“Stupid Girl” by Pink

([Billy Mann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Mann), [Pink](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_(singer)), Niklas Olovson and Robin Mortensen Lync)

Stupid girl, stupid girls, stupid girls  
Maybe if I act like that, that guy will call me back  
Porno Paparazzi girl, I don't wanna be a stupid girl  
  
Go to Fred Segal, you'll find them there  
Laughing loud so all the little people stare  
Looking for a daddy to pay for the champagne  
(Drop a name)  
What happened to the dreams of a girl president  
She's dancing in the video next to 50 Cent  
They travel in packs of two or three  
With their itsy bitsy doggies and their teeny-weeny tees  
Where, oh where, have the smart people gone?  
Oh where, oh where could they be?  
  
Maybe if I act like that, that guy will call me back  
Porno Paparazzi girl, I don't wanna be a stupid girl  
Baby if I act like that, flipping my blond hair back  
Push up my bra like that, I don't wanna be a stupid girl  
  
(Break it down now)  
Disease's growing, it's epidemic  
I'm scared that there ain't a cure  
The world believes it and I'm going crazy  
I cannot take any more  
I'm so glad that I'll never fit in  
That will never be me  
Outcasts and girls with ambition  
That's what I wanna see  
Disasters all around  
World despaired  
Their only concern  
Will they \*\*\*\* up my hair  
  
Maybe if I act like that, that guy will call me back  
Porno Paparazzi girl, I don't wanna be a stupid girl  
Baby if I act like that, flipping my blond hair back  
Push up my bra like that, I don't wanna be a stupid girl  
  
[Interlude]  
Oh my god you guys, I totally had more than 300 calories  
That was so not sexy, no  
Good one, can I borrow that?  
[Vomits]  
I WILL BE SKINNY

Ad lib to end…

From an essay published on PopMatters.com April 2006

Right now, let the kids know you don’t have to be what you see on television. I’m with Pink: “Outcasts and girls with ambition / That’s what I want to see.”

My joy at seeing the statement made aside, I have to acknowledge that Pink never offers a positive model of womanhood. She gives, instead, a negative version that only exists in response to her foils and, in effect, reinforces their position as the standard. Cultural change comes about through either a shift in paradigm or the gradual absorption of the alternative values into the mainstream. Instead of moving toward either of these categories, Pink retreats from society (“I’m so glad I’ll never fit in”). The closest she comes to an endorsement of brains, and not just a rejection of stupidity, is in the implicit meaning of “What happened to the dreams of a girl president? / She’s dancing in the video next to 50 Cent”.

Sure, it’s only a baby-step in the march towards change (and more an alarum than a proclamation), but it’s also a risky halfway movement. Without presenting a positive model, Pink hands the economic functions of her music back to the industry regulars. The non-Pink women in her video, even though caricatures, are still MTV clones. Pink attacks the cosmetic surgery industry, but her video provides jobs for women with fake breasts. This paradox speaks less to Pink (or her video-writer’s) ineffectiveness and more to the extreme bind of the industry.

But — and this won’t surprise anyone — the fake breasts aren’t as bad as the vomit. Pink attempts to criticize a culture that has left us so obsessed with weight and appearance that women (and men) force themselves to throw up after eating (to take one cause of the illness, Bulemia Nervosa), but the problem comes by treating eating disorders with a several-second clip. In this section of the video, Pink utters one of the video’s best lines — “Oh my god, you guys, I totally had more than 300 calories. That was so not sexy” — and then borrows a toothbrush to gag on over a public restroom sink.

It’s a troubling moment, this making light of a lethal epidemic, but it functions in the same way as the rest of the video: attack cultural problems by criticizing the behavior of an individual. It’s a valid means of dissection, but the short scene (given emphasis by the song’s relegation to the background) leaves real-life sufferers with a personal commentary on a subject that deserves more treatment than “Wake up and stop acting like an idiot”. I won’t pretend to have the knowledge to deal effectively with eating disorders, but I do want to suggest that although bulimia and conspicuous consumption have connections to the same societal roots, they don’t affect people the same way, and that should influence how we discuss the topics.

But Pink isn’t here to discuss. She’s here to shock, aggravate, and shout until people listen, and that’s nothing but a good thing. Like Charles Barkley, however, she both is and isn’t a role model. Young girls are going to look up to her simply because, like Mary-Kate, she appears on their media. That means that “Stupid Girls” can (and hopefully will) have an impact, but once it’s out there, it’s uncontrolled. So let’s get more public discussion going about glam-influenced problems; like eating disorders and consumer fixations, and let’s have some celebrities start it.