

= 1 Thing =

" 1 Thing " is a song written by American R & B singer @-@ songwriter Amerie and Rich Harrison for Amerie 's second studio album , Touch ( 2005 ) . The song is influenced by go @-@ go rhythms and features a prominent sample of The Meters ' 1970 funk recording of " Oh , Calcutta ! " , written by Stanley Walden . Its lyrics focus on an unidentified " thing " that fuels a romantic attraction .

The song was released as Touch 's lead single in 2005 , and is the only single from the soundtrack to the 2005 romantic comedy film Hitch . " 1 Thing " received acclaim from critics , and peaked at number eight on the Billboard Hot 100 and number four in the United Kingdom , becoming Amerie 's first top ten single and her biggest hit to date , also peaking at number one on the U.S. R & B singles chart . Its digital download and ringtone releases were each certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America . The song earned Amerie a Grammy Award nomination for Best Female R & B Vocal Performance at the 2006 Grammy Awards . A remix of " 1 Thing " features rapper Eve . It was later named the twenty @-@ second and twenty @-@ fifth best song of the 2000s decade by Rolling Stone and Robert Christgau , respectively .

= = Conception = =

In 2004 , when working on her second album , Amerie enlisted the services of producer Rich Harrison , who had helped produce and write her first album . In May 2004 , Harrison heard " Oh , Calcutta ! " for the first time and began working on the beat accompanying the ten @-@ second back @-@ and @-@ forth breakdown between Meters drummer Ziggy Modeliste and guitarist Leo Nocentelli . Harrison said he loved the work of the Meters , especially Modeliste , commenting , " Ziggy , he 's crazy . " He processed the way the breakdown could be " flipped " , added a bongo drum , a cowbell , and a ride cymbal , and sent it to Amerie . According to Harrison , they wrote and finished the song in two to three hours .

Amerie 's manager , Len Nicholson , felt the song was " the single " to release . When executives at Amerie 's label , Columbia / Sony Urban Music , heard " 1 Thing " , they felt that the song 's choruses needed to be " bigger " . They recommended that more music be added to the percussion @-@ focused beat , but Harrison and Amerie replied that adding more to the beat would overpower the song . Harrison and Amerie returned to the studio several times to rework the track . Each time they submitted a new version to the label , Columbia told them that the song sounded unfinished , but was unable to specify what should be changed . The label continued to refuse to release " 1 Thing " ; in Amerie 's words , " People just weren 't getting it " .

Later in 2004 , six months after recording " 1 Thing " , Amerie and Harrison leaked it to U.S. radio stations in an attempt to get it released officially . The response from DJs and listeners was positive , and it consequently received airplay across the country . Columbia Records attempted to suppress the song because it was an unofficial release , and because Jennifer Lopez ( another artist on the label ) had expressed interest in recording the song for her own album , Rebirth . Radio stations refused to retract the song from their playlists , and Columbia eventually began promoting " 1 Thing " as a single , making it a last @-@ minute addition to the Hitch soundtrack . Lopez settled on another Harrison @-@ produced , funk @-@ infused track , the Usher outtake " Get Right " .

= = Theme and sound = =

" 1 Thing " was produced by Harrison and is built around a sample of The Meters ' 1970 version of the theme song from Oh ! Calcutta ! , " Oh , Calcutta ! " , written by Stanley Walden . Built around The Meters ' funky beat @-@ driven percussion , " 1 Thing " finds Amerie lamenting an aspect of a relationship that keeps her satisfied . Even if other factors are less than positive , there is one thing that keeps her hooked ( " It 's this one thing that 's got me trippin ' " ) . Amerie said that the inspiration for the song came from a conversation she had with Harrison " about relationships and how there 's always one thing that keeps you attracted to someone . No matter what they do or how they act , there 's that one undeniable thing that keeps you coming back . " She told Blender that the

" one thing " " could be bringing flowers , or something more ... physical . People think I 'm just this good girl , but there are other sides they don 't see . "

Despite being based on a New Orleans funk sample , the song belies a strong go @-@ go influence . Harrison likened the two based on their heavy use of percussion and chant . Amerie stated , " You don 't hear go @-@ go outside of D.C. ... I was like , ' We have to do it in an up @-@ tempo way because when you hear it on the radio in D.C. , it 's fast . ' ... So it 's a fresh sound for everybody but people in the D.C. / Maryland / Virginia area . They [ already ] know what it is . " The song is composed in the key of B major , moving at a tempo of 100 beats per minute in common time . It uses four @-@ measure phrases with a I @-@ III @-@ II @-@ I @-@ VI chord progression . The first four chords are played on the measure 's downbeat , and off @-@ beat syncopation is used for the fifth chord .

= = Critical reception = =

" 1 Thing " received acclaim from music critics . In its review of Touch , Rolling Stone named the song " an early front @-@ runner for song @-@ of @-@ the @-@ summer status , " also ranking it the number one single of 2005 . Pitchfork Media stated that Harrison " knows something about horns , big glorious ascending heavenly anthemic horns " and " drums , huge sweaty riotous back @-@ and @-@ forth second @-@ line old @-@ school Clyde Stubblefield drums . " AllMusic described " 1 Thing " as being " just as exciting " as " Oh , Calcutta ! " for how it " [ flails ] all over the place with unbound joy " .

The song received second place behind Kanye West 's " Gold Digger " on the 2005 Pazz & Jop list , a survey of several hundred music critics conducted by Robert Christgau . Blender ranked " 1 Thing " number 191 on its list of " The 500 Greatest Songs Since You Were Born " . It praised the song 's " cascading drums ? and Amerie 's frantic , top @-@ of @-@ her @-@ range vocals " . Calling it " a pretty fucking smart move to wrap perfect pop around a question that stays open all night " , Pitchfork listed the song as the second best single of 2005 , behind Antony and the Johnsons ' " Hope There 's Someone " . The song was ranked 32nd on Pitchfork 's top 500 songs of the 2000s , and the publication included " 1 Thing " in its collection of The Pitchfork 500 . Christgau named it the twenty @-@ fifth best song of the 2000s .

= = Commercial performance = =

" 1 Thing " became Amerie 's most commercially successful song . In the United States , it debuted at the bottom of the Billboard Hot 100 on February 12 , 2005 . The song gradually climbed the chart over a ten @-@ week period , peaking at number eight , and exited the chart after a total of twenty weeks . It received play from urban contemporary stations and topped the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs in late April 2005 . " 1 Thing " also charted on the Rhythmic Top 40 and Pop 100 , reaching numbers thirteen and twenty @-@ eight respectively . The Recording Industry Association of America awarded a platinum certification to its digital download in October 2005 , and another platinum certification to its ringtone release in June 2006 . The song received a Grammy nomination for Best Female R & B Vocal Performance at the 48th Grammy Awards but lost to Mariah Carey 's " We Belong Together " .

The song was successful in the British Isles . In the United Kingdom , " 1 Thing " debuted and peaked at number four on the UK Singles Chart in late May 2005 . It went on to spend fourteen weeks on the chart . The song ended the year as Britain 's thirty @-@ eighth best @-@ selling single of 2005 . In the neighboring Republic of Ireland , the single debuted at number ten on the Irish Singles Chart . It climbed to number six in two weeks , remaining on the chart for another nine weeks . " 1 Thing " was successful in continental Europe , where it peaked at number thirteen on the European Hot 100 Singles chart . It reached the top ten in Denmark , Finland , and Norway ; the top twenty in Belgium and the Netherlands ; and the top forty in France , Germany , Sweden , and Switzerland .

= = Video , covers , and other uses = =

The music video for " 1 Thing " , directed by Chris Robinson and Amerie , revealed to the public the singer 's sexual side . It focuses on her dance routines , featuring her as a go @-@ go dancer in various setups , intercut with footage from the film Hitch . Amerie co @-@ directed the video with Chris Robinson after she approached him with the video 's concept in mind . The two collaborated again when directing the music video for the following single , " Touch " .

Lauryn Hill sampled " 1 Thing " during the second and last part of " Doo Wop ( That Thing ) " during live performances . Girls Aloud used the song as an interlude in performances of its 2004 single " Love Machine " during its 2006 Chemistry Tour . Foo Fighters member Dave Grohl showed the video for " 1 Thing " during 24 Hours of Foo , during a segment in which each member of the band presented one song that they considered their " guilty pleasure " . Alternative rock band Elbow covered the song in a comedic fashion for an August 2005 performance on BBC Radio 1 's Live Lounge . " 1 Thing " was used in the PlayStation 2 karaoke game SingStar R & B. The Sweden @-@ based Norwegian singer @-@ songwriter Ane Brun covered the song in an acoustic style on her 2013 album Rarities . A cover of the song by British duo Peter and Kerry is featured on Late Night Tales : Bonobo . The Irish singer @-@ songwriter Hozier has performed " 1 Thing " during concerts in 2014 and 2015 .

" 1 Thing " was played during the pole dancing scene in Somewhere . The song can also be heard in the soundtracks for video games Saints Row 2 , Everybody Dance , The Hip Hop Dance Experience and Grand Theft Auto V.

= = Remixes = =

The song 's only official remix features guest vocals from rapper Eve , and an alternate version of the music video was created for it . Amerie that said she chose Eve to appear on the remix because most other female R & B singers were accompanied by male rappers , and that Eve " epitomizes that whole independent fearless female doing her thing . She 's fashionable and very much a woman even though she definitely has a lot of attitude , the strength that most would attribute to men . ... With ' 1 Thing ' being such an aggressive track , it was perfect to see two females really doing it . "

A second remix features Fabolous , a third features B.G. , and little @-@ known Torontonion producer Satya Rock arranged an extended underground remix to feature E @-@ 40 , Method Man , Lyrics Born , One Be Lo , Dres , Joe Budden , Talib Kweli , Beanie Sigel , Edan , and MF DOOM . Siik remixed " 1 Thing " by using instrumentals from a song by Japanese producer Nujabes . Stylus Magazine listed Siik 's remix seventh on its list of the top ten remixes of 2005 and commented that " it 's enough to warrant a whole change of venue , from the sizzling pep of the dance floor to the silk luxury of the bedroom . " Most of the unofficial remixes were released on mixtapes , and Amerie said that she liked them all , particularly those by Fabolous , B.G. , and Juelz Santana .

= = Track listings = =

= = Charts and certifications = =

= = = Charts = = =