

16 August 2007

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Stylish and a kick-ass rapper... Kanye sweeps the hood and looks mightily good

What's Up, 50?

Battle of the Rappers - Curtis versus Kanye or what happens when your record sales go way up?

The answer is, someone's bound to hate it. It's the case of best-selling rapper Kanye West, whose recent success and eagerly anticipated new album "Graduation" have made those top selling rivals tremble just a lill' bit. Enter Curtis Jackson, better known to us all as rapper 50 Cent, who went public saying that he'd rather give up his solo career than sit by and watch his record sales go down in favor of younger, leaner, meaner Kanye. The story goes like this. Both artists will release their new albums on September 11th, a fateful day that for them will be all the more fateful in one extra way. Going online on SOHH, a hip hop site that gets more than 4.5 million visitors monthly, Jackson found it necessary to state the following: "Let's raise the stakes" he said. "If Kanye West sells more records than 50 Cent on September 11, I'll no longer [perform] music. I'll write music and work with my other artists, but I won't put out any more solo albums" But wait, there's more. "They would like to see Kanye West give me a problem, because I've worked myself into a space where I've become the favorite. Everybody roots [for] the underdog when he goes against the favorite". Well, this leaves us all wondering what the catch is. It is all about money, male testosterone or simply a publicity stunt to turn the heat on both albums? Curtis "50 cent" Jackson, who owns his own label, G-Unit Records, has had record sells in the past with his previous albums "Get Rich or die Trying" and "Massacre". West however is no stranger to releasing hits himself, as "Late Registration", his last CD has sold 2.8 million to date. But this does not explain the need for open war. "I didn't get one trophy for The Massacre. ... I don't get trophies, I get checks. He gets the trophies. ... And I'll be sitting here like, 'It's cool, 'cause I get the check" Jackson stated. Well, this helps a bit if we consider that last week the MTV VMA nominations were made public and Kanye got no less than five nods, matched only by Rihanna and surpassed only by Justin Timberlake and Beyonce Knowles. So it's in fact a bit of everything - money and fame and rapper pride and some more money. But this may turn interesting, so watch out for mid-September and stay tuned, for anything might happen.