

= Underneath It All =

" Underneath It All " is a song written by Gwen Stefani and Dave Stewart for No Doubt 's fourth album Rock Steady (2001) . The song features reggae production from Mad Lion and guest vocals from deejay Lady Saw . It received mixed reviews from pop music critics .

" Underneath It All " was released as the album 's third single in mid @-@ 2002 . It became No Doubt 's highest @-@ charting American single but was less successful elsewhere . The song won a Grammy Award for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal at the 46th Grammy Awards . The song was featured in the film 50 First Dates (2004) .

= = Background and writing = =

The song was originally written by Stefani and Stewart during Stefani 's visit to boyfriend Gavin Rossdale in London . The two used backward string samples to write the song in only ten minutes . The song describes Stefani 's relationship with Rossdale , and the line " You 're really lovely underneath it all " comes from a journal entry that Stefani made after spending a day in the park with Rossdale . Guitarist Tom Dumont commented that Stewart 's experience helped them keep the song simple because he " would have way overthought those chord changes . " When the band was working on the album in Jamaica , producers Sly & Robbie called dancehall artist Lady Saw to have her contribute a guest toast . After listening to the track , Lady Saw wrote and recorded her part on the spot .

= = Music and structure = =

The song is a love song composed in the key of E major . It is written in common time and moves slowly at 69 beats per minute . Stefani avoids the heavy vocal vibrato that she often uses . Her vocal range spans under an octave and a half during the song , from F # 3 to B4 .

The song opens with a line sampled from Bob Clarke 's Sunday radio show on IRIE FM . The verses use a simple I @-@ vi chord progression , alternating between a first inversion E major chord and a second inversion C # minor chord , played on the off @-@ beats and switch to a IV @-@ iii progression . Each verse is followed by the chorus , which uses a I @-@ IV @-@ V @-@ IV progression . After the bridge , Lady Saw performs her toast . Stefani then sings the chorus twice , and Clarke closes the song after Stefani repeats the line " Mm mm mm underneath it all " four times .

= = Critical reception = =

" Underneath It All " received mixed reviews from music critics . Rolling Stone found its ska sound and Stefani 's questioning whether or not Rossdale is her soulmate tired . LAUNCHcast agreed the beat was one " that Sly & Robbie can do in their sleep " but added that the song " keeps its modern edge thanks to Lady Saw 's cooling rap . " Kitty Empire writing in NME also gave Lady Saw 's toast a positive review , stating that it " does an excellent job of sexing up all the sugar . " Stylus Magazine was pleased with Stefani 's performance on the song , stating that " she lets her voice ride gently on top of the melody , pushed along by the gentle steel drums in the background . " PopMatters commented that " No Doubt isn 't afraid of working with new ideas " but that the dancehall of " Underneath It All " was unsuccessful and sloppy . In its review of The Singles 1992 @-@ 2003 , OMH Media described the song as " an embarrassingly self @-@ conscious reggae pastiche , unimproved by a guest rap from Jamaican dancehall queen Lady Saw . "

= = Chart performance = =

" Underneath It All " peaked at number three on the Billboard Hot 100 for two weeks , becoming No Doubt 's highest charting American single , since " Don 't Speak " was not allowed onto the Hot 100

because of a technicality . It was successful in mainstream music , topping the Top 40 Mainstream and reaching number two on the Top 40 Tracks . The song was also successful in the adult contemporary radio market , reaching number two on the Adult Top 40 chart with a 2004 re @-@ appearance atop the Top 40 Adult Recurrents and peaking at number twenty @-@ seven on the Adult Contemporary chart . It had some crossover success on urban contemporary and Hispanic rhythmic stations , reaching the top forty on the Latin Pop Airplay and Rhythmic Top 40 charts and number twenty @-@ three on the Latin Tropical / Salsa Airplay . At the 2004 Grammy Awards , " Underneath It All " won for Best Pop Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group . The song fared poorer on the Canadian Singles Chart , where it peaked at number thirty @-@ five .

" Underneath It All " debuted at number eighteen on the UK Singles Chart but was unable to reach a higher position . It was unsuccessful across Europe , only reaching the top forty in Austria and Sweden . On the ARIA Singles Chart , the song peaked at number twenty @-@ eight and remained on the chart for seven weeks . In New Zealand it peaked at number eight for two consecutive weeks and stayed on the chart for over four months .

= = Music video = =

The song 's music video was directed by Sophie Muller and directing collaborative Logan . It opens with a sequence of Stefani , as shown on the cover of the CD single , removing several pieces of clothing and later lying on a bed . After a scene with her in front of a white heart with roses , bassist Tony Kanal and drummer Adrian Young play basketball while Stefani stands against the wall . Stefani is then shown against a sparkling sky , followed by a scene of the whole band bicycling during Lady Saw 's toast . The video closes with a scene of Stefani jumping on a bed in white undergarments and without makeup .

Muller wanted to add more sexual themes to the look of the video to contrast with the innocence of the song 's lyrics . The original idea for the video was to show Stefani with heavy makeup " really over done like a stripper " and have her remove her clothing throughout the video . Muller found that this complicated the video too much , so each sequence shows Stefani with progressively less makeup instead . Muller decided to use a color scheme with bright colors such as orange , lime green , and pink , and the contrast was increased using Symphony in post @-@ production . The bicycling scene was to originally show footage that the band shot while recording in Jamaica since Stefani wanted to include a Jamaican theme . Instead , the scene was created by filming the individual band members on a twelve @-@ foot turntable in front of a bluescreen . Tracks were used to shoot two members riding next to each other , and Logan used computer @-@ generated imagery to show the entire band bicycling in Jamaica .

The music video was successful on video channels . It debuted on MTV 's Total Request Live 7 October 2002 at number seven . It reached number five on the countdown and was on the program for twenty @-@ four days . " Underneath It All " peaked at number two on MuchMusic 's Countdown in September 2002 . The video received nominations for Best Pop Video and Best Cinematography at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards , but lost to Justin Timberlake 's " Cry Me a River " and Johnny Cash 's cover of " Hurt " respectively .

= = Track listing = =

= = = Maxi single = = =

" Underneath It All " featuring Lady Saw (Album Version) - 5 : 03

" Underneath It All " (Radio 1Live Acoustic Version) - 3 : 44

" Just a Girl " (Radio 1Live Acoustic Version) - 3 : 30

" Underneath It All " Video - 5 : 03

= = = 2 @-@ track single = = =

" Underneath It All " featuring Lady Saw (Album Version) - 5 : 03

" Underneath It All " (Radio 1Live Acoustic Version) - 3 : 44

= = Cover versions = =

American rock band Zebrahead covered the song and released it as a single for their cover album Panty Raid .

On November 25 , 2013 , Tessanne Chin covered the song on Season 5 of NBC 's singing competition , The Voice for the Live Top 8 round . She also deejayed Lady Saw 's verse .

= = Release history = =

= = Charts = =

= = = Weekly charts = = =

= = = Year @-@ end charts = = =