# TUNE INTO ENGLISH
# Rihanna's We Found Love

La cantante delle Barbados prese d'assalto le classifiche musicali e le piste da ballo di tutto il mondo con questa canzone scritta in collaborazione con il produttore scozzese Calvin Harris.

**W**e *Found Love* is Rihanna's most successful song, and one of the bestselling singles of all time. A song about love and loss[1], it is, nevertheless[2], a party anthem[3] in the electro house genre[4]. The song was written and produced by Scottish DJ Calvin Harris, who also features[5]. In 2011, Harris was one of the opening acts[6] for a Rihanna tour, and suggested that the Barbadian megastar record the track. When she announced the collaboration on social media, her fans, who Rihanna calls her Navy[7] after a line from another of her songs, inundated Harris with messages, warning[8] him that the track "better not be[9] rubbish[10]." It became Rihanna's eleventh US chart topper[11] and Harris' first hit, staying at number one for ten weeks.

It is a very simple song lyrically, with the emphasis on the repeated hook[12]. There are just two short verses and a bridge[13], all instantly memorable. English singer Leona Lewis originally recorded a demo[14], but as Harris told MTV: "No one could have taken it as far as Rihanna did." The song made him a household[15] name and one of the world's highest-earning[16] DJs.

The video shoot[17] took place in Northern Ireland, and caused controversy when a farmer asked Rihanna to leave his field where she was filming because of her "inappropriate state of undress[18]." The crew moved to Belfast to complete the depiction of a toxic relationship, featuring English boxing champion Dudley O'Shaughnessy and a spoken intro by model Agyness Deyn.

Described by NPR[19] as "the love song of a generation... an anthem of inclusivity", in 2013 *Billboard* magazine named it the third biggest love song of all time. ⊗

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**SCAN, READ & LISTEN** 🔊 **08**

**UPPER INTERMEDIATE** B2

## ↘ GLOSSARY

1 **loss:** perdita
2 **nevertheless:** ciononondimeno, comunque
3 **anthem:** inno
4 **genre:** genere
5 **to feature:** apparire, partecipare
6 **opening acts:** atti d'apertura
7 **Navy:** Marina Militare
8 **to warn:** avvertire
9 **better not be:** farà meglio a non essere
10 **rubbish:** porcheria, spazzatura
11 **topper:** in testa
12 **hook:** ritornello
13 **bridge:** intermezzo
14 **demo:** provino, dimostrazione
15 **household:** emblematico
16 **highest-earning:** più pagato
17 **shoot:** riprese
18 **undress:** nudità
19 **NPR:** National Public Radio (Radio Pubblica Nazionale)
20 **to feel ashamed:** vergognarsi
21 **to hurt:** far del male, ferire
22 **hopeless:** disperato, senza speranza
23 **to be over:** essere finito
24 **shadow:** ombra
25 **to shine a light:** fare splendere una luce

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It's like you're screaming,
and no one can hear
You almost feel ashamed[20], that someone
could be that important
That without them, you feel like nothing
No one will ever understand
how much it hurts[21]
You feel hopeless[22],
like nothing can save you
And when it's over[23] and it's gone
You almost wish you could have all that bad
stuff back
So that you could have the good

Yellow diamonds in the light
Now we're standing side by side
As your shadow[24] crosses mine
What it takes to come alive
It's the way I'm feeling I just can't deny
But I've gotta let it go
We found love in a hopeless place
We found love in a hopeless place
We found love in a hopeless place
We found love in a hopeless place
Shine a light[25] through an open door
Love and life I will divide
Turn away 'cause I need you more
Feel the heartbeat in my mind
It's the way I'm feeling I just can't deny
But I've gotta let it go
We found love in a hopeless place
We found love in a hopeless place
We found love in a hopeless place
We found love in a hopeless place
Yellow diamonds in the light
Now we're standing side by side
As your shadow crosses mine

We found love in a hopeless place
[chorus]

**stuff:** this word can be used in a wide variety of contexts. Often, such as in this case, as a synonym for 'things'.

**what it takes:** whatever is necessary.

**turn away:** this means taking an opposite direction, separating.

**feel the heartbeat in my mind:** this is a nonsense phrase as you cannot feel vibrations in your mind.

**hopeless:** adjectives are often formed by adding a suffix. '–less' means 'without', while '–ful' means 'with'.

**yellow diamonds:** based on the video, Rihanna may be referring to drugs.

**deny:** 'to deny' is used incorrectly here as it should be followed by a noun, pronoun, gerund or a 'that' clause.

**gotta:** an informal abbreviation of 'got to', meaning 'must', often used in spoken English.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone or tablet and listen to the official song on YouTube while reading the lyrics.

**SCAN & WATCH**