

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C2tpFsFrTpI/?igsh=MW9jdHgyb3NlcDN6ZQ==>



Nicki Minaj is one of the world's most famous female rappers. Her music has been popular since the early 2000s, and both her lyrics and wardrobe have consistently made headlines in the last twenty years. While many believe that Minaj paved the way, many other female rappers have risen to popularity in the past decade, including Megan Thee Stallion. She became popular in the late 2010s, with her music topping charts around the time COVID-19 hit and TikTok trends were made to her songs. Nicki Minaj and Megan Thee Stallion used to collaborate and seemed to be friendly with one another, coming out with a song together in 2019, but this friendship took a turn at the beginning of this year. After Minaj came under fire for being married to a registered sex offender, Megan Thee Stallion came out with a song called "HISS,"

which seemed to criticize her actions. This angered Minaj and led to a very public feud between the two.

Nicki Minaj posted on her Instagram account, @nickiminaj, on January 30, 2024, addressing the popularity of her song “Big Foot” that obviously was meant to insult Megan Thee Stallion. As a public figure with 229 million followers, Minaj’s post was seen by many people, and was liked by over 500,000 users. The photo was a screenshot of a post from X, formerly Twitter, reporting that “Big Foot” had the biggest opening day for a female rapper so far in 2024. In the caption, Minaj flaunts the song’s success and subtly makes dissers at Megan Thee Stallion. The name of her song, “Big Foot,” is thought to be a reference to the events of Megan Thee Stallion being literally shot in the foot, and the highly publicized trial that followed. She also states “Imagine being backed by a machine & going up against me, THEE MACHINE” in the caption, using two E’s to reference Megan Thee Stallion’s stage name. She goes on to accuse her of using “FAKE BOTS, PAID BLOGS & FAKE STUNTS” to promote her music and garner sympathy. She also says “Spotify ain’t gotta lie!!!!!! They REALLY STREAMING my music” further cementing her belief that she thinks that Megan Thee Stallion is buying fake streams, and expressing this belief to her large audience.

The post made by Nicki Minaj can be seen as defamatory. The post does not seem factual, as she does not provide any evidence or sources to prove her points that Megan Thee Stallion bought fake streams and lied about being shot in the foot. It sounds like she is making baseless claims because she was upset that the song “HISS” was so successful. The statement was communicated to a third party, which was her over 200 million Instagram followers. Many of these followers likely grew up with Minaj’s music, and look up to her as a role model and a trustworthy public figure. Minaj was negligent in not providing evidence to back up her claims

meaning it is up to her audience if they want to trust her word without any support for her statements. Due to these factors, the post caused some harm to Megan Thee Stallion's reputation. Minaj has been a recording artist for much longer than Megan Thee Stallion and therefore has more streams overall than her, so comparing streams are not an accurate representation of the damage Megan The Stallion faced. However, many rap fans backed Megan Thee Stallion, even in the comments of Minaj's post, so she definitely still has a supportive fanbase that believes her word over Minaj's. Overall, the statement seems defamatory in nature, but it may not hold up in court if Megan Thee Stallion were to press charges. While it seems to be incorrect information spread to a wide audience, it is unclear if the post caused serious damage to Megan Thee Stallion's reputation. This is the sort of nuanced situation that would likely be decided by a jury or be up to the skills of the lawyers involved. Statements like these should definitely be regulated on social media so that audiences can understand the full content of situations and easily be able to access true information. X, formerly known as Twitter, has begun fact checking some posts, adding a "Community Notes" section that debunks false information. Context and fact checking are important parts of media literacy and creating opinions based on truth. Defamatory statements that cause considerable damage should be regulated by the law, and false statements in general should be fact checked by experts.