

Hip-hop Quandary

A monologue by Dennis Bush

Selected from his collection,

“Life and Death, Laughter and Love”

Cast: 1 male

Length: 3 pages of dialogue (457 words)

Performance time: About 3 minutes

The Story

A successful businessman in his 30s, Elliot describes his new girlfriend Kim, a hipper, edgier younger woman into underground rappers. Being with her, he explains, is like traveling in a foreign country where the language and customs can be strange. But after all, life is an adventure.
(drama)

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HIP-HOP QUANDARY

(Successful businessman in his early 30s.

Dating a woman who is very different.)

I am in a ... quandary!

I have always been interested in a particular kind of woman: sophisticated ... well-educated ... charming. I like a woman to be attractive, of course, but I also want to be stimulated intellectually.

So, you can imagine my surprise when I met Kim and found myself absolutely captivated by her.

She's not at all like the women I've dated before. She's ... different She's ... edgy She's ... into rap music and hip-hop. I've always preferred classical music or jazz. I've never "busted a move." I've never "gotten jiggy with it." I remember being at a party in the early '90s when someone put on an MC Hammer song, "U Can't Touch This," and we danced around a bit and sang along *(He delivers an affected rendition of the title phrase.)* "U Can't Touch This." It was really quite amusing.

Kim is much more ... edgy than Mr. MC Hammer. She prefers "underground" rappers. She's particularly fond of a gentleman named Andre Nickatina. When she first mentioned him, I thought she was talking about a new

medication to stop smoking. You know, “I’m wearing an Andre Nickatina patch and I certainly hope it works.”

On Saturday night, when I was driving her home, she put a hip-hop CD in my car stereo. It was shocking. I was aghast. The singer — if you can call him that — used very derogatory terms to describe the women in his life. There was a section where he chanted, “You a ho. You a ho. You a ho, ho, ho.”

I was taken aback. I was speechless. As far as I’m concerned, the phrase “ho, ho, ho” should be reserved for the exclusive use of Santa Claus.

But there is something about Kim that makes me put aside all my apprehensions about her taste in music: She makes me laugh. And she laughs at me, too. The other day she stopped by my office after we’d been out to lunch. There were files on the floor and stacks of reports all over my desk. I told her, “Don’t mind the mess up in here.” (*A sheepish admission.*) I’m picking up the “lingo.”

Tomorrow I’m meeting some of her friends. I want to make a good impression. (*Practicing for the introductions.*) “What up, dawg?” (*Transitional pause.*)

Being with Kim is like traveling in a foreign country. You don’t always understand what people are saying and the customs can be pretty strange.

End of Freeview

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