



Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation

By Natalie Hopkinson, Natalie Y. Moore

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Two smart Black women break the Tyrone code ? with affection, with respect, but with no illusions. Black men as fathers, sons, teachers, lovers, rap stars, professionals, fantasy objects, and cultural constructs ? a multifaceted picture of American Black men today.

You know Tyrone. Smooth-talking, irresistible Tyrone ? the swagger in his step, the sexy drawl, the poetry and rhythm in his essence ? the militant revolutionary of the 1960s evolved into the pimp/thug of the hip-hop era. Tyrone is the Black man seen through the media lens, through stereotype, through the eyes of Black women. He's "Talk Show Tyrone," all muscle and defiance, "an archetype converted to a hit single."

In Deconstructing Tyrone, the authors, journalists Natalie Y. Moore and Natalie Hopkinson, examine Black masculinity from a variety of perspectives, looking not for consensus but for insight. With chapters on Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, on the complicated relationship between women and hip-hop, on babydaddies, on gay Black men on and off the down low, on strippers and their fathers, on Black men in the office, at school, and in jail, Deconstructing Tyrone presents a multifaceted picture of American Black men now.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this series of 11 essays, journalists Hopkinson and Moore probe black male archetypes of the hip-hop generation, but the Howard University grads' superficial application of Jacques Derrida's "deconstruction theory" limits the impact of their effort. ("Tyrone," the everyman moniker in Erykah Badu's 1997 female anthem, is the authors' cultural catchall for these black men.) Written in cheeky, intellectual-yet-down vernacular, the strongest chapters deliver convention-bending twists on familiar types. They introduce Etan Thomas, an erudite basketball player with a taste for politics; hypermasculine showboat Kwame Kilpatrick, not pimping in a rap video but leaning back in Detroit's mayoral mansion; and a gay couple restoring their well-appointed Victorian home while the kids are away at camp. But too often, trendy cultural arguments and the minutiae of each subject's life eclipse deeper analysis. The essay on Kwame Kilpatrick is less about unveling meanings buried in media and public perceptions than evaluating his uneven mayoral record. Essays like "Babydaddy" and "Tyrones in Training" complicate boilerplate images of young, hip-hop-loving black men, but rely exclusively on the views of babymamas and teen girls. Hopkinson and Moore offer snap shots of alternative black masculinities, but don't really break new ground. (*Dec.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

The image of black masculinity is dominated these days by hip-hop culture, building on past images of violence and hypersexuality to form a modern archetype. Journalists Hopkinson and Moore have covered the black urban cultural and political scene and have garnered some insights into the image of the archetype they call "Tyrone." They examine Tyrone through the lens of media coverage of the music and sports industries, as well as through the perspectives of black women. Each chapter focuses on a different aspect or personality of the modern black male: Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, often called the "Hip-Hop Mayor"; the brainy son of a black militant, serving time for murder and mindful of the disproportionate incarceration of young black men; young blacks who start their own businesses as the economy fails to find places for them; black men as "babydaddies" but not husbands; and black men on the down-low, denying their homosexuality. In conclusion, Hopkinson and Moore offer personal reflections from mothers and adolescents on their hopes for the future of relationships between black men and women. *Vanessa Bush*

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Review

"A deconstruction done in love... Breaks down the myths surrounding black masculinity in a way that inspires hope and points the way toward change." -- *Gwendolyn D. Pough, author of Check It While I Wreck It: Black Womanhood, Hip-Hop Culture and the Public Sphere*

"Instead of presenting different types of black men as problems to be solved, the authors invite readers to make sense of the diversity of that community, its history and its possible futures, rather than to merely wring their hands, turn their heads or offer a simplistic stereotype. Instead of coming up with one blanket statement on Why Black Men Are The Way They Are, they ask questions. Answers, after all, only come when questions are asked, often and persistently, and in their foreword, the authors confirm that they ask these questions not in judgment but in love." -- *Palm Beach Post*

"Kudos to these two sisters for presenting us in a true light." -- *Tom Joyner, Jr.*

"Moore and Hopkinson pick up the dialogue where the mainstream media usually leaves off.... These first-time authors created a witty examination of racial and gender issues that draws heavily from personal experiences but also is grounded by research and interviews with men and women who both embody and confound the stereotypes." -- *Chicago Sun-Times*

"Sharp reporting and analysis that veers from gut-wrenchingly honest to laugh-out-loud funny." -- *Black Issues Book Review*

"With compassion, wit, and keen intelligence, the authors have touched upon our rarely spoken truths. Here is a vision of the complex, vibrant humanity living outside the bleak statistics and damning headlines." -- *William Jelani Cobb, author of To The Break of Dawn: A Freestyle on the Hip-Hop Aesthetic*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Geraldine Matson:

The book Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation has a lot info on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was compiled by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research previous to write this book. That book very easy to read you may get the point easily after reading this article book.

Steven Resnick:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book mainly book entitled Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a e-book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get before. The Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation giving you an additional experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful info for your better life in this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished examining it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Ollie Nadeau:

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got learners? We believe that that question was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. So you know that little person just like reading or as studying become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important in addition to book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update in relation to something by book. Numerous books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation.

Maureen Smiley:

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