

July 31, 2014

### The Clichés of Country Music



As it's summertime, one of the most popular music genres is country. And something I, like most people, was blissfully unaware of the underlying themes of stereotypes and objectification of women.

A new YouTube music video, posted last week on July 24 by 18-year-olds Maddie Marlow and Tae Dye (Maddie & Tae), called "Girl in a Country Song." In a previously taped interview, Tae explains, "One day we were just talking about all the country songs we love that are on the radio right now..." The songwriter Aaron Scherz adds, "And Maddie said, 'You know, I'd hate to be the girl in those country songs.'"

They're referring to the top country songs on the airwaves, called "bro-country." "Bro-country" lyrics talk about drinking beers, driving in pick-up trucks, dirt roads, among others. (Luke Bryan, Florida Georgia Line, and Blake Shelton are a few 'bro-country' stars.) Within a minute of the video, there's a "role reversal," where the country boys are objectified. The video then goes through all the country music video stereotypes, though, the men are the ones acting them out.

A line in the chorus goes, "*We used to get a little respect. Now we're lucky if we even get to climb up in the truck, keep our mouth shut, ride along, and be the girl in a country song.*"

The song ends with the line, "Can I put on some real clothes now?" This song will hopefully raise awareness about the blatant objectifications of women. In today's world, music directly affects our culture. I've seen even young girls dress like the clichéd women of these "bro-country" videos, and that's what we need to stop. Stand up for the objectification of women in your field, so young girls can have positive role models and aspirations for their future.

Watch the video below, and answer this question: How would you fight the objectification of women? [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_MOavH-Eivw#t=101](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MOavH-Eivw#t=101)

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