

= 2 Become 1 =

" 2 Become 1 " is a song by the English girl group the Spice Girls . Written by the group members , 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 (1996) . It was inspired by the special relationship that was developing between Geri Halliwell and Rowe during the writing session .

" 2 Become 1 " is a Pop , Pop rock , Soft rock , Easy listening , and Romance (music) song that features instrumentation from a guitar , an electronic keyboard , and string instruments . The lyrics focus on the bonding of two lovers , and also address the importance of contraception . Its Big TV ! -directed music video , which features the group performing against time @-@ lapse footage of Times Square in New York City , was completely shot against a green screen at a studio in London . The backdrop was later superimposed .

Released as the group 's third single on 16 December 1996 , it was generally well received by music critics and was a commercial success . It topped the UK Singles Chart for three weeks , becoming the group 's third consecutive chart @-@ topper , their second million @-@ selling single , and their first Christmas number @-@ one single in the United Kingdom . In July 1997 , the song was released in the United States , peaking at No. 4 on the Billboard Hot 100 , and receiving a gold certification by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) . It performed similarly internationally , peaking inside the top ten on the majority of the charts that it entered .

= = Background = =

In December 1994 , the Spice Girls persuaded their former managers ? father @-@ and @-@ son team Bob and Chris Herbert ? 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 was originally at the studio to meet pop star Jason Donovan , but he ended up in the showcase after hearing Melanie 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 after everyone had left the showcase to talk to the group , he then reported back to his songwriter partner Matt Rowe , that he had found the pop group of their dreams . In January 1995 , Chris Herbert booked the group 's first professional songwriting session with the producers at the Strongroom in Curtain Road , East London . Rowe remember feeling similarly to Stannard when he first met the group , " I love them . Immediately . [...] They were like no one I 'd met before , really . " The session was productive as the duo seemed to get along with the group , together they discussed about the songwriting process and what they wanted to do with the record . In her autobiography , Brown recalled 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 = =

" 2 Become 1 " was co @-@ written by the Spice Girls along with partners Richard Stannard and Matthew Rowe . Stannard and Rowe also co @-@ produced the track . After writing more uptempo dance @-@ based songs , such as " Wannabe " , the group and the two producers decided to write a slow ballad . But as the group were writing the song , they realised that it was a bit too slushy , so it was decided to address the importance of contraception with the lyrics : " Be a little bit wiser baby . Put it on , put it on " .

The song was inspired by the special relationship that was developing between Geri Halliwell and Rowe . Brown hinted at this development in her autobiography commenting : " When he [Rowe] and Geri started making eyes at each other I knew what was going on , even though they denied it .

I knew them both too well for it to be a secret for me . " Stannard commented about the fondness between Halliwell and Rowe : " I don 't want to get into the side of things . They were very close . They clicked . And I think the lyrics in " 2 Become 1 " came from that , especially the first verse , which they wrote together . "

= = = Spanish version = = =

The group recorded a Spanish version of the song , written by them , Rowe , Stannard , and N. Maño . The title was " 2 Become 1 " (Spanish Version) , although the title is loosely translated in one line of the song , " Seremos Uno Los Dos " . It was released as the eleventh track of their debut album Spice , in Latin America , South Africa , in a special re @-@ edition of the album in Spain , and as one of the tracks of the " 2 Become 1 " maxi @-@ single in the US . A Spanglish edit that traded verses between the English and Spanish versions was created by DJ Mike Rizzo and production director Bill Schultz for New York @-@ based radio WKTU .

= = Composition = =

" 2 Become 1 " is a pop ballad , written in the key of F ? major ; it is set in the time signature of common time and moves at a slow tempo of 72 beats per minute . The song is constructed in a verse @-@ chorus form , and its instrumentation comes from a guitar , an electronic keyboard , and string instruments . The song opens with an instrumental introduction , with a chord progression of E ? m add9 ? D ? / F ? G ? ? A ? m7 sus4 , that is also used during the first part of the verses . The last two lines of each verse changes the progression to C ? ? B ? m7 ? A ? m7 ? D ? 11 , and changes again during each chorus to G ? ? D ? ? C ? ? D ? . It closes with a string outro that uses the chord progression F ? ? G ? ? B ? ? ? C ? , which is arranged by Scottish composer Craig Armstrong .

In 1995 the Spice Girls recorded the demo version of 2 Become 1 . The first three verses sang by Chisholm , Beckham and Bunton respectively . The second three verses were sung by Chisholm , Halliwell and Bunton respectively . The final verse sang by Bunton and the bridges sang by Brown . In the final versions of the song Brown sang the second verse instead of Beckham for unknown reasons . The first and third lines of the chorus are sung by Bunton and Halliwell together and the second and fourth lines are sung by Chisholm and Beckham . After Halliwell 's departure in 1998 , Beckham replaced Halliwell singing the first and third lines of the chorus along with Bunton , while Brown replaced Beckham singing the second and fourth lines of the chorus along with Chisholm .

The lyrics focus on how the bonding of two lovers can become so strong that they practically become one entity , through the act of sexual intercourse . Apart from the sexual connotations , there is an aspirational undercurrent to the lyrics , and like many of their subsequent songs , desire is explicitly linked to ambition ? " Free your mind of doubt and danger / Be for real don 't be a stranger / We can achieve it / We can achieve it " .

Two different versions of the song , each with different lyrics , were recorded : in the album version , the second line of the second verse , " Any deal that we endeavor / Boys and girls go good together " , was changed in the single version to : " Once again if we endeavour / Love will bring us back together " . Victoria Beckham sings on the single version , while Halliwell sings on the album version , after Halliwell confessed that she had a hard time singing on that particular key . The single version appears in the music video , and on stage the girls always performed the single version before and after Halliwell 's departure .

= = Release = =

" 2 Become 1 " was released in the United Kingdom on 16 December 1996 , in three single versions . The first one , a maxi single that included the single version of the track , an orchestral take , the Junior Vasquez remix of " Wannabe " , and " One of These Girls " , a song written by the group with Paul Wilson and Andy Watkins ? the songwriters and production duo known as Absolute . The

second version was the special Christmas pack , a standard CD single in a cardboard case that included a signed postcard with a Christmas message from the group . This version contained the single version , the Dave Way remix , and their own version of Leroy Anderson 's " Sleigh Ride " . The third version was a two @-@ track cassette single , featuring the single version and the orchestral take of the song . The same track listing was also used for the release of the European CD single .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical response = = =

The song was generally well received by music critics . In a review of the group 's debut album *Spice* , Dev Sherlock of Yahoo ! Music Radio called it a " glossy ballad that would do Mariah Carey proud " . Whitney Pastorek of *Entertainment Weekly* said that the song is " too slow , and the lyrics appear to have been written by a safe @-@ sex @-@ loving unicorn " , adding that " it 's almost impossible to identify the individual Spice Girls by their voices here , so airbrushed are the proceedings " . Larry Flick of *Billboard* magazine said that " they are surprisingly adept at weaving warm and romantic imagery over a sweet melody " adding that " [Everyone] will delight in the track 's arrangement of soft harmonies and delicate acoustic guitar riffs " . *Time* magazine 's Christopher John Farley called it a " slumberous ballad [...] [that] seem [s] designed to amuse , titillate , ingratiate " .

Stephen Thomas Erlewine of *Allmusic* called the song a " perfect adult contemporary confection " . Greg Kot of the *Chicago Tribune* said that their first album " is a compendium of slick secondhand urban pop encompassing [...] G @-@ funk synths on ' Say You 'll Be There ' [...] and Babyface 's guitar and strings balladry on ' 2 Become 1 ' " . In a review of the group 's 2007 compilation album *Greatest Hits* , Talia Kraines of *BBC Music* called it " shimmering " adding that " only a cold heart could fail to love their first festive # 1 " . *Digital Spy* 's Nick Levine said that the group 's slower songs were " probably their strongest suit " , and thought that " ' 2 Become 1 ' manages to combine every element of the perfect Christmas ballad ? a touch of elegance , a hint of romance , a soupcon of sexiness and a generous sprinkling of sparkle ? and still finds time for a coy safe sex message " .

= = = Chart performance = = =

" 2 Become 1 " was originally going to be released in the UK on 9 December 1996 , but the release date was delayed to let Dunblane 's " Knockin ' on Heaven 's Door " ? a tribute to the children killed at the Dunblane Primary School in Scotland ? to stay at the top of the UK Singles Chart . The single was released the next week , debuting at the top , becoming the group 's third chart @-@ topper and their first Christmas number @-@ one single in the UK . It sold 209 @,@ 000 copies in the first three days of release and 430 @,@ 000 in the first week , becoming the tenth best @-@ selling single of the year . " 2 Become 1 " sold 1 @.@ 12 million copies in total , giving the Spice Girls their second and final million @-@ selling single in the UK .

In Ireland , " 2 Become 1 " was the group 's second number @-@ one single , and their first to debut at the top of the Irish Singles Chart . It stayed at the top position for six weeks , and became their first Christmas number @-@ one single in the country . " 2 Become 1 " peaked at No. 3 on the Eurochart Hot 100 , and performed similarly across the rest of Europe , topping the singles chart in Spain , peaking inside the top ten in Austria , Denmark , Finland , France , Italy , the Netherlands , Norway , Sweden and Switzerland , and inside the top fifteen in Belgium and Germany . It was also commercially successful in Australia and New Zealand , peaking inside the top three on both countries .

In July 1997 , " 2 Become 1 " debuted on the Canadian RPM singles chart at No. 87 , peaked at No. 3 on its fifth week , and ended at No. 25 on the year @-@ end chart . On the Adult Contemporary chart it peaked at No. 4 , and ended at No. 27 on the year @-@ end chart . In the United States ,

the song debuted on 16 August 1997 at No. 6 , reaching a peak of No. 4 in its fourth week , becoming the group 's third consecutive top five in the country . The song peaked at No. 6 on the Hot 100 Airplay chart and at No. 8 on the Hot 100 Singles Sales chart , selling 700 @,@ 000 copies as of December 1997 . It peaked at four on the Mainstream Top 40 , and had crossover success , peaking at four on the Rhythmic Top 40 and at eight on the Adult Contemporary chart .

= = Music video = =

The music video for " 2 Become 1 " was directed on 22 November 1996 by Big TV ! , in a two @-@ day shoot located at a studio in Old Compton Street , London . Cinematographer Stephen Keith @-@ Roach ? who worked in other music videos such as Jamiroquai 's " Virtual Insanity " and U2 's " Discotheque " ? was in charge of the photography . The shoot involved the group dressed in winter coats , wandering around the studio against a green screen , interspersed with close @-@ up camera angles , so that the backdrop could be superimposed later . To achieve the effect of the wind blowing slowly through their hairs , the group was required to lip @-@ synch the song in double time while wind machines were on them .

The music video features the group in Times Square in New York City with fast moving cars appearing around multi @-@ coloured lights , appearing in various places around the city , either alone , with one other member , or as a quintet . The video is intercut with scenes of lovers experiencing moments of togetherness and closes with a deer wandering the streets . Such a scene , according to the group 's first official book Girl Power ! , gave them a running gag all throughout the shoot ? " Whenever anyone made a mistake it was , ' Oh , deer ' . " Sometimes , the closing scene would not be shown on television , due to the song fading out to an instrumental , which lasts for 40 seconds .

In the same book , Victoria Beckham wrote about the shoot : " I think ' 2 Become 1 ' is my favorite video . [...] It was really different to the other videos ? shot entirely in the studio , with high technology and loads of effects . It was really weird having to sing passionately into the camera , I was feeling a right mug in front of all those people singing ' wanna make love to ya baby ' . "

= = Live performances = =

The song was performed many times on television , including the Bravo Supershow , GMTV , Live & Kicking , Noel 's House Party , and Top of the Pops . In October 1997 , the group performed " 2 Become 1 " as the eighth 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 . In December 2007 , the group performed the song on the finale of the fifth season of the British television show Strictly Come Dancing . They wore floor @-@ length gowns and used microphones covered in glitter , while professional dancers did a choreography in front of them .

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 . The performance at the Spiceworld Tour 's final concert can be found on the video : Spice Girls Live at Wembley Stadium , filmed in London , on 20 September 1998 . For the Return of the Spice Girls Tour , the group performed it during the second segment of the show . After the " Too Much " performance , each of the girls emerged from a cocoon of oversized swan wings and danced around a set of barber ? s poles while singing the song .

= = Cover versions = =

" 2 Become 1 " has been covered both in albums and live performances . In 1998 , The Countdown Singers recorded a sound @-@ alike version of the song for their album Today 's Love Songs . Lester Bowie 's Brass Fantasy did an instrumental jazz cover for the 1999 album The Odyssey Of Funk & Popular Music . American guitarist Paul Gilbert covered the song for his fourth album

Alligator Farm . Wildside recorded a dance remake for the 1997 album Mega Hits Dance Party , Vol . 1 , and was later included on the 2005 album Let 's Hear It for the 90 's , Vol . 1 . Filipino bossa nova singer , Sitti Navarro , recorded a cover of the song for her second album My Bossa Nova . During her solo career , Emma Bunton has performed live covers of the song on television programmes such as CD : UK and Popworld , and it was also included as part of her setlist for the Pepsi Silver Clef Concert . She performed the song as a duet twice with her former band mate Melanie C on November 9 , 2013 as part of the Oxford Street Lights Switch On and on January 11 , 2014 for Sporty 's Forty at O2 Shepherd 's Bush Empire .

= = Formats and track listings = =

These are the formats and track listings of major single releases of " 2 Become 1 " :

= = Credits and personnel = =

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

= = Charts and certifications = =