

= Temptations (song) =

" Temptations " is a song by rap artist Tupac Shakur (2Pac) from the album Me Against the World . It was released as a single on June 4 , 1996 , and was released as a CD , cassette , and 12 " promo . While rapping is solely performed by Shakur , Erick Sermon and producer Easy Mo Bee are also featured in the song , primarily as background vocalists . The song uses the bassline from the " Computer Love " , and the theme focuses on relationship and infidelity issues . Debuting at number sixty @-@ eight on the Billboard Hot 100 , the song did fairly well in the United States . It was also well received by critics , with many writers commenting on its romantic tone .

The song 's music video does not have any shots of Shakur , since he was incarcerated at the time . Instead , the video features many celebrities such as Coolio , Ice @-@ T , Warren G , Adina Howard and Kenya Moore . Taking place in a hotel , the video opens and closes with the concierge (Ice @-@ T) complaining about Coolio (a bellboy) . The main plot of the video follows Coolio while he is working in the hotel .

= = Writing and composition = =

The idea for " Temptations " began in late 1993 when record producer Easy Mo Bee came to Shakur while he was on the set of Above the Rim (1994) . At Rucker Park in New York City , Mo Bee approached Shakur with several different songs they could sample from in the Me Against the World album . Out of the pieces he showed the rapper , Shakur favored the Zapp song " Computer Love . " Despite being frequently sampled in the past by other artists , Shakur proposed that they simply speed up the tempo of " Computer Love " and use a low frequency automatic filter to retrieve the song 's bassline .

After adding new beats and synth pads / leads , Mo Bee decided to add a sample of the Redman and Erick Sermon song " Watch Yo Nuggets " , which contributes to much of the song 's tenor section with the repeated line of " Hey . " The song 's hook samples " Sing a Simple Song " by Sly & the Family Stone . The song also features Mo Bee and some of his friends singing harmonies .

" Temptations " deals with a male @-@ female relationship , where Shakur is ? in Mo Bee 's word 's ? basically saying to his significant other , " I like the time I 'm spendin ' with [you] , but baby , I 'm busy . " Other than the theme of the relationship issues , the song also focuses on the ability for anyone to feel lonely . The lines " ' cause even thugs get lonely , understand . Even the hardest of my homies need attention ; catch you blowin ' up the telephone , reminiscing . " from the third verse , are explained by William Buckholz in his 2011 book , Understand Rap : Explanations of Confusing Rap Lyrics You and Your Grandma Can Understand . He states that despite having a " tough " attitude and exterior , thugs are not emotionless . Buckholz goes on to say that there are times where everyone longs for the company of someone ? be a friend or significant other ? so they can share feelings and troubles with .

= = Music video = =

Despite being the only rapper to perform in the song 's musical composition , the music video neglects an appearance by Shakur because of his incarceration for alleged sexual abuse . Directed by David Nelson , the video features celebrity guest appearances by Adina Howard , B @-@ Real , Bill Bellamy , Cheryl James , Coolio , Crystal Waters , DJ Spinderella , Ice @-@ T , Isaac Hayes , Jada Pinkett Smith , Jasmine Guy , Kenya Moore , Shock G , Joe Torry , Treach , Warren G , and Yo @-@ Yo .

Nelson said the video 's production was ambitious , stating : " It 's an incredible challenge to make a creative clip of a song without the artist . " He goes onto say that Coolio helped enormously because he was the first to commit to his role as the bellboy . Nelson says that Coolio 's role " provides the thread that weaves together the entire concept of the video . " Yvette Lang , who executive produced the clip for F.M. Rocks , described the filming to be like a " big party " to show their support for Shakur . Ice @-@ T 's role as the hotel concierge was not originally intended . At first ,

there was a comedian set to play his role , but he ended up cancelling at the last minute . Since Ice @-@ T was only available to shoot in the morning , Nelson decided to make him the concierge . The director called it a " strange blessing " since he is more memorable as a concierge , rather than his intended role .

" I shot the clip as if it were a movie , and the preview edit is the equivalent of a film trailer . We both wanted the video to be sexy and erotic , but not sleazy . It definitely pushes the envelope , but then it throws comedy to keep things from getting too serious . "

The music video opens with Ice @-@ T , the concierge , and Coolio , the bellboy , in a hotel lobby . Ice @-@ T is getting onto Coolio about how he does not put forth enough effort in his work and does not deserve the job . The song begins to play after this scene ends , and the plot follows Coolio who , while on the job , sees acts of strip poker , lesbian affairs , and several sexual scenarios . The bellboy eventually is invited into one of the rooms and the music comes to an end . The video ends with a scene of Ice @-@ T continuing to complain about the bellboy 's work ethics .

= = = Controversial = = =

The Los Angeles Times inquires that the video deals with acts which lead to Shakur 's imprisonment , commenting : " The clip itself practically invites that kind of scrutiny . The hotel setting and explicit sex echo Shakur 's own crimes , which involved sodomy occurring in a hotel . " Nelson denies these claims , insisting that it is purely coincidental that Shakur was imprisoned for similar occurrences .

= = Reception = =

= = = Critical = = =

Steve Huey at AllMusic described the piece as a romance , and said that it gave a " new meaning as an escape from the hellish pressure of everyday life . " Cheo Coker of the Rolling Stone said the song is based on a slow beat and " avoids formulaic , radio @-@ friendly material , " and instead focuses on rhymes and confessions from the heart . Music critic Jon Pareles of The New York Times wrote that Shakur is describing himself as a " touring rap star " with the song line : " Even though I 'm known for my one @-@ night stands , I want to be an honest man . " Jordan Spak wrote in the Sun @-@ Sentinel Tribune Company that Tupac is apologizing to his listeners and defining his stance on moral rights and wrongs .

= = = Charts = = =

" Temptations " did fairly well on United States charts . It spent six weeks on the Billboard Hot 100 , peaking at number sixty @-@ eight . The song debuted at number thirteen on the US Hot Rap Singles , and spent fourteen weeks on the Hot R & B / Hip @-@ Hop Songs , debuting at number thirty @-@ five .

= = Formats and track listings = =