

What Do Women See In Rapper Eminem?

By Gregory Clay
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

One woman said he's so delicious, she wants to have his babies. Another said he's sexy. Still, another said he's dangerous-looking but angelic at the same time. No, we're not talking about Ben Affleck or Justin Timberlake or Leonardo DiCaprio.

We're talking Eminem. The descriptions are from women who eagerly ventured to New York theaters recently to view Eminem's new movie, "8 Mile," which grossed an astounding \$54.5 million during its opening weekend.

Eminem is the rough-as-nails, foul-mouthed gangsta rapper whose lyrics have included references to gang-raping his sister and killing his mother and ex-wife. He even called Britney Spears "garbage," for gosh sakes.

How blasphemous. Poor Britney.

Despite his vileness, some women apparently find an attraction toward the rap star turned movie idol. Wait a minute: Is he becoming a clean, white version of Will Smith?

But women flocking to Eminem? What gives, we ask with a high degree of incredulity.

Perhaps, at the root of this attraction is a type of innate mothering (or smothering) reflex from women. Call it the savior mentality. Yes, he's cute, he's bad, but we can save him with our motherly instincts. Maybe they don't see him as Eminem, the gangsta, but as Marshall Mathers, a vulnerable and overgrown 30-year-old adolescent.

We know Eminem's past. He grew up in a hardscrabble environment on

the east side of Detroit, born to a 15-year-old mother, whom he says never had a job, and a father, whom he never knew. He failed ninth grade three times, then quit school altogether.

He once asked: "Why is it so hard for people to believe that white people are poor? I wouldn't say I lived in a ghetto, I'd say I lived in the 'hood. The same friends I had back then are the same people on tour with me now."

Bottom line: He's a tough white guy who's been urbanized in a black subculture.

Like him or not, Eminem is real. He's lived it; no prevarication here (did someone conjure up images of a previous white rapper, a packaged myth known as Vanilla Ice?) Perhaps, some admiring women are magnetized by Eminem's sort of

Horatio Alger biography. You know, from a nobody going nowhere to a somebody suddenly supposedly special. Eminem is an individual who probably should have been a statistic, but, instead, is making million\$ through sheer dint of his perceived "artistic" ability.

Perhaps, Eminem's rebellious reputation invokes a magic-wand effect. Some women are naturally attracted to "bad boys." We see it with Pamela Anderson (notice her high-strung alliances with Kid Rock and the even-more notorious Tommy Lee before him.) We see it with Whitney Houston and trouble-maker Bobby Brown. How many times has he been arrested now? We've lost count, and they ostensibly are still a couple.

As one woman said in a New York newspaper: "If

men don't have overtly aggressive confidence or an extra edge, they're not interesting enough."

Some guys who live on the edge apparently seal a romantic deal with a unique appeal to women. They purport an element of danger, though some women euphemistically call it excitement. Besides, "bad boys" are never considered boring, are they?

Perhaps, some women gravitate toward Eminem because of that perceived authenticity. He's viewed as a real roughneck, and not some musical creation. Remember, we earlier mentioned Vanilla Ice. That's the guy from the early 1990s who lied about his background to gain credibility, said he was ghetto, but he really wasn't. Look where he is now.

KRT Campus

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Home

everyone else did or to join clubs because your friends joined them. Those days are long gone. As lonely as it may sound, we have to set our own paths. Sometimes there will be people along the way to help and at other times, we will have to walk

alone. Nevertheless, we must always remember that we are in control of our own lives.

There are many things that we freshman have yet to learn and experience. I have refused to let that stand in my way because we

all have to start somewhere. As for now, my colleagues and I feel that we are apart of something great. We feel like we have inherited a rich legacy just by being students here at FSU. There's no doubt that the first few days were a little

unorthodox, but smiling faces and extended hands have definitely closed the gap.

In the words of our Chancellor Dr. Willis B. McCleod, "If I look like somebody and I act like somebody, then you might

think I'm somebody and you will treat me like somebody." The way has been paved and now the Class of 2006 is climbing the ropes.

ATTITUUUUDE
CHECK??

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History

Jordan scored on a 3-yard touchdown run and quarterback Jabali Smith ran in the two-point conversion.

Bowie State was forced to punt on its next possession, giving Fayetteville State the ball back with about three minutes left in the game. The Bulldogs stopped the Broncos, forcing them to go three-and-out.

With 1:04 left in the game, Bowie State took over on its own 30-yard line after Fayetteville State punted away.

But the Bulldogs' efforts to get into field-goal range to tie the game were thwarted by two sacks by the Broncos. Bowie State was unable to stop the clock, having used all of its timeouts earlier in the half.

Perhaps the most frustrating part for the Bulldogs was their inability to slice into Fayetteville State's lead.

The Broncos fumbled the ball nine times, most due to the constant rain that kept the ball wet.

But Fayetteville State never turned the ball over.

"They fumbled nine times and we didn't get any of them," Bowie State sophomore linebacker Atcheson Conway said. "We weren't able to take advantage of any turnovers. And that's a big part of our game as a defensive unit."

Despite the constant downpour, Fayetteville State had success throwing the ball. Broncos quarterback Te'Mon Wallace threw for 208 yards on 12 of 18 passing with

touchdown passes to London and Carnell Thornton.

"We knew coming into the football game that if we gave Te'Mon some time in the pocket that he'll be able to hit them with a couple of passes," Fayetteville State coach Kenny Phillips said.

In other football news: Some of the players responsible for the best football season in Fayetteville State history were recognized for their achievement when the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association released its All-CIAA football team.

Broncos senior linebacker and Douglas Byrd graduate Brian Holliday was named the Defensive Player of the Year. Holliday, who is third

in the nation in NCAA Division II with 128 tackles, is one of 12 Fayetteville State players to be recognized on the all-conference team, the most by any of the CIAA schools.

Holliday is also a finalist for Division II Player of the Year.

"Brian has got one of those qualities that you don't coach," Phillips said. "He's got a knack for the football."

Offensive linemen Karson Lown and Johnny Surrat were first-team selections, as were running back DeAngelo Bridgers and freshman kicker Justin Langdon.

Holliday, punter Alan Zero and defensive backs Duron Donald and Phil Crumb made the first-team

defense.

Offensive lineman O'Gene Jacobs and receiver London were second-team offensive selections, while defensive lineman Damien Adams and rover back Shawn Morgan were second-team defensive selections.

"From day one, when we came in here we knew what we had to do to lift this program to the top of the conference was to recruit quality young men," said Phillips. "All of the guys on that team are quality young men."

Andregus Holmes was cited during the CIAA Championship game for having the highest grade-point average.

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