

Title: Bonnie and Clyde: Beyond the Romantic Image
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In our modern popular culture, there is a lack of historical accuracy among figures such as Bonnie and Clyde due to their embellished media representation, thus resulting in a flawed bundled lore of the pair which deems them as romantic-star crossed lovers. Most notably, Arthur Penn's 1967 movie *Bonnie and Clyde* "elevated public interest in the ill-fated pair" due to Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway's alluring portrayal of a notorious couple whose love supersedes the law (Simpson 6). Yet, in order to truly understand why Bonnie and Clyde's fame persists today, it is important to understand the external forces both prior to their birth and during their existence as pop-culture ignores the "social frustrations" of the duo (Guinn 364). Within the context of the Great Depression, many Americans were "saddled with crippling debt, [hurting] their ability to retain wealth and to improve their lives," therefore showcasing that individuals like Bonnie and Clyde made criminal choices that allowed them to persevere in a society that provided them with little social and economic stability ("Distribution of Wealth." par. 11). Additionally, historical analysis shows that it was a result of accidental fame ignited by the Joplin Raid of 1933 that propagated their legendary status (Clark 106). While society views them as meticulous bandits who robbed high end banks, Bonnie and Clyde were nothing more than the right people at the right time.

Works Cited

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