Race and gender roles

Art & Culture, Artists



It shows how a woman feels through the eyes of herself. It uses the technique of making the man sit at home and act like a wife by running behind her all the time. If it were shot otherwise, the wife may not have looked as dismal and ignored as a husband did in this video. This fact not only shows the perspectives the society has long built up but also the insensitive attitude toward them. According to a review:

"The lyrics are both a lament for misunderstanding between the genders and an indictment of the male side of relationships. It's a perfect follow up to the independent attitude of B'Day and lays the groundwork for another exploration of what it means to be a woman in the world today. The pain of experience is palpable counter-balanced somewhat by a sense of hope that progress can still be made."

The video disregards any observable aspects race may have played in such a situation. It just clarifies the concept so long thought to be second nature to men; to be attracted to other women. While, on the other hand, it portrays the role of a typical wife clearly taken with her husband and getting hurt and jealous in the process. The confrontation at the end only reveals the careless behavior of the husband towards his flouting behavior.

Another review describes the gender role as: "Knowles is in a contemplative, wistful mood as she considers all the things she'd get up to if she were a guy -- like rolling out of bed and throwing on any old thing, drinking beer with the dudes, flirting, pulling the "my cell phone wasn't working" excuse. Then she muses about the fact that she'd make a better man because she's been on the other side and knows how it feels to be hurt."

The husband can go out with his female colleagues and be attracted to them

as long as he's not sleeping with them. It clearly shows the insult and the hurt the wife goes through. Moreover, it is revealed at the end that the role has been reversed; she thinks about how she would have treated her other half better. The irony here is that men are careless in understanding women while this is not so with women.