Spiceworld Tour , her parts were replaced by Melanie Chisholm ( refrain ) , Victoria Adams ( verses ) , and Bunton ( bridge ) . The performance at the tour 's final concert can be found on the video Spice Girls Live at Wembley Stadium , filmed in London , on 20 September 1998 . The group performed the song on 12 August 2012 at the 2012 Summer Olympics closing ceremony in London as part of a medley with the song " Spice Up Your Life " .

= = Legacy = =

" Wannabe " has been covered by numerous artists both in albums and live performances . In 1998 American retro @-@ satirist duo The Lounge @-@ O @-@ Leers did a kitschy , lounge @-@ inspired rendition of " Wannabe " for their debut album , Experiment in Terror . British intelligent dance music producer µ @-@ Ziq recorded a cover for his fourth album , Lunatic Harness . The London Double Bass Sound recorded an instrumental version in 1999 , a dance remix was recorded by Jan Stevens , Denise Nejame , and Sybersound for the 1997 album Sybersound Dance Mixes , Vol . 2 , while an electronic version was recorded by the Street Girls for the 2005 album The World of Hits of the 80 's . In 1999 the song was used in " Weird Al " Yankovic 's polka medley , " Polka Power ! " , for his tenth album , Running with Scissors .

Covers of the song in a punk style include a thrash parody version by British punk rock band Snuff for their 1998 EP , Schminkie Minkie Pinkie , a punk rock version by Dutch band Heideroosjes for their 1999 album , Schizo , and a pop punk cover by Zebrahead for their 2004 EP , Waste of MFZB . Covers in live performances includes a punk version by Australian duo The Veronicas , and another from American rock band Foo Fighters . In 2005 " Wannabe " was covered and included in the soundtrack of Disney 's animated film Chicken Little . In 2007 , the season 4 finale of One Tree Hill featured the female characters dancing as a group to the song . King Julien performed this song in the 2012 film Madagascar 3 : Europe 's Most Wanted . On 3 October 2012 Geri Halliwell performed the song as a solo during a breast @-@ cancer care show . The song was an acoustic ballad with several lyrics changed , such as " you 've gotta get with my friends " , changed to " you 've gotta be my best friend " . The characters Brittany ( Heather Morris ) , Tina ( Jenna Ushkowitz ) , Marley ( Melissa Benoist ) , Kitty ( Becca Tobin ) and Unique ( Alex Newell ) covered the song on the 17th episode of the fourth season of Glee . In 2013 Fifth Harmony covered the song which they put on their official YouTube on Halloween 2013 Also 2013 the Brazilian funk carioca singers MC Mayara , MC Mercenária , MC Baby Liss and DZ MC released a version of the song , called " Mereço Muito Mais " ( en : " I Deserve More " ) , and a music video inspired by the original .

The song appeared in first season of MTV animated series Daria in the episode " College Bored " and also in the Melrose Place episode 26 " Last Exit to Ohio " of the fifth season . Furthermore , The song was used in 2 episodes of Fox animated series The Simpsons , including " How the Test Was Won " , in which it was sung by Ralph Wiggum . In Chile , The song appears in soundtrack

telenovela TVN Separados . It was also used in the trailer for the 1997 film Excess Baggage . The song also appeared in the 1998 film Small Soldiers .

In 2014 , a study at the University of Amsterdam with the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester , has found that " Wannabe " as the most recognisable and catchiest pop song of last 60 years .

= = Formats and track listings = =

These are the formats and track listings of major single releases of " Wannabe " :

= = Credits and personnel = =

Spice Girls ? lyrics , vocals

Matt Rowe ? lyrics , producer , keyboards and programming

Richard Stannard ? lyrics , producer , keyboards and programming

Mark " Spike " Stent ? audio mixing

Adrian Bushby ? recording engineer

Patrick McGovern ? assistant

Published by Windswept Pacific Music Ltd / PolyGram Music Publishing Ltd .

= = Charts = =

= = Certifications = =

= = Release history = =