



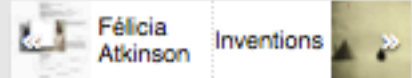
Isabella Nella Power.

Interscope / Aftermath / Top Dawg;
2015

By **Amger Forte**, March 19, 2015

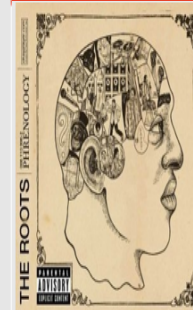
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Albums Like "Power.":

PLAYING NEAR YOU



The Roots
Phrenology
MCA / Chazyplayer, 2002
By **Sam Chennault**, January 26, 2003

8.1

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This album by the Roots uses similar groundbreaking jazzy electronic vibes in a rap album, just as "Power." does. These sounds have become a new kind of rap sound and will continue to influence the industry as a whole.

Wow. Just wow. This one is an album for the ages. Isabella Nella's "Power." plays out like a best selling featured film in theaters. This solo produced, no feature album, gives off this eerie and dangerous feel. This is the first time since Kendrick Lamar I've heard a rapper convict their feelings on such large topics as race and gender and institutionalism as strongly as Isabella and he do. The album following genre busting freakouts ("The Roots' Phrenology, Common's Electric Circus, Q-Tip's Kamaal the Abstract, André 3000's The Love Below") In kicking down the confines of rap music's presentation and literally changing the game. Nella's approach to modern society's biggest issues treats life with an extinctive approach. Similar to Kendrick Lamar's "Complexion" where he raps, "Dark as the midnight hour or bright as the morning sun Give a fuck about your complexion, I know what the Germans done" highlighting the importance of loving all people no matter what, Nella does the same to an even more directed point of view. She raps "People use to tell me, I wouldn't make it maybe, because I'm white and I'm a lady.. But F*** that I'm here to say, I fought my way into this game with my heart and some things to say, and we're running out of time to save the human mind from it's prison of racism and deception of complexion, none of it matters at all, we're all brothers and sisters, let it be equality for all."

With her being a caucasian female her point of view from not only the music industry's standpoint, her viewpoint on life is unique and brings a sound unheard and much needed to our ears. Her words almost making you feel as though you were listening to poetry rather than rap. And despite toying with all of these major themes she still finds the rhymes to talk about more personal subjects. Like on "Falling Down" where it suggests her sudden fame hasn't helped her loved ones back home, or further along on the track where she mentions her mother gave her the advice "Shit won't change until you get off your ass and cut the cast."

The polarizing lead single of her album "Lost", upon its release last autumn comes off gloomy and dark as it narrates the life of Nella in her early years as she learns to accept the world as it is and see people for who they are not for the way they look at all on the outside. Her powerful lyricism pulls at the heart strings as the soulful jazzy vibe draws the listener into a story of a lost soul that finds herself in music and when she does, she decides that not only her life needed to change but the world as a whole needed to. "I use to gangbang, slang brains across the frame, paint pictures with my gun but now I'm done, I got a son, the world is lost and so was I, but since I opened up my mind I learned to open up your eyes." She goes on on the track to rap about how she was taught growing up women of all skin tones are empowered and should be treated equal to men. Her sincere open note to all really allows listeners to let their virtual guards down and just sink in what she's saying.

Well there is no doubt that this album is going to go down in history as a classic right up among the likes of "To Pimp A Butterfly" by Kendrick Lamar. Both artists have this unique message that is told so beautifully throughout their respective albums that it commands us as an audience to listen, and we all are listening. Loud and clear "Power." shows us what it means to be a female rapper trying to fit into a game that clearly poises her as the outcast, while also showcasing what it means to be female period in this economy and whether white, black, or whatever how hard life is for anyone dealing with any kind of unfair treatment or persecution because of the way they look or who they are. The album "Power." is truly about the power of human nature and is a truly necessary album in banding together are human race and opening our eyes to the inequality around us, while also giving us a foundation on which to move forward. How many albums can you say you've heard that have provided nearly as many important and necessary themes while also being as personal as this one? I'm sure not many. "Power." while reminding us of so many other albums similar, still finds a way to remain a unique rap album in itself, and one that everyone needs to listen to.



Kendrick Lamar
To Pimp a Butterfly
Interscope / Aftermath / Top Dawg; 2015
By **Craig Jenkins**, March 19, 2015

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Both of these albums play out major importance in the world today by making incredibly relevant themes come to life through music. Both albums talk about subjects such as race and gender and the importance of treating all humans equal no matter what because of how important it is to human survival.