

= Thinkin Bout You =

" Thinkin Bout You " is a song by American singer Frank Ocean , released as the lead single from his debut studio album Channel Orange ( 2012 ) . The song was written by Ocean and produced by Shea Taylor . Originally to be featured on Bridget Kelly 's debut album , Ocean released his original version of the track for free on his tumblr in 2011 . In May 2012 , the song was officially sent to radio and released on iTunes as a single by Ocean . Kelly would later release her own version of the track entitled " Thinking Bout Forever " .

Lyrically , the track is about a relationship just out of his reach and the turmoil that ensues . The track also explores feelings of regret and heartbreak . The song received highly positive reviews from music critics , who praised the atmospheric production , Ocean 's falsetto and writing ability . Some critics noted the possible bisexual undertones featured on the track .

In September 2012 , the song peaked at position 32 on the Billboard Hot 100 , 94 on the UK Singles Chart , and 13 on the Heatseekers Songs chart . In 2011 , the song received a music video directed by visual art group High5Collective released on September 15 . Ocean appears in the violent clip revolving around an inter @-@ dimensional love story and zombies . Ocean performed the track during his seven @-@ show tour through North America and Europe in November 2011 , at the April 2012 Coachella Musical Festival , and his supporting tour for Channel Orange . " Thinkin Bout You " has been certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) and has sold more than one million units in the United States . The song was nominated for a Grammy Award in 2013 for Record of the Year .

= = Background = =

In early 2011 , Roc Nation recording artist Bridget Kelly and her production team had approached Ocean to write a song for her debut studio album . The song in question eventually became " Thinking About You " , which Kelly commented ; ? it ? s sort of a vulnerable track and I wanted everyone to feel me on it . ? On July 28 , 2011 , Ocean leaked his demo version of the song onto his tumblr account , with the title stylized as " Thinking Bout You " . The song was then promptly taken down by Ocean . Kelly , who had already performed an acoustic version of the song , retitled her version " Thinking About Forever " following the release of Ocean 's version . Kelly 's version found its way onto her debut EP Every Girl ( 2011 ) . Kelly was ultimately fine with Ocean 's decision , however she noted that she didn 't like how most people thought Ocean 's version was the original , and how people assumed her version was a cover version . About the confusion of the track , Kelly stated

Now that push has come to shove , we 're going to let the song have a life of its own . I think it 's an amazing , well @-@ written record . Frank Ocean is incredibly talented , I will never say anything against that . But at the same time , you know , he 's going to do what he wants to do , he 's an artist as well .

Ocean later stated why he chose to release his own version of the song , stating that it was still extremely personal to him . On March 8 , 2012 , a re @-@ mastered version of the song premiered on IHeartRadio , intended to be the lead single from Ocean 's debut album . At a listening party in June 2012 , it was confirmed that the track would appear on Ocean 's Channel Orange , which was released on July 17 , 2012 . The version of the track eventually featured on the album was remodified for a second time , this time to include additional strings and further remastered production . It was released as a digital download on April 17 , 2012 . The song was subsequently released to mainstream radio in the United States on January 29 , 2013 .

= = Composition = =

" Thinkin Bout You " is an R & B song with an atmospheric beat . The track is a tender ballad that " retains Ocean 's signature mellow , minimalist vibe , " reinforced with shimmering synths and silky production . Ocean croons smoothly on the song , while employing a falsetto vocal range in certain

sections . MTV columnist Jenna Hally Rubenstein likens Ocean 's singing on " Thinkin Bout You " to Robin Thicke , Justin Timberlake , and Maxwell . The version of the song featured on Channel Orange features an additional string section , opening the track with a swell of strings .

Lyrically , " it 's a melancholy record discussing the torturous pain that comes with thinking about someone all the time , even if they may not reciprocate the sentiment . " The track , being originally written for a woman , can be viewed as unisex composition . Following Ocean 's revelation that he has been attracted to people of the same sex , some critics noted that lines such as " my eyes don 't shed tears , but boy they pour when I 'm thinkin bout you " had another additional message , expressing his own thoughts on love . The song has been called a forbidden love track , expressing Ocean 's turmoil about his own hidden sexuality . The refrain " boy " was originally viewed synonym for ? wow ? , though " new urgency " was pumped into the track , adding extra pathos . Ocean reminisces about his " first time " , with an ex @-@ lover who is addressed as " boy " during the song . The track is an apology to an unnamed lover . Lines like " a tornado flew around my room before you came , " serves as a confession , and " excuse the mess it made , it usually doesn 't rain in Southern California " outlines Ocean 's own grief about the situation , admitting the situation got out of control .

About Ocean 's writing , Pitchfork Media 's Jordan Sargent stated that the " strength of his songwriting is his ability to make the unfamiliar feel intensely personal , as if you 're a friend that has long known all the particulars of his relationships . " He continued , " Thinking About You " is also more primal , though . The yearning in his falsetto is almost palpable as he flips gender roles and admits that he 's been " thinking about forever , " while simultaneously questioning if the " girl " even had that kinda thing on her mind . " Erika Ramirez of Billboard wrote that the track " gives prominence to his songwriting prowess and sonic versatility , as he intertwines the parallel styles of soul , R & B , jazz and even a bit of funk . " The song has been described as incredibly personal in nature , the " sort of thing that 's best sung by the person who wrote it . " The track telepathically serenades the person who took Ocean 's virginity , and in the " motel room of memories Frank talks eternal love , breaking into a sublime Maxwell @-@ esque falsetto that makes a good case for restoring the style to contemporary mainstream R & B. "

= = Critical reception = =

" Thinkin Bout You " received highly positive reviews from music critics . Pitchfork Media called the song " bewitching " and complimented its crossover potential . Sputnikmusic 's Sobhi Youssef praised the track , commenting that Ocean 's ability to " emote within the confines of a ballad without making it saccharine or cheesy is nearly unparalleled by any of his contemporaries " , citing " Thinkin Bout You " as the framework of most of the album . Pitchfork Media critic Jordan Sargent praised the song , and wrote " this isn 't a tale of bedroom triumph ; instead it 's a beguiling sketch of a relationship just out of his reach . Like many of his songs , the magnetism of " Thinking About You " lies not in the details , but in the lack thereof . " Billboard stated that the " Odd Future member tries out different singing styles , showing off his beautiful falsetto vocal range in certain sections . " MTV journalist Jenna Hally commented that Ocean had a " surprisingly gorgeous falsetto " and " retains Frank 's classic laid @-@ back and relaxed R & B vibe . " Katherine Asaph of Popdust wrote that the track " might as well be Ocean ? s final audition for R & B stardom " and that it was a " smooth ballad version of " Novacane " without the sleaze getting in the way of its purpose is just about the best thing possible for Ocean ? s burgeoning fame . The track shatters no earth , and nobody will use it as a ( flawed ) example about how Ocean ? s changing the R & B game , but in everyone ? s career is a time for a solid ballad . "

John Calvert of The Quietus described " Thinkin Bout You " as a " slow @-@ release torch song the colour of caramel and bathed in low voltage lighting , a buzzing but soothing synth cycle and muffled beats evoke touching and kissing in a velveteen womb . Poised , considered , classy and moving , this is uniquely Frank Ocean . " Greg Kot of the Chicago Tribune stated that the track " couldn ? t be any less auspicious as an opening song , little more than a delicate , yearning falsetto vocal over vaporous keyboards and a muffled rhythm track . " Rolling Stone writer Jody Rosen described the

song as " woozy " , featuring Ocean 's " falsetto rippling over murmuring electronic percussion " . She stated that " it 's a bisexual black bohemian New Orleanian @-@ turned @-@ Angeleno 's avant @-@ R & B torch ballad . And , of course , it 's just a love song ? an anthem for anyone , anywhere , who 's found love , and lost it . "

Hayley Louise Brown of Clash viewed the song as an important part of the album , musing " opening with a reworked version of heartbreaking ballad ? Thinking About You ? and an instant confrontation with the full force of Ocean ? s vocal range , the whole record echoes with extra terrestrial Odd Future synths and clumsy piano chords . " Lane Billings of Paste noted the song as whispy in nature , and made a case for Ocean as an R & B revivalist . Consequence of Sound 's Harley Brown of stated that the song moves languidly , " like perfect thoughts about someone missed , until the muscle memory of Ocean ? s falsetto bursts into the song ? s upper register . " She continued , " while Ocean might feel this more acutely than either woman who sung those songs , there ? s a reason Bey shed a tear the first time she heard it . Regardless of how much these lyrics were influenced by lines like , ' By the time I realized I was in love , it was malignant . It was hopeless , ' the ache in Ocean ? s voice is universal . MSN Music 's Danielle Cheesman felt that Ocean did his followers a service by featuring the song as the album 's opener , describing the track as " the year @-@ old spacey serenade to a boy that became a fan favorite . " She continued , " despite now being enhanced with a strings intro , his falsetto - more importantly - remains in tact over the well @-@ known warped ebb and flow . "

= = = Accolades = = =

Rolling Stone named the song the 4th best song of 2012 , calling it " the year 's deepest love song [ that ] won us all . " Complex named the track the fourth best song of 2011 , writing that " Ocean 's voice explores those awkward spaces in a new relationship , making the eternal lover 's questions sound new and urgent . Whatever it is , Frank Ocean 's " Thinking About Forever " is one of those songs that will never get old . " Beyoncé reportedly cried while listening to the song , and wrote Ocean a poem of support . Knowles and Ocean had previously collaborated on the track " I Miss You " . The Village Voice 's Pazz & Jop annual critics ' poll ranked " Thinkin Bout You " at number four to find the best music of 2012 .

= = Music video = =

On September 15 , 2011 , a music video directed by visual art group High5Collective was released . The Direction team 's " music videos are typically unofficial affair " but according to them the clip was the official video . Pitchfork Media reported , " it sure looks official , since Frank seems to appear in the bloody , somewhat tragic clip ( in doctor 's garb ) , and Frank posted it on his Tumblr . " It featured Native American cultural imagery and interdimensional elements in its plot . The music video plays out " more like a short film than something you ? d see on MTV Jams , this visionary piece sees the OFWGKTA crooner play merely a supporting cast role as a doctor . Ocean makes a cameo as a doctor , though " mostly with the back of his head , his footage refreshingly entwined with a girl @-@ saving Native American mystical ritual . " The video explores the dreams of a sick girl , a " few primitive zombie @-@ looking people " , and some " celestial activity . "

The Huffington Post wrote that " the video is a dream within a story involving a little girl , a teepee and a few deaths . Cool ! It 's a surprisingly filmic effort , with a sepia mid @-@ century creepiness that calls to mind " Mad Men " plus " Justified , " with a little " Walking Dead " thrown in for good measure . " The Smoking Section commented , " he premise might sound out there , until you watch for yourself and your assumptions become trumped by the visually and mentally stimulating succession of supernatural events . " Prefix Magazine gave the video a positive review , writing " the vid sets Ocean 's doe @-@ eyed crooning against something of an inter @-@ dimensional love story , that or a dreamcatcher @-@ inspired fever dream . Either way , pioneer triage and white @-@ eyed shaman were not what we 're expecting , but we couldn 't be more pleasantly surprised . "

## == Promotion ==

Ocean embarked on a solo tour through North America and Europe to promote his mixtape *Nostalgia Ultra* and his other musical projects . The set lists to the various shows varied , though " Thinking Bout You " was performed at all shows . The track was included during Ocean 's setlist at the April 2012 Coachella Musical Festival . Complex magazine stated the " his falsetto on ? Thinking About You ? made women in the audience swoon . "

Electronic artist SBTRKT released a remixed version of the track onto his own personal SoundCloud account , announcing " did this whilst on tour ... not mixed or official " . Pop artists Justin Bieber and Jaden Smith recorded a cover version of the track . MTV reported , " in his smooth , pop and R & B way Justin fantasizes about Selena Gomez delivers Frank 's sexy verse like a boss : " Do you not think so far ahead ? / ' Cause I 've been thinking ' bout forever . " American singer ZZ Ward performed a version of the song in April 2013 for The A.V. Club 's A.V. Undercover series .

## == Chart performance ==

On the week of March 22 , 2012 , the song debuted at number 91 on Billboard 's Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs . It has since peaked at number 7 . Following the release of *Channel Orange* , the track rode a wave of momentum and charted at position 32 on the Billboard Hot 100 , 6 on the Billboard Heatseekers Songs chart , 94 on the UK Singles Chart and 16 on the UK R & B singles chart . On December 14 , 2012 , " Thinkin Bout You " was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America ( RIAA ) , for shipments of 500 @,@ 000 units in the United States . As of February 28 , 2013 , the song has sold over one million copies in the United States .

## == Charts ==

## == Certifications ==