

# [***Erykah Badu s Beef With Beyoncé, Explained: Badu Says Cowboy Carter Cover Steals Her Look***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BM3-RG31-JBCM-F007-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

March 21, 2024 Thursday

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**Length:** 654 words

**Byline:** Conor Murray, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Badu has accused Beyoncé of copying her several times though the singer has never responded directly to Badu.

**Body**

**Topline**

Erykah Badu has again accused Beyoncé of copying her look on the cover for her upcoming album, Cowboy Carter, in a series of social media posts, inciting anger from Beyoncé s fans and prompting an apparent denial from Beyoncé s publicist on Instagram.

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Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter" album drops next week. (Photo by Kevin Mazur/Getty Images for The Recording Academy)

Getty Images for The Recording Academy

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**Key Facts**

Soon after Beyoncé posted the exclusive vinyl cover for Cowboy Carter on Instagram Wednesday, Badurepostedthe cover on her story with the caption: Hmmm.

The cover depicts Beyoncé smoking, wearing a sash that says act ii: BEYINCÉ while wearing long beaded braids and fans have interpreted Badu s accusation to be over Beyoncé s hair, since Badu has also beenknownto wear braids.

Badu followed up her Instagram post with a tweet, bizarrelypleadingto Beyoncé s husband for help: To Jay Z . Say somethin Jay . You gone let this woman and these bees do this to me ??

In an apparent response to Badu, Beyoncé s longtime publicist slammed critics without credentials on Instagram by posting avideofeaturing the singer wearing braids throughout her career, stating: She slays. Now. Then. Always.

Badu s Instagramcomments, as well as the replies to hertweetabout Jay Z, were quickly flooded with anger and confusion over her disses at Beyoncé from the latter s fans.

**Key Background**

Badu has accused Beyoncé of copying her before: In July 2023, while Beyoncé was on her Renaissance World Tour, Badu took to Instagram Stories to post a picture of herself and Beyoncé wearing similar wide-brimmed silver hats,writing: I guess I m everybody stylist. Beyoncé, who names Badu among other influential Black women in music in her song Break My Soul (The Queens Remix), which she performs on tour, did not respond directly to the criticism but the day after Badu s post, she switched up the song s lyrics, emphasizing Badu s name in particular. The original lyrics Badu, Lizzo, Kelly Rowl were changed to Badu, Badu, Badu, Badu. Fansinterpretedthis as a potential dig at the singer, though others noted Beyoncé may have also changed the lyrics to remove Lizzo s name, because she had just beensuedthat week for sexual harassment by former dancers. Beyoncé laterreinstatedLizzo s name on subsequent shows, in one instance ad-libbing: I love you, Lizzo.

**Tangent**

Beyoncéunveiledthe official cover art for Cowboy Carter, marketed as the second act for her 2022 album Renaissance, on Tuesday. She accompanied the cover with a lengthy caption on Instagram explaining her sudden pivot to country music. She said the album was born out of an experience that I had years ago where I did not feel welcomed and it was very clear that I wasn t, which manyinterpretedas a reference to her 2016 performance at the Country Music Awards with The Chicks. At the awards show, she sang her song Daddy Lessons with the band, formerly known as the Dixie Chicks. The performance spurredcontroversyand backlash among country music fans who disagreed with her inclusion at the awards show because she is not primarily known as a country artist, as well as her liberal-leaning ***politics*** and hercontroversialperformance at the 2016 Super Bowl halftime show, which paid tribute to the Black Panthers.

**Surprising Fact**

Beyoncé s name is deliberately spelled Beyincé on the exclusive vinyl cover for Cowboy Carter. Her mother, Tina Knowles, has previouslyexplainedthat Beyoncé is her maiden name, and it was spelled with an o because of a clerical error on her birth certificate. Knowles brother and his children spell their surnames Beyincé.

**Further Reading**

Why Beyoncé s New Country Album Could Be A Response To Her 2016 CMA Performance(Forbes)

What Is Erykah Badu s Beef With Beyoncé?(The Daily Beast)

Beyonce omits her usual Lizzo shoutout at Gillette Stadium concert amid lawsuit(CBS News)

**Load-Date:** March 22, 2024

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