

SONIC REVIEW EP. 2 (BILLIE EILISH)

KATE FAIRMAN

[SWEEPER INTRO]

FOR 91.3 WHJE, I'M KATE FAIRMAN AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO SONIC REVIEW. THIS EPISODE, I WILL BE PROVIDING BACKGROUND ON THE SINGER BILLIE EILISH AND BREAKING DOWN THE LYRICS OF SOME OF HER SONGS.

[OCEAN EYES IN]

BILLIE EILISH IS A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN SINGER AND SONGWRITER, AND WHEN SHE WAS ONLY ELEVEN, SHE BEGAN WRITING HER OWN SONGS AND PUT OUT HER FIRST SINGLE AT AGE 13. BILLIE EILISH RECENTLY RELEASED HER DEBUT EP TITLED "DON'T SMILE AT ME" IN AUGUST OF 2017.

[PLAY OCEAN EYES FOR A BIT, FADE DOWN]

IN OCTOBER OF 2015, BILLIE'S OLDER BROTHER FINNEAS INFORMED HER OF A SONG HE HAD BEEN PLAYING WITH HIS BAND TITLED "OCEAN EYES". WITH THE HELP OF HER BROTHER, BILLIE RECORDED THE SONG AND SENT IT TO HER DANCE TEACHER, WHO HOPED TO CHOREOGRAPH A DANCE TO IT. THE SONG WAS ALSO POSTED ON SOUNDCLOUD IN NOVEMBER OF 2015, WHERE IT ENDED UP GOING VIRAL. AS FAR AS LYRICAL CONTENT, THE SONG IS A METAPHORICAL LOVE SONG WHERE BILLIE COMPARES HER ATTRACTION TO AN INDIVIDUAL TO ATTRACTION TO THE OCEAN. SHE TALKS ABOUT HOW DEEP SHE'S FALLEN, AND HOW SHE GETS DRAWN IN BY THE EYES OF HER LOVE INTEREST. THIS METAPHORICAL MEANING IS SUPPORTED BY THE SONG'S LOVING, RELAXED, HAPPY SOUND.

[COPYCAT IT]

THIS NEXT SONG, TITLED "COPYCAT", HAS BEEN STREAMED AN IMPRESSIVE 2.7 MILLION TIMES ON SPOTIFY, AND ALSO HAS OVER THREE HUNDRED FORTY SIX THOUSAND SOUNDCLOUD PLAYS. THIS SONG IS ESSENTIALLY BILLIE SAYING THAT

PEOPLE SHOULD JUST BE THEMSELVES AND NOT TRY TO BE LIKE HER OR ANYONE ELSE, BUT SHE DOES SO IN THE FORM OF AN ANGSTY AND CONFIDENT SOUNDING TRACK THAT CLEARLY GETS HER MESSAGE ACROSS.

IN THE CHORUS OF THE SONG, SHE SINGS

[PLAY CHORUS]

“COPYCAT TRYING TO COP MY MANNER, WATCH YOUR BACK WHEN YOU CAN'T WATCH MINE, COPYCAT TRYING TO COP MY GLAMOUR, WHY SO SAD, BUNNY, YOU CAN'T HAVE MINE?”

[FADE DOWN]

WITH THIS LYRIC, SHE USES A MORE CONDESCENDING TONE AND SHE IS BASICALLY SAYING DON'T TRY TO BE ME, BECAUSE I'M ALREADY MY OWN PERSON.

[PLAY LYRIC “CALL ME COCKY, WATCH YOUR TONE, YOU BETTER LOVE ME,'CAUSE YOU'RE JUST A CLONE]

THIS VERSE IN PARTICULAR ALSO ADDS TO THE OVERALL MEANING OF THE SONG, BECAUSE BILLIE IS SAYING TO HER PEERS DON'T JUDGE ME OR ACT LIKE YOU HATE ME, WHEN YOU ARE TRYING TO BE ME.

[BELLYACHE IN]

THE NEXT SONG THAT I CHOSE, TITLED “BELLYACHE” WAS RELEASED ON FEBRUARY 24, 2017. ACCORDING TO AN INTERVIEW WITH BILLIE EILISH, THIS SONG IS ESSENTIALLY ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF GUILT, OR WHEN YOU DO THINGS IN THE MOMENT BECAUSE YOU FEEL SO STRONGLY ABOUT THEM, BUT IN THE END YOU'RE LEFT WITH THE DECISION YOU MADE. IN THE CASE OF THIS SONG, THAT GUILT IS COMING FROM A FICTIONAL PSYCHOPATH WHO REGRETS BEING A PSYCHOPATH BUT DOESN'T REALLY CARE AT THE SAME TIME. FROM A LYRICAL STANDPOINT, BILLIE SINGS “MY FRIENDS AREN'T FAR, IN THE BACK OF MY CAR, LAY THEIR BODIES.”

THIS LYRIC MAKES IT VERY OBVIOUS THAT THE NARRATOR OF THE STORY IS NOT SANE AND HAS EVEN GONE AS FAR AS TO MURDER THEIR FRIENDS.

[PLAY BRIDGE TO CHORUS, FADE OUT]

THE DREAMY, DAZED, YET CAREFREE SOUND OF THIS SONG, COMBINED WITH THE LYRICS, MORE SPECIFICALLY THE REPETITION OF THE LYRIC “WHERE’S MY MIND?” GIVES EVEN MORE OF A PSYCHOPATHIC VIBE TO THE SONG.

[MY BOY IN]

IN THIS NEXT SONG, TITLED “MY BOY,” BILLIE EILISH IS EXPLORING A FAILING RELATIONSHIP WITH A BOY SHE KNOWS IS LYING TO HER.

[PLAY LYRIC “MY BOY LOVES HIS FRIENDS LIKE I LOVE MY SPLIT ENDS AND BY THAT I MEAN HE CUTS 'EM OFF”]

THIS VERSE, LIKE MANY OTHER VERSES IN THIS SONG, USES METAPHOR, BUT INSTEAD OF LEAVING IT TO THE LISTENER TO INTERPRET, BILLIE IS VERY BLUNT ABOUT WHAT SHE MEANS.

LATER ON IN THE CHORUS, SHE SINGS

[PLAY “MY BOY, MY BOY, MY BOY, DON'T LOVE ME LIKE HE PROMISED, MY BOY, MY BOY, MY BOY, HE AIN'T A MAN AND SURE AS HELL AIN'T HONEST”]

THIS LYRIC TELLS THE LISTENER THAT “HER BOY” IS IMMATURE AND DISHONEST AND THAT SHE IS FED UP WITH IT. FROM A COMPOSITION STANDPOINT, THE SONG IS SLOW AT THE BEGINNING, WHICH MAKES IT SOUND LIKE A LOVE SONG, BUT THE ABRUPT CHANGE OF TEMPO AND MOOD AFTER THE FIRST VERSE TO A MORE UPBEAT, ANGSTY, AND HONEST SOUND MAKES IT SOUND LIKE SHE IS FED UP WITH THE RELATIONSHIP.

[FADE IN THEN OUT, WATCH FADES IN]

THIS NEXT SONG, "WATCH" DESCRIBES BILLIE'S PERSPECTIVE OF UNREQUITED LOVE FOR A BOY AND SHE CAN'T GRASP WHY SHE ISN'T WITH THE GUY SHE WANTS TO BE WITH.

[PLAY "IF WE WERE MEANT TO BE, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN BY NOW, SEE WHAT YOU  
WANNA SEE, BUT ALL I SEE IS HIM RIGHT NOW"]

THIS LYRIC MEANS THAT IF THERE WAS ANY CHANCE OF THE BOY LIKING HER, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN TOGETHER BY NOW. DESPITE THIS FACT, SHE STILL CAN'T KEEP HER MIND OFF OF HIM. IN THE CHORUS OF THE SONG, SHE SINGS "I'LL SIT AND WATCH YOUR CAR BURN, WITH THE FIRE THAT YOU STARTED IN ME, BUT YOU NEVER CAME BACK TO ASK IT OUT". THIS LYRIC IS BASICALLY BILLIE SAYING THAT SHE IS VERY UPSET THAT THE PERSON SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH MADE HER LOVE THEM, BUT NEVER ASKED HER OUT OR DID ANYTHING SERIOUS WITH HER, AND INSTEAD JUST PLAYED WITH HER EMOTIONS.

[&BURN IN]

THE LAST TRACK OF BILLIE EILISH'S DEBUT EP, TITLED "&BURN" IS JUST A REMIX OF "WATCH" FEATURING RAPPER VINCE STAPLES. HOWEVER, IT ALSO HAS A VERY DIFFERENT SOUND THAN "WATCH" DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT HAS THE SAME LYRICS. THE REMIX CHANGES THE MOOD OF THE SONG TO MAKE IT SOUND MORE LIKE SHE IS LOOKING FOR REVENGE ON THE BOY INSTEAD OF LONGING FOR HIM.

[FADE SONG IN, THEN DOWN]

DESPITE ALL THE SUCCESS BILLIE HAS HAD UP UNTIL THIS POINT, HER CAREER HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SHE COULD END UP BEING A HIGHLY INFLUENTIAL ARTIST IN THE WORLD OF ALTERNATIVE MUSIC LATER ON IN HER CAREER.

[PLAY SONG, FADE DOWN]

THIS CONCLUDES MY SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTIST BILLIE EILISH AND WRAPS UP  
EPISODE 2 OF SONIC REVIEW. FOR MORE MUSIC SIMILAR TO WHAT YOU HEARD THIS  
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