

= The Warning (Eminem song) =

" The Warning " is a hip hop diss song written and performed by American rapper Eminem and produced by Dr. Dre as part of an ongoing conflict with Mariah Carey . Throughout his career , Eminem claimed he once had a relationship with Carey , dating her for six months . Carey , however , always denied the claim . As a result , Eminem recorded a number of songs in which he rapped about the singer in a negative light , angered by her not admitting to seeing him .

Eminem 's sixth studio album Relapse (2009) features a song entitled " Bagpipes from Baghdad " , with lyrics suggesting that Eminem is still in love with Carey , and features insulting comments about the singer and her then husband Nick Cannon . After , Cannon made a post on his website , defending Carey and expressing his disgust at the rapper 's comments , Eminem responded to his comment by saying he meant well and that the song is actually " wishing the couple the best " , and later noted that he respected Cannon for his comment , expecting him to defend his wife .

After the release of Carey 's " Obsessed " , a song about an obsessed man who claims to be having a relationship with her , suspicions were raised by many , including Eminem himself , that it was directed at Eminem , despite claims to the contrary by Cannon . As a response , Eminem released " The Warning " , in which he claims he still has proof of the couple . Cannon responded to the song with his " I 'm a Slick Rick " , and even challenged Eminem to a boxing match for charity which never took place . Though not released as a single or as part of an album , " The Warning " appeared on three Billboard charts .

= = Background = =

From the year 2001 onwards , Eminem claimed to have dated Carey for six months throughout the gloomy times in her life . Carey denied ever having been involved with the rapper in a personal relationship , claiming that they had only met a handful of times , and it was professional . Subsequently , he referred to Carey in several of his songs in a negative light , claiming to have been angered by her not admitting to seeing him . On Charmbracelet , Carey included a song titled " Clown " , which critics suggested was aimed at Eminem . " Clown " ' s lyrics were described as " languidly sinister " by Sarah Rodman of The Boston Globe , and read : " I should 've left it at ' I like your music too ' ... You should never have intimated we were lovers / When you know very well we never even touched each other . " In 2005 , during concerts on the rapper 's Anger Management Tour , he began playing voice @-@ mails and recordings that were reportedly left by Carey . One of the messages said : " I heard you were getting back with your ex @-@ wife . Why won 't you see me ? Why won 't you call me ? " . After playing the excerpt , Eminem would pretend to be sick before launching into his song " Puke " . On May 12 , 2009 , Eminem released his sixth studio album Relapse , which included the song " Bagpipes from Baghdad " . The song 's lyrics suggested Eminem was still in love with Carey and " wanted her back " : " I want another crack at ya " and " Nick Cannon better back the f * * k up . I 'm not playing , I want her back , you punk . " After the song 's release , Cannon went on his website , defending Carey and expressing his disgust at the rapper 's comments :

I felt sorry for him because he must really be stuck in the past . Not only has his music not evolved , but also homeboy is still obsessed with my wife , the same female that wouldn 't let him get to second base from eight years ago . What type of grown ass man lies about getting with a chick ? Only Slim Lamey ! LOL ! I ? m putting this out there now . Marshall Mathers , you need to holler at me ... Man to man , let ? s meet up and deal with this like adults . So , Miss Marshall , I 'm going to make you wish you never spoke my name and regret the ungodly things you said about my wife . Your legacy has now been tainted from this day forth ! You will now be known as the rapper who lost to corny @-@ ass Nick Cannon !

Eminem responded to Cannon 's comments sarcastically , clarifying that the song was really " wishing the couple the best " , and that it was a misunderstanding . In an interview with BBC Radio , Eminem clarified that although contained a " harsh " line , he meant well : " There 's a line on there that was a little harsh . It 's a harsh line . But it 's like this , the way I look at it , I had no idea he was

gonna take it like he took it . I had no idea Nick Cannon was gonna start wildin ' out on me . No pun intended . " He later commented that he respected Cannon for his comment , and that he expected him to stand up for his wife : " I didn 't read his blog or anything . But it is what it is . He 's supposed to defend his wife , and I expected him to do that . But at the end of the day , it 's a line I said ? it 's a song . What I actually meant to say is , I wish them the best . That 's what I meant to say . That 's the whole message of the record . "

After Carey premiered " Obsessed " on June 16 , 2009 , the media frenzied and began speculating the song was targeting Eminem , due to its lyrics and overall message . Following the song 's accompanying music video , which featured Carey playing a role that resembled the rapper , critics considered it Carey 's response to Eminem 's " Bagpipes from Baghdad " . Soon after both the release of the song and its video , Eminem released " The Warning " on July 30 , 2009 , which he claimed to be a retaliation . In the aftermath of the releases , Cannon was questioned regarding the inspiration of " Obsessed " , and whether it was ever directed at Eminem :

She 's Mariah Carey . She 's not beefin ' , she 's a vegetarian . People keep saying [' Obsessed '] was directed at certain people . To be completely honest , she did the record ' cause she 's a huge fan of this movie Mean Girls , and there 's a line in the movie where one of the girls is like , ' Why are you so obsessed with me ? ' She says that at the beginning of the song , and that 's where the concept came from . But , you know , art imitates life .

= = Content and composition = =

Produced by Dr. Dre , " The Warning " is a mid @-@ tempo track that is almost entirely made up of soft piano keys playing in the background , a consistent drum beat , and occasional horns every few seconds . The song contains no chorus .

The song 's lyrics allude to his supposed relationship with Mariah Carey , the music video for " Obsessed " , and pictures and proof he claims to have of the couple . The song begins " Only reason I dissed you in the first place is because you denied seeing me . Now I 'm pissed off , " before describing Carey 's impersonation of him in her video , " Oh gee , is that supposed to be me in the video with the goatee ? / Wow Mariah , didn 't expect you to go balls out . " Eminem continues describing a near @-@ sexual encounter with the singer , threatening to release voice @-@ mails and pictures he still has in his possession . Additionally , the song features a females voice , unknown whether or not Carey 's , where she calls herself Mary Poppins , as well as several intervals of her laughter .

= = Response = =

Although Carey did not publicly respond to " The Warning " , in September 2010 Cannon responded with a song titled " I 'm a Slick Rick " , on which he attacks Eminem for his disparaging lyrics towards Carey , using a flow similar to that of English rapper Slick Rick . He also later proposed a boxing match between himself and Eminem for charity , even setting up a Facebook page to promote the idea : however , the event never took place .

Daniel Kreps of Rolling Stone noted that Eminem " is more sharp and on @-@ point here than on some of Relapse . " Simon Vozick @-@ Levinson of Entertainment Weekly however , stated that there is only one " clever " line aimed at Cannon , and that " everything else is just so predictable coming from Em [inem] at this point . "

= = Chart performance = =