

= Something There =

" Something There " is a song written by lyricist Howard Ashman and composer Alan Menken for Walt Disney Pictures 30th animated feature film Beauty and the Beast ( 1991 ) . Sung by the majority of the film 's main cast , the song was recorded by American actors Paige O 'Hara as Belle and Robby Benson as the Beast via voice over , featuring actors Jerry Orbach , Angela Lansbury and David Ogden Stiers as Lumiere , Mrs. Potts and Cogsworth , respectively . The only song performed by the Beast , " Something There " is heard midway through Beauty and the Beast during a scene in which Belle and the Beast finally begin to acknowledge their own feelings for each other .

A last @-@ minute addition to the film , the simple love song was quickly written by Ashman and Menken to replace the more elaborate and ambitious " Human Again " after the latter was cut from Beauty and the Beast . O 'Hara based her own vocal performance on that of American singer and actress Barbra Streisand , who Howard advised the actress to impersonate , while O 'Hara herself convinced the songwriters to have Benson record the song . Critical reception towards " Something There " has been positive , with film and music critics alike praising Ashman 's abilities as both a songwriter and a storyteller .

= = Background = =

" Something There " was written by lyricist Howard Ashman and composer Alan Menken . According to Menken , " Something There " was written as " a very quick replacement for ... ' Human Again ' , " the latter of which was ultimately cut from Beauty and the Beast because it was considered " too ambitious " for the film . Eleven minutes in length , producer Don Hahn explained that the song was cut because " We just couldn 't figure out how to make it work and not take away from the central story of Belle . " Upon learning that " Human Again " was removed from Beauty and the Beast , Ashman and Menken were forced to return " to the drawing board to write something more contained and simple , " the ultimate result of which was the love song " Something There , " which has been described as " shorter and more direct " than " Human Again " . The creative team also believed that the Beast saving Belle was enough to justify the dance sequence near the end of the film , though later realised they had in fact not yet earned this moment ; this quiet song where Beast gives Belle his library was pitched and written by Howard Ashman and " and as soon as that was written , we knew the movie was going to work " .

In his biography I 'm Not Dead ... Yet ! , actor Robby Benson , voice of the Beast , revealed that it was co @-@ star Paige O 'Hara 's idea to have Benson 's character duet with O 'Hara 's Belle in " Something There " . According to Benson , the actress " explained to Ashman and Menken that [ Benson ] had made records and sang in Broadway musicals . " O 'Hara briefly struggled to record one of the song 's lines ? " a bit alarming " ? to which an ailing Ashman , who was forced to communicate with O 'Hara and the studio via telephone from his hospital bed in New York due to his illness , simply responded " Streisand . " By this , Ashman meant that he wanted O 'Hara to impersonate singer and actress Barbra Streisand , and by doing so O 'Hara finally recorded the song successfully . " Something There " was recorded by O 'Hara and Benson accompanied by a live orchestra .

= = Context , sequence and analysis = =

In the book The Meanings of " Beauty and the Beast " : A Handbook , author Jerry Griswold observed that the " Something There " musical sequence is preceded by " the once feisty Belle ... bandaging and nursing [ the Beast ] " after he rescues her from the wolves . Contextually , the purpose of the song has been identified as " Dramatizing [ Belle and the Beasts ' ] partnership . " Leading up to the musical sequence , the Beast first " surprises Belle by showing her his library and then they learn to eat together . " Author Robin O. Winter observed that " During the scene they begin to see beneath their outer appearances and start to appreciate each other 's inner qualities , "

while one critic identified this as one of the scenes in " which Belle and the Beast hesitantly slowly open up to one another . " Writing for Wesleyan University , Rachel Anne Silverman observed that " Something There " depicts " The first time Belle and the Beast 's attraction is introduced , " describing the couple 's relationship as " a passion that has developed over time . " Initially , Belle is alarmed " as she realizes her growing love for the Beast , " briefly hiding behind a tree as she sings . According to the Hal Leonard Corporation and Music Theatre International , the castle 's staff of enchanted objects also discover " something different between Belle and the Beast . " " Something There " concludes with Belle and the Beast retreating to a fireplace and reading . In the original film , " Something There " immediately precedes the film 's title song . However , for its special edition re @-@ release , the song is immediately followed by the newly reinstated " Human Again " .

Identifying the song as " where the genius of music as storytelling kicks in , " Simon Brew of Den of Geek felt that " Something There " is " the track with the heaviest workload . " The author observed that " In two minutes and 19 seconds , [ the song ] gets across just how the position and feelings of the characters have changed . " For instance , " At the beginning of ' Something There , ' Belle admits that she thought the Beast was mean , coarse , and unrefined . By the end , she ? s feeling pretty smitten , " according to Oh My Disney . The song also depicts the film 's passing of time , while providing audiences with an opportunity " to appreciate Beast and first see the potential for Belle and him . " On the song 's role in the special edition version of the film , co @-@ director Kirk Wise explained , " There 's a ... little suite of music now that starts with ' Something There ' ... which segues into ' Human Again ' which gives the object perspective on what they hope for when [ Belle and the Beast ] fall in love and that transitions into ' Beauty and the Beast ' the ballad , which is the culmination of their relationship . " Dubbing the song " soliloquies of Belle and the Beast , " TV Guide drew comparisons between " Something There " and songs from the musical South Pacific .

The " Something There " musical sequence was added towards the end of Beauty and the Beast 's filmmaking process . Belle was animated by Mark Henn , while the Beast was animated by Aaron Blaise . Henn described " Something There " as " a great sequence , " continuing , " I love to animate songs . " Los Angeles Times ' Charles Solomon felt that Belle was drawn inconsistently throughout the film , observing that the character appears " noticeably slimmer " during " Something There " .

= = Composition = =

Written in the key of D major at a quick allegretto tempo of 108 beats per minute in common time , the " playful " " Something There " is a Broadway musical @-@ inspired duet in which Belle and the Beast finally conclude that " there 's something there that wasn 't there before . " The song spans a duration of two minutes and eighteen seconds , making it the third shortest song on the soundtrack behind the reprises of " Belle " and " Gaston " , respectively . Describing " Something There " as " a fluffy song , " Filmtracks.com observed that the song " shares many instrumental devices with ' Belle ' ; " one of Belle 's verses in " Something There " serves as " a reprise of the secondary phrase from [ ' Belle ' ] " . Combined , O 'Hara and Benson 's vocal ranges span two octaves , from the low note of G3 to the high note of E5 . The song , described as " a poignant character number " performed " Against a background of the easy rhythms of soft , lilting violins , " " allowed [ O 'Hara and Benson ] to blend their voices . " In addition , Women 's Studies in Communication observed that the " tentative bursts of notes symbolize the uncertainties of this new way of relating " .

In the song 's first verse , " Belle articulates how her attraction to [ the Beast ] stems from his shut @-@ off demeanor , " singing , " There 's something sweet / And almost kind / But he was mean / And he was coarse and unrefined / But now he 's dear / And so unsure / I wonder why I didn 't see it there before . " The Beast 's verse reads , " when we touched she didn 't shudder at my paw . " According to Laurence E. MacDonald , author of the book The Invisible Art of Film Music : A Comprehensive History , Benson " shocked many filmgoers with his richly resonant baritone . " Finally , Belle sings the song 's bridge , which reads , " New and a bit alarming / Who 'd have ever thought that this could be ? / True , that he 's no Prince Charming / But there 's something in him that I simply didn 't see . " According to the Los Angeles Times , by the end of " Something There " ,

" the audience understands what Belle and Beast feel and how disconcerting those emotions seem . "

= = Reception = =

" Something There " has garnered mostly positive reviews from film and music critics . Writing for Den of Geek , Simon Brew felt that " Something There " is " where the genius of music as storytelling kicks in . " In Brew 's opinion , the " utterly convincing and un @-@ mawkish " song works " because the two characters aren 't on screen singing directly at each other . " Brew concluded , " Everyone who makes an animated film that has a love story at the heart should watch this . " Filmtracks.com described " Something There " as an " affable " song . Particularly praising Ashman 's songwriting , Charles Solomon of the Los Angeles Times wrote that " Ashman 's songs advance the plot by exploring the characters ' emotions and making story points more concisely than conventional exposition . " Solomon concluded , " By the end of the deceptively simple @-@ sounding ' Something There , ' the audience understands what Belle and Beast feel and how disconcerting those emotions seem . " O 'Hara continues to cite " Something There " as her favorite of the film 's songs , elaborating , " Every time I see the Beast with that grin on his face and the bird in his hand , my heart just melts . "

For the studio 's pending live @-@ action adaptation of Beauty and the Beast , Julia Emmanuele of Hollywood.com suggested that the filmmakers " feel free to drop ' Something There ' if there ? s no room for it " because " it won 't be missed . " However , when English actress Emma Watson confirmed in January 2015 that she will be portraying Belle via Facebook , she cited " Something There " as one of her favorite songs from her childhood . Irving Tan of Sputnikmusic jokingly called " Something There " " the closest the movie comes to admitting its horrendously inappropriate stance on human @-@ animal sexual relations . "