

WATCH THIS SPACE

Ready for Jeremih

HOT, YOUNG AND NEXT

Jeremih is growing up, filling out and shaping up to be our after-hours guilty pleasure.

His first album was catchy, with its rather stimulating single, "Birthday Sex." But it was the second album, out late last fall, that brought Jeremih solidly into the world of grown and sexy. Now 23, the Chicago native is topping the charts with uncensored fare including "Down on Me," which features 50 Cent. That particular song long sat on the top of the charts and got R&B's new kid on the block off the bus stop and into a luxury vehicle.

Frankly, he's happy that he's not a one-hit wonder.

"It feels incredible to just be in this position," says Jeremih. "It feels good to be back and have people receptive to my creations and my gift."

He's learned some things this time around: Always visit the Black radio stations and magazines. Always tweet back to your fans. Pamper the ladies. To that end, he is becoming known as the artist who will

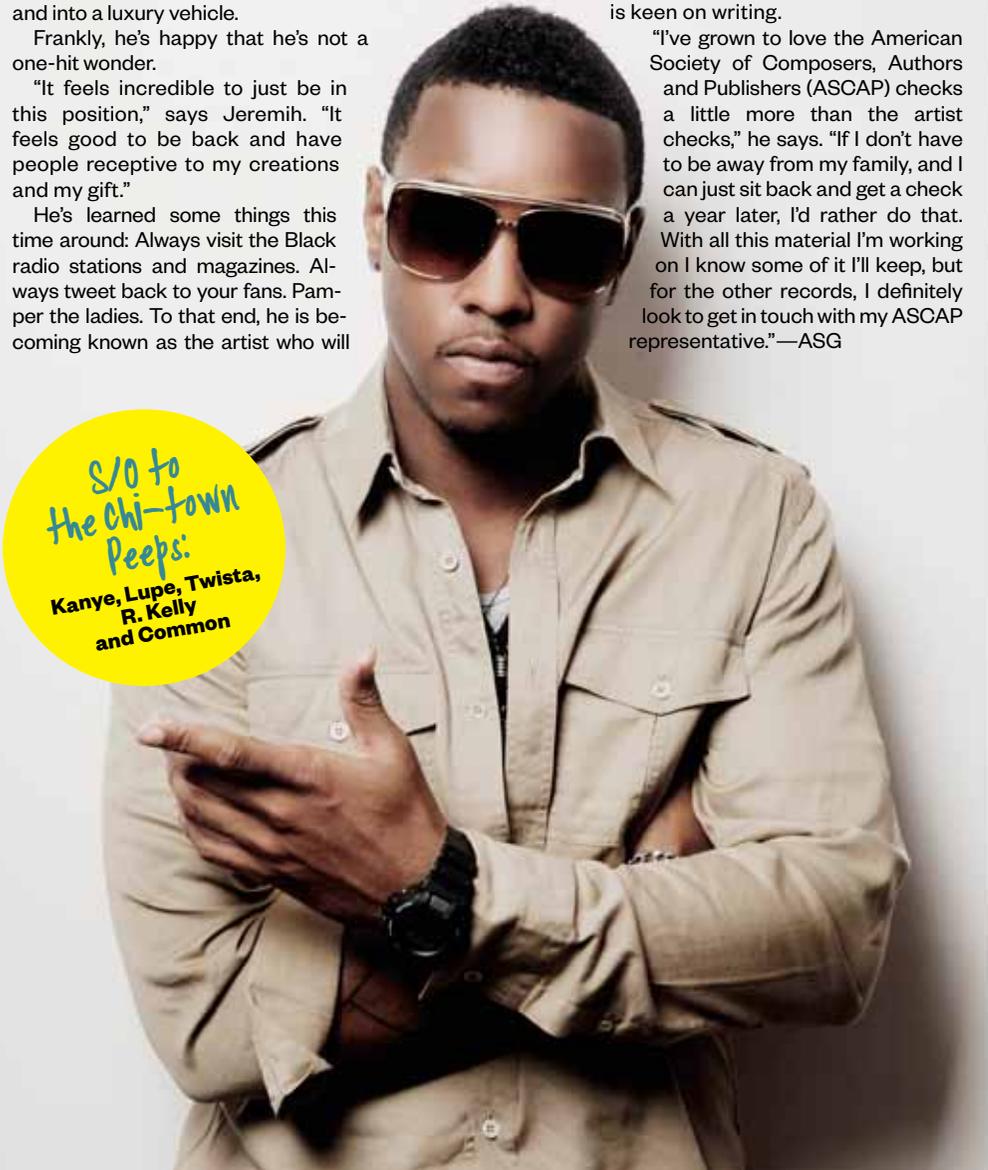
treat a fan to a mani and pedi. Fancy.

He also is quickly adapting to stardom. Signed in 2009, his first album, *Jeremih*, was just him. The second, *All About You*, has several collabs, including ones with Lloyd and Ludacris. "I didn't have any features on my first album and that was kind of whack to me," he says. "But to collaborate with 50 and Luda? 50 is one of the biggest in this industry."

He's reaching out to work with Rick Ross, Big Sean, Wale and Sean Garrett, to name a few. We can also expect a new album, perhaps next year. Meanwhile, Jeremih's business side is keen on writing.

"I've grown to love the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) checks a little more than the artist checks," he says. "If I don't have to be away from my family, and I can just sit back and get a check a year later, I'd rather do that. With all this material I'm working on I know some of it I'll keep, but for the other records, I definitely look to get in touch with my ASCAP representative."—ASG

So to the Chi-Town Peeps:
Kanye, Lupe, Twista, R. Kelly and Common



TURNTABLE TALK DJ Diamond Kuts

SHE LOOKS YOUNG, but her beats go hard. She travels with and spins for Nicki Minaj, has personally rocked a party for President Barack Obama and had her own radio show on Philadelphia's überpopular Power 99 for six years.

She's DJ Diamond Kuts, aka Tina Dunham, the 20-something daughter of Philadelphia hip-hop pioneer Grand Tone and a mix master often seen on BET's *106th & Park*. She's also got an ear for greatness.

"When Minaj released her mixtape, there was a song on it called 'I Get Crazy,'" says Kuts. "Nobody was really playing her music yet. But I just loved this record, and I just went in on it."

All that support turned into a gig spinning for Minaj, who is touring with Young Money and with Britney Spears.

"I like rocking stadiums more than I like rocking parties because actually, at a stadium, when you get on stage, it's a rush," says Kuts, who puts two records and a laptop in her book bag for quick work trips. "Stadiums are like 10,000 to 15,000 people, so the energy is different."—ASG

Songs that Never Die:

"Knuck if You Buck" by Crime Mob; "Wipe Me Down" by Lil Boosie; "Moment 4 Life" by Nicki Minaj



JEREMIH: FRANCOIS BERTHIER/CORBIS; DIAMOND KUTS: FREDDY MAHUGU

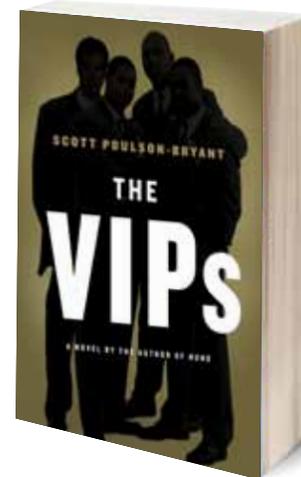
The VIPs

By Scott Poulson-Bryant

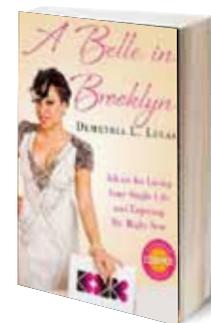


"WHICH ONE of you bastards is my father?" That's the question of the year in this page-turning, scandal-riddled foray into the lives of four rich and powerful men who call themselves the VIPs. Each of these childhood friends has a secret.

Leo Bradford is the gay publishing magnate. Barry Chambers is the attorney with the working-class background. Joey Ramirez is the biracial fashion designer who was an abused foster child. Duke Maynard is the retired NFL star navigating a divorce. It's a racially diverse



cast, all with complicated lives and deep, dark secrets they would like to bury from one particular year in their teens. It comes back to haunt them when rap superstar TNT announces, at a gathering, that one of the VIPs is his father. Who's the daddy? Each character in this book, quite unlike others in its genre, rings with truth and depth. *The VIPs* comes hard with a surprising ending and a roller-coaster storyline read-made for the big screen. (\$15; Broadway Paperback Original).



The End of Anger: A New Generation's Take on Race and Rage

by Ellis Cose (\$24.99; ECCO)

The era of angry Black people is ending, posits Cose. In its place are angry Whites and a bunch of supremely tolerant young Americans who are fast forgetting—or who were never exposed to—the bigotry that led to the Civil Rights Movement.

This is not to say that racism is dead but that we have succeeded in making highly visible examples of racism

extremely uncool. Cose expertly interweaves his own research into the opinions of others, creating an intriguing dialogue about the future of America as class becomes king. Head to ebony.com for our full interview with Cose.

The Quick and The Good:

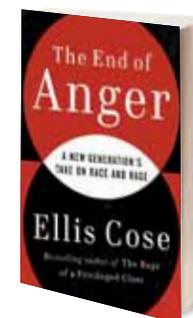
Kwei Quartey's *Children of the Street* takes us to the slums of Accra, Ghana, where teenagers are mysteriously turning up dead. Inspector Darko Dawson is on the trail again. Quartey's first novel, *Wife of the Gods*, was a New York Times best-seller. (\$15; Random House). Hermene Hartman pours her heart out in her first collection of self-published poems, *How Would You Like Your World Today?: A Collection of Contemporary Love Poetry* (\$40; Hartman Publishing Group).

A Belle in Brooklyn

by Demetria L. Lucas

(\$24; ATRIA BOOKS)

Not to give too much away, but I was hooked when the author wrote about a true and titillating foreplay scenario that ended abruptly when the brother asked for a potentially painful sexual favor best reserved for extremely good friends. Belle, aka Lucas, uses that story as a launch pad to offer sage relationship advice colored by hilarious personal dating experiences.



plugged in

3-D Gaming: Nintendo edges out the competition > We're loving the Nintendo 3DS. It's small (about the size of an adult hand), sleek and comes with enough technology to shame some other devices (free access to 10,000 hot spots, Internet browser, Netflix downloads and 3-D movie trailers). The \$249.99 device offers a 3-D gaming experience minus the ugly glasses. The system plays all DS games. We recommend the endless noodling fun of *The Sims 3* (\$49.99)—ASG

