

In stores

“good kid, m.A.A.d city”



By Airman 1st Class Devante Williams



Hip hop is still a teen-oriented musical movement, but it’s also a genre driven by old souls, packed with coming-of-age stories from kids to kids.

Kendrick Lamar’s “Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City” (stylized as “good kid, m.A.A.d city”) is a record that tells a coming-of-age story, but is not your typical “live happily ever after” story. It tells a story about Kendrick trying to survive the streets of Compton, Calif. It might just seem like an ordinary story, but the way he delivers it makes the album even more enjoyable.

It deserves the attention, and the likely sales which will follow, because it’s a truly original rap record. No party records or one-hit wonders on this album. Kendrick Lamar’s “Good Kid, M.A.A.D. City” features mesmerizing music that gains its power not from its difficulty or any formal innovation but from Kendrick’s understanding of all the ways music can convey truth.

This album is not an easy listen. There are some songs that are radio hits, but the rest of the album is filled with dark vibes and very suggestive themes. This makes the album great because Kendrick Lamar is taking us on a journey through his teenage years, which, in my opinion, only a few rappers have done in their careers.

I’m not going to go over every track because that would spoil the fun. But there is one that that I would like to discuss. It’s called “The Art of Peer Pressure.”

The song explains how Kendrick hangs out with friends, and he is peer pressured to do illegal things such as drinking underage and robbing homes. But at the end of the song, there’s a skit with his parents leaving a voicemail telling him not to hang around with those friends. It’s the song that sets up the mood for the remainder of the album which gets pretty deep into his life.

If you get the deluxe version of the album, it comes with four bonus tracks; one of which highlights the legendary artist Dr. Dre titled “The Recipe.” It’s a chill-type of song that you listen to when you want to take a random drive somewhere. Excellent production, great delivery and with Dr. Dre on the track, it reminds me of his old songs from his album “2001.”

Overall, Good Kid M.A.A.D. City is an excellent album. I don’t want to cause controversy, but this album is a classic. Excellent choice of features and delivery makes this album a contender for the top ten albums of 2013. If you’re a real fan of hip hop and want to listen to real music, Good Kid M.A.A.D. City is the album for you.