

= Liquorice (song) =

" Liquorice " is a song by American rapper Azealia Banks , taken from her debut extended play (EP) titled 1991 (2012) . The song was released onto Banks ' Tumblr account on December 18 , 2011 , and was later released for digital download on December 4 , 2012 . Built around Lone 's song " Pineapple Crush " , " Liquorice " is an acid house track that incorporates synthesizers in its composition . Lyrically , the song contains wordplay from Harlem , Banks ' origin , and is inspired by interracial dating . A music video for the single was directed by Rankin and was released in June 2012 .

" Liquorice " received mostly positive reviews from music critics , who praised the use of " Pineapple Crush " on the song and deemed it catchy . The single charted at number 73 on the Flemish Ultratip of Belgium in July 2012 . In support of the song and 1991 , Banks included " Liquorice " on the set list for her Mermaid Ball tour and performed the song at BBC 's Radio 1 's Hackney Weekend in 2012 and the 2013 Glastonbury Festival .

= = Composition = =

" Liquorice " was described as an acid house track by Dart Chris from Exclaim ! magazine . The song is built around " Pineapple Crush " , a house song produced by British electronic musician Lone , who also produced " Liquorice " . The track features synthesizers in its instrumentation . Michael Cragg from The Guardian described Banks ' vocals on the track as " playfully aggressive , featherlight and brilliantly smutty . " According to Banks herself , the song was partly inspired by American producer Diplo .

Lyrically , " Liquorice " contains " Harlem @-@ street @-@ slang @-@ derived wordplay " , which comes from Banks ' origin , Harlem (for example : " skrilla " means " money " , and " ye " stands for " cocaine ") . The song is also inspired by interracial dating ; Banks explained : " I date lots of white guys . It 's still seen as slightly taboo in African American culture , but I thought , ' Let me put this in your face and tell it how it is . ' "

= = Release and reception = =

Banks posted " Liquorice " onto her Tumblr on December 18 , 2011 . It was released as a digital download single on December 4 , 2012 . The single debuted at number 73 on the Flemish Ultratip chart of Belgium on July 7 , 2012 .

Dan Weiss from Boston Phoenix named " Liquorice " a " genuinely 1991 @-@ sounding " song , while Sarah Murphy from Exclaim ! deemed it " undeniably catchy . "

Larry Fitzmaurice of Pitchfork Media named " Liquorice " the " Best New Track " following its release ; he praised the use of " Pineapple Crush " on the song , commenting : " Lone 's bright tones and winding sense of melody meshes well with Banks ' light , airy vocals , while Azealia spits quick over ' Pineapple Crush ' ' s breakbeat rhythmic pattern without losing a handle on the beat , unleashing clever rhymes [...] without breaking a sweat . " In a mixed review , Alex Macpherson from Fact wrote that Banks " feels slightly overwhelmed by its broad synth brushstrokes . "

= = Music video = =

The music video for " Liquorice " was released on June 14 , 2012 . The video was directed by Rankin and styled by Nicola Formichetti . The visual sees Banks as a cowgirl riding through the desert on horseback . Becky Bain from Idolator wrote : " Azealia sports bull horns , wields a baseball bat , seductively licks a Popsicle and takes a mouthful of a hot dog . " Robin Murray from Clash deemed the video for the song as " lavish . "

= = Live performances = =

In June 2012 , Banks included " Liquorice " on the set list for her first headlining concert tour , Mermaid Ball , in support of 1991 and Banks ' mixtape Fantasea . On June 24 , 2012 , Banks performed " Liquorice " at Radio 1 's Hackney Weekend . The song was also included on Banks ' set list at Glastonbury Festival 2013 .

= = Track listing = =

Digital download

" Liquorice " ? 3 : 16

= = Charts = =