

= Thirsty (song) =

" Thirsty " is a song by American singer and songwriter Mariah Carey from her fourteenth studio album , Me . I Am Mariah ... The Elusive Chanteuse . It was co @-@ written by Carey in collaboration with Hit @-@ Boy , Denesia Andrews and MaryAnn Tatum . Carey and Hit @-@ Boy also produced it , with co @-@ production from Rey Reel . The alternate version of " Thirsty " , featuring one rap verse from American rapper Rich Homie Quan , received its radio premiere on Power 105 @.@ 1 on May 13 , 2014 , a day before the album version featuring just Carey was made available to stream . It has been described as a " club @-@ friendly " R & B song influenced by hip hop , which makes use of a minimal synth beat .

The song was met with a mixed reaction from music critics ; some were complimentary of her decision to work with Hit @-@ Boy and Rich Homie Quan , while others felt that Carey was trying too hard to appeal to a mass audience by doing so . Electro pop band Purple Crush also claimed that Carey used the hook from their 2013 song of the same name . Following the release of the album , " Thirsty " debuted on the South Korean International Gaon Single Chart at number 78 due to strong digital download sales . The song was included on Carey 's 2014 tour , The Elusive Chanteuse Show .

= = Background = =

During an interview with Power 105 @.@ 1 radio in a segment called The Breakfast Club , the host asked Carey if she had made a " bounce , gentleman 's club " song due to the recent popularity of artists choosing to record " strip @-@ club " songs , such as " Drunk in Love " by Beyoncé and " Pour It Up " by Rihanna . She confirmed that she had recorded a song for Me . I Am Mariah ... The Elusive Chanteuse called " Thirsty " , which embodies the same feel . Carey revealed that she had collaborated with Hit @-@ Boy on the track .

" Thirsty " was co @-@ written by Carey in collaboration with Hit @-@ Boy , Denesia " Blu June " Andrews , and MaryAnn Tatum . Production of the song was carried out by Carey and Hit @-@ Boy . It was co @-@ produced with Rey Reel . Jeremy Cimino , Nico Essig , Rob Katz , Rob Suchecki , Matt Weber assisted in the song 's recording , at Rapture Studios , Metrocity Studios , Studio at the Dunes , Beach House Studios , Henson Recording Studios , Studio at the Palms and Jungle City Studios , with mixing from Hazebanga and assistant mixing from Kevin Matela , Dave Rowland and Kenta Yonesaka at Germano Studios . The vocals were arranged by Carey , who also added background vocals along with Kaylana Tatum and Maryann Tatum . Tatum carried out additional background vocal production .

An alternate version of " Thirsty " , featuring one rap verse from American rapper Rich Homie Quan , was released first and received its official radio premiere on Power 105 @.@ 1 on May 13 , 2014 , while the solo album version featuring only Carey was made available to stream a day later . The single artwork for " Thirsty " was released on May 13 , 2014 . In the colourful picture , Carey is making a " sultry " pose in a strapless bikini top with matching lower half wrapped around her , with her midriff on show . Brett Maloc for E ! thought that Carey looked " skinnier than ever " . Despite Carey and Def Jam both confirming " Thirsty " as the fourth single to be released from the album , no release date was set . " You Don 't Know What to Do " featuring Wale was released to urban contemporary radio on June 30 , 2014 and rhythmic contemporary radio on July 1 , 2014 , as the fourth single instead .

= = Composition = =

" Thirsty " is a " club @-@ friendly " R & B song with an influence of hip hop music , which lasts for a duration of three minutes and 26 seconds . " Thirsty " is about how Carey 's lover has a thirst for fame which causes her to drown in her own misery . Billy Johnson , Jr. for Yahoo ! Music described the track as " [dissing] those desperate for attention . " The singer is " taking center stage as she takes aim at a starfucker " as she performs her " nonchalant " verses over a " skittering " minimal

synth beat . The song begins with the sound of a drink being poured into a glass , after which the instrumental begins to play and Carey sings line " You used to be Mr. All About Me , now you 're just thirsty for celebrity " in her upper register , then continues to ask her suitor " Why you try so damn hard ? " During the chorus , Carey repeatedly sings the hook " Uh , you 're Thirsty @-@ tay / Uh , you 're Thirsty @-@ tay " .

Rich Homie Quan performs background chants on " Thirsty " , although he is not credited on the album track list . He does , however , appear as a featured artist on an alternate version of the song , and performs one rap verse . For his part , he adds a " comedic element " by performing the line " Somebody get this girl a class of water / I say she six nickels , not a dime past a quarter . " The minimalist synth line of " Thirsty " has garnered comparisons to that of " Niggas in Paris " , a song performed by Kanye West and Jay @-@ Z , which was also produced by Hit @-@ Boy in 2011 . Critics have noted that although it is Hit @-@ Boy 's signature style to include a " steering background " beat in his production , that " Thirsty " is too " busy " compared to " Niggas in Paris " and that it comes off as " less appealing " and " watered @-@ down " in comparison . Gerrick D. Kennedy for the Los Angeles Times wrote that " Thirsty " lacks the " heft " of a song that Hit @-@ Boy produced called " Flawless " for Beyoncé 's self @-@ titled album in 2013 .

= = Critical reception = =

While some critics thought Mariah was trying too hard with " Thirsty , " the song has garnered mostly positive reviews from contemporary music critics . Christina Lee for Idolator was complimentary of the song , describing it as a single which her record label most probably wanted to release from the album in the first place . She went on to say that it is " tailor @-@ made " for radio airplay " right now . " Writing for the same publication , Mike Wass wrote that he thought the solo version was better than the alternate version featuring Rich Homie Quan 's rap verse , writing " It 's an improvement on the original . Not that there 's anything wrong with the slick Hit @-@ Boy production ? I just don 't like being distracted from Mimi ? s mesmerizing vocals , not even for a verse . "

Writing for Yahoo ! Music , Bill Johnson , Jr. praised Carey for collaborating with Rich Homie Quan and for " working with rappers who are on the cusp of going mainstream . " He explained that it is her " consistency and emphasis " on exposing up and coming rappers who are yet to release their own album that allows her to appeal to younger audiences , noting that they both benefit from the exposure . MTV writer Nadeska Alexis commented that it was " unexpected " to hear a song whereby Carey , Hit @-@ Boy , and Rich Homie Quan featured on the same song , but continued to write that it " sounds like a blend of classic Mariah @-@ pop . "

Slant Magazine 's Alexa Camp described the track as a " corrective of sorts " to her 2012 urban single release " Triumphant (Get ' Em) " , a collaboration with Rick Ross and Meek Mill , noting that " Thirsty " is not " littered " with guest features . She continued to write that although it does not possess the memorability of some of her past releases , such as " Fantasy " or " Emotions " , it serves as " a reminder of the pop gold Mimi can mine when she 's on top of her game . " Gerrick D. Kennedy for the Los Angeles Times was less impressed with " Thirsty " , writing that although the song is not a " dud , " he believes that Carey deserves better considering that it was her " who set the blueprint for mashing ethereal pop @-@ R & B melodies with speaker @-@ rattling hip @-@ hop beats . " He continued to criticize Carey for being too " desperate " , writing :

Inspired by street lingo ? " thirsty " for the unaware , is someone who is eager , verging on desperate ? it seems laughable that Carey opted to pen such a gimmicky tune . She 's delivered some of the best pop songs of the last two dozen years , and she certainly knows her way around a club groove (Need proof ? Spin " It 's Like That , " which is almost a decade old) . So why do an uninspired jam about a scrub if you 're not going to deliver a sassy , melisma @-@ soaked banger like those that came so effortlessly in the past (see " Obsessed , " " Shake It Off , " " Heartbreaker ") ? Why not remind the many contemporaries you 've inspired , who are owning radio with more interesting spins off your blueprint , what makes you Mariah Carey ?

= = Controversy = =

A couple of days after " Thirsty " premiered , Los Angeles based pop duo Purple Crush posted a picture on their Instagram account which showed a picture of themselves on the left and a picture of Carey on the right , claiming that the song bares similarities to a single they released of the same name in 2013 . Mike Wass from Idolator noted that the only similarity appears to be the name of the song and two words used in the hook . Purple Crush have previously sued Lady Gaga and her manager Rob Fusari for allegedly using their work without the duo 's permission for Gaga 's debut studio album , The Fame (2008) .

= = Charts and commercial performance = =

Upon the release of the album , " Thirsty " debuted at number 78 on the South Korean International Digital Singles chart , and number 50 on the Download chart , with sales of 3 @ , @ 679 units . It also charted at number 42 on the U.S. Top Twitter Tracks .