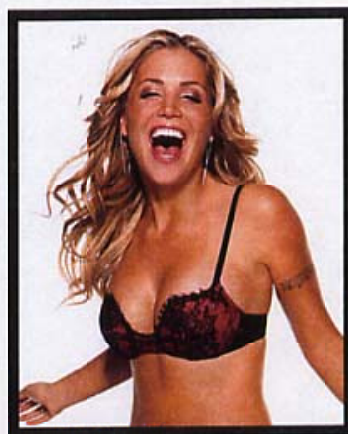


Snap, Crackle & Pop

Willa Ford is no Britney Spears. And she'll be
the first one to tell you

BY BRANTLEY BARDIN ♦ PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE HOLZ



She's a good Baptist girl whose favorite word is "fuck." She's a small-town, baby-faced blonde who, as a child, sweetly sold her farmer father's tomatoes by the side of the road and still cites her grandma as her "fave person in the entire world." She is Willa Ford—once famous for dating her Ruskin, FL, neighbor, the Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter. Yet her nasty 2001 Top Ten hit, "I Wanna Be Bad," turned her into the man-slagger, Britney-trashing tough girl of teen pop.

"Britney is larger than life right now, there's no doubt," Willa says. "Am I as big as her? No. But musically, I am more talented."

Willa's effort to back up that claim is a slyly accomplished second album, *Sexysexobsessive*, and its rapidly climbing, ironically titled,

dancehall/rap hit, "A Toast to Men," with its easily memorable chorus of "Fuck the men, let's drink to us!" Born Amanda Williford 23 years ago, Mandy was discovered by Magic Johnson, of all people, who signed the opera-trained chanteuse to MCA. Her name was quickly changed, but not her self-described "relentless" determination to stick to her guns: She refused to do a "Disney/Nickelodeon" version of "I Wanna Be Bad" entitled "I Want to Be Glad."

After a move to alterna-rock label Lava Records, *FHM* catches up with Willa in a look she describes as "ghetto fabulous meets white trash." Her outfit is punctuated with a Dallas Stars hat (she has recently been linked with the Stars' Mike Modano) and a wife-beater with no bra. Shoveling down a chili Fritos pie and two corn dogs, this little hellion's talk is as straightforward as her choice of chow.

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