

Synopsis: In this essay, I discussed the controversy of images within the African American community. For some African American women, the image of a “hood girl” automatically equals promiscuity. For others, an educated woman is equivalent to a good girl image.

Promiscuity: Educated Women vs. Hood Girls

In Arielle Loren’s article, she discusses the dividing line between the sexuality of educated women and the sexuality of “hood girls.” Promiscuity is a sexual behavior. Promiscuity is not being good or bad, positive or negative, and it’s not prejudice towards race and socioeconomic class. By socioeconomic class, she means low, middle, and high class. The “hood girls” are at the bottom in the low class category. The educated women are at the top in the middle and high-class category. According to Loren, both categories of women have the same type of promiscuity. The “hood girls” shouldn’t be casted the side eye for being promiscuous by the more educated and economically stable women.

Loren compared hood girls that go to the club with educated women that go to the club. The problem with her comparison is every woman, a hood girl or an educated woman, doesn’t go to the club looking for a night of adventure with random men. Picking up a guy can happen anywhere. It can happen at church, the mall, or event he grocery store! I feel like the author presents a dividing line between black women. She makes it sound as if there are two types of black women; they are either “hood” and dumb or they are educated and smart. I feel this idea also presents stereotypes. In her article, a hood girl is described as the following: she wears Baby Phat, has a skirt riding up her donk, and is always curled up in some baller-looking-man’s arms. Someone has to draw the line somewhere when it comes to black stereotypes, especially the ones that give off a negative image.

I understand what Arielle Loren is trying to say but I have some doubts. Women more fortunate than others shouldn’t pass judgment on those who don’t dress the same way they do or

talk the same way as they do. The way a woman dresses is her own preference and she shouldn't be looked down upon for it or feel guilty about it. I disagree with her definition of what promiscuity is. Being promiscuous means having a numerous amount of sexual relations with several men. I'm sure there is no woman on this earth that wants to be labeled as promiscuous. Being promiscuous is not a good thing.

My next concern: stereotypes! I hate the ghetto/hood stereotype for black women. Just because a woman wears Baby Phat, Air Jordans, and bamboo earrings with that God forbidden side ponytail doesn't make her hood or ghetto at all! It just means she happens to have a bad taste in fashion. The media and hip-hop culture has portrayed the "hood girl" as looking this way. She also has an extremely high pitch voice, long colorful nails, and is constantly chewing gum. So if that's what the hood girl is portrayed as, what does the ideal educated woman look like? Does she have long brown hair that goes down to the middle of her back? Does she wear button down shirts with pearl necklaces? All of those are very stereotypical. I guess society can look at how a woman is dressed and tell that she's "hooked up" with many guys. Your ability to hook up with guys has nothing to do with your education level. There are many "hood girls" that are very intellectual. Some in fact are a lot more knowledgeable than the average educated black woman.

To sum up, appearance and intellectuality cannot determine someone's promiscuity. Just because a black woman is dressed in Baby Phat and has a side ponytail does not mean she's hooking up with a lot of guys. Also, just because a woman is "educated" does not make her an innocent angel. All black women should stop passing judgment at each other for trying to have an intense love life. If a woman wants to disrespect herself by sleeping with numerous guys, then that's her business. Eventually she will learn from her mistakes and deal with the consequences.

Works Cited

Loren, Arielle "Promiscuity: Educated Women vs. Hood Girls." ClutchMagazine. 06 Oct 2010. <<http://clutchmagazineonline.com/lifeculture/feature/promiscuity-educated-women-vs-hood-girls/>>