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Presents

In Conversation With

UNVEILING STRAWBERRY G0TH'S DEFIANT DEBUT SINGLE AND PEERING INTO THE SHADOWS OF FLORIDA'S UNDERGROUND GOTH REVOLUTION



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NULLIFEYE
Ayo! My name is Nullifeye. I'm the host of Goth Night in Lakeland, FL, which, to my knowledge, is one of Central Florida's largest goth events. Today, I'm collaborating with HOUDINI Magazine to bring you an exclusive interview with debuting artist Strawberry G0th to discuss their first single, Treat You Like a Man, releasing this December. How are you doing today, Angel?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
I'm doing great, really. I'm excited to be here!

NULLIFEYE
So, you've done some work with HOUDINI Magazine in the past, is that correct?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Yes, that's right. They let me write an article for them about my favorite movies ever, and that was a great way for me to get into the scene.

NULLIFEYE
What movie did you write about? Piercing?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Yes, but I wouldn't recommend it if you're squeamish. laughs

NULLIFEYE
Understandable. Speaking of "squeamish," let's pivot a little. You've got a goth single coming out, and some people think goth as a genre is a bit "squeamish" with all the spookiness and intensity. But your name—Strawberry—is so cute and spooky at the same time. Would you mind elaborating on how you came up with it?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Sure! It actually started back in high school. I was just playing around with names and renaming myself over and over again online. One time, I landed on "Strawberry," and I couldn't change it for 14 days because of the platform rules. So I stuck with it, and it just felt right. To me, it's a mix of the light and the dark in life—like you've got the gothic and the strawberry. That's how it came to be.

NULLIFEYE
That's such an interesting blend! Speaking of your name, I had the privilege—thank you again for that—of listening to your single before its release. It's this dark wave meets pop vibe. What drew you to that particular sound, and how did you approach blending those influences?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Well, I grew up surrounded by all kinds of music—pop, country, goth, and '80s. I wanted to blend those influences together. I'd say it's like Billie Eilish meets Siouxsie and the Banshees. They're some of my favorite artists, and that's the energy I channeled when writing and creating the song.

NULLIFEYE
What made you decide to pursue music as a career?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
I've always been involved with music. Ever since I was young, I was in choir—elementary school, middle school, high school. It was always music, music, music. Then I started going to live shows, and that inspired me. I just knew, deep down, that it was my calling.

NULLIFEYE
That’s amazing. So, the song is called Treat You Like a Man. What does this song mean to you personally?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Trigger warning for people reading and listening. The song is about something that happened to me when I was 15. It traumatized me for 10 years—until I got older and realized I didn’t want it to have power over me anymore. Writing and producing this song was the most freeing experience of my life.

NULLIFEYE
That’s incredible. What was the journey like for producing and releasing this song?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
The journey itself was a long one—it took me 10 years to finally get out of my head about it, to move forward, and take control. I told myself, "This is my life, and I’m going to make this song." Once I committed, the actual production was surprisingly easy. It only took me about three days to fully write and master the track.

NULLIFEYE
Wow, that’s impressive. Do you plan on potentially turning this into an EP?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Absolutely. I’m aiming to release an EP sometime next year—hopefully by June or around my birthday in August. I also plan to drop a couple more singles leading up to it.

NULLIFEYE
That’s exciting! We’ll definitely be looking forward to that. So with this single, did you face any surprises or challenges during the production process or figuring out how to get it on streaming services?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
The biggest challenge was definitely the financial aspect. A lot of things cost money—whether it’s getting access to certain platforms or paying for mastering software. That was the hardest part. Writing the lyrics and creating the music was actually the easiest and most natural part of the process.

NULLIFEYE
I totally get that. One thing I really respect about musicians is how much heart and soul goes into creating music, knowing that streaming services don’t pay much in return. It’s clear that it’s not about the money—it’s about passion.

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Absolutely.

NULLIFEYE
So, let’s circle back to the track itself. It’s very upbeat and catchy. Was that a conscious decision?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Not really! I wanted the beat to feel upbeat, but I didn’t expect it to turn out this catchy. Now I play it in my car all the time, and I’m just jamming to it. I’ll be in my house dancing along—it’s definitely a happy accident, but I love it.

NULLIFEYE
How would you feel if your song was played at a club or a goth night?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Oh, I'd die if that ever happened! I could definitely see it being played in a lot of places—that would be an absolute dream come true.

NULLIFEYE
What kind of mood do you imagine people being in when they hear this song for the first time?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
I think it's very much a rage song. It's about facing a deeply traumatic event, being exhausted from carrying it mentally, and finally letting go. It's a song for dancing, screaming, raging—just crashing out however you need to. It's a song about freedom, for sure.

NULLIFEYE
That's wonderful. If it's okay with you, I'd like to dissect some of the lyrics a bit. The first verse goes: Mama, I did it again. I fell in love with a man. If he won't treat me right, I'm not coming home tonight. Can you share more about what inspired this?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
The first verse is almost like an ad-lib to ease into the song. I already had the chorus—treat you like a man—but I wanted to set the tone. I fall in love really easily, and this verse reflects that, but also the destructive nature of being in a toxic relationship. It's about being stuck in that obsession, even when you know it's not healthy.

NULLIFEYE
Then there's the next verse: *Mama, he called me a ****. He tried to steal my life, held me to his knife. Not coming home tonight.

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Before I explain, I just want to say—don't hurt people. This song is not about encouraging violence. But yeah, that verse is based on real events. He did call me a *; he was a deeply toxic and evil person, though I couldn't see it at the time. The knife part—it was a butter knife, but it was still a knife. He once told me, months after the incident, "I could kill you if I wanted to because you'd let me." Writing this song was my way of reclaiming my power and saying, "He's not coming home tonight." I was so angry, and it poured into the music.

NULLIFEYE
I understand. Later in the song, you describe gouging out his eyes and other violent imagery. It's intense, but it comes across as cathartic—like queen behavior. The last verse goes: I promise it won't hurt. This is what you deserve. That's quite the closer. Would you like to unpack that a little?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Absolutely. That line—I promise it won't hurt—is mocking something he used to say to me. It's a reclamation of those words, flipping the narrative. And this is what you deserve—it's about acknowledging how horribly he treated me. The song's core message is about respect. Everyone deserves respect, but you have to earn it too. He didn't respect me or anyone, and this is my way of saying, "I'm done treating you like a man because you never acted like one."

NULLIFEYE
I love that you've taken this pain and turned it into something powerful and creative. I think a lot of people will resonate with it. Switching gears a bit, let's talk about the Florida goth scene. Despite being such a conservative state, Florida's goth scene has become one of the strongest in the country. Why do you think it thrives here?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
I think it's the community. There's this shared sense of rebellion against the conservatism we grew up with. Many of us reached a point where we realized, "This isn't right; this isn't for me." We want something different—connection, unity, and a space to express ourselves.

NULLIFEYE
Florida has faced a wave of regressive policies, from abortion bans to anti-trans laws. Yet the alternative scene is flourishing. How do you think this tension affects the creative output of artists like yourself?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
It makes us angry, and that anger fuels our art. We refuse to sit back and accept a world where we're not welcomed or accepted. Creativity becomes a way to fight back and say, "We won't be silenced."

NULLIFEYE
Do you think the political climate creates a sense of urgency and rebellion in the art being created here?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Absolutely. Look around—whether it's music, murals, or graffiti, you'll see people expressing their anger and frustration. There's this huge urgency to be heard, to make it clear that we're not okay with what's happening.

NULLIFEYE
Do you think the Florida goth scene is unique compared to others across the country?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Honestly, I haven't experienced many other goth scenes outside Florida, so I'm not sure. What do you think?

NULLIFEYE
From my experience traveling to different shows, I've noticed that in places like blue states where alternative culture is more common, people seem freer to express themselves. But in a way, the lack of that tension means there's less urgency behind it. In Florida, dressing alternative can still come with risks—like harassment or worse—which makes the culture here feel more tied to rebellion.

STRAWBERRY GOTH
That's so true. Here in Florida, we're constantly targeted. I've had bottles thrown at my car just because I have a gay pride flag on my bumper. It's unacceptable, but so many people act like it's normal. We're done with that—we're not going to accept it anymore.

NULLIFEYE
What do you think the future holds for the Florida goth scene, especially with all the pressure and pushback it's facing?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
I think we're only going to grow stronger. We'll keep hosting goth nights, meeting up, and creating spaces for ourselves. The challenges aren't going to stop us—we're going to keep moving forward together.

NULLIFEYE
That's inspiring. Now, back to your music—this single is your debut. What's next for you on your musical journey?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
I'm working on the EP I mentioned earlier, along with more singles. I just want to keep creating and pushing forward—not for the money, but for the love of making music and celebrating what I've overcome.

NULLIFEYE
Can we expect to see a music video for this single?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Oh yeah, you already know!

NULLIFEYE
Wonderful. Have you found inspiration or collaborative opportunities within the Florida scene?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Absolutely. I've found a lot of inspiration from my friends and the places I visit, like Quintessence and the Barter Box. There's such a vibrant community of artists here who are so open about what they do. We have events that are all about art and music, and they've been incredibly inspiring for me. It's what I love, and I'm so grateful for everything I've gained from being part of this scene.

NULLIFEYE
You mentioned the Barter Box at Quintessence, and for listeners who may not know, that's actually where I host my goth nights. Are there any artists who've performed there that have particularly inspired you?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Yes! Abigail and Pressure Kitten are two of them—I absolutely love their work. Honestly, so many of the artists that perform there are just incredible. They're so talented and bring such freeing, energetic vibes to the stage. You can really feel their energy, and it's so warm and uplifting. They just know how to connect with their audience—it's amazing.

NULLIFEYE
Are there any other people, places, or things you'd like to shout out or highlight before we wrap up?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Definitely! I want to shout out Quintessence, Feyloo—who was a big inspiration for me to start making music—and my closest friends, especially Fawn Noel Marie and the whole Quintessence crew. You've all inspired me so much, and I'm really grateful for you.

NULLIFEYE
Thank you for sharing that. This has been such a wonderful conversation. Your debut single, Treat You Like a Man, drops on December 15th, but I happen to know a little secret: at the goth night I'm hosting on December 14th, attendees will get an exclusive chance to hear it a day early. Is that right?

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Absolutely! It's going to be so exciting.

NULLIFEYE
We're all thrilled to see what's next for you.

STRAWBERRY GOTH
Thank you so much for having me, and big thanks to Houdini Magazine as well. I really appreciate it and can't wait for the next one!

NULLIFEYE
I'm grateful to have collaborated with Strawberry G0th and Houdini Magazine to host this interview. HOUDINI Magazine is doing amazing work for the community." Thank you so much for the opportunity! And now, a quick message from HOUDINI Magazine:

"HOUDINI Magazine is proud to spotlight voices like yours, STRAWBERRY GOTH, especially in such a dynamic and meaningful scene. We're committed to amplifying the creativity coming out of Florida and beyond. If you're an artist, musician, or part of the alternative scene, we'd love to collaborate—please reach out."
Thank you for your time today, and everyone, don't forget to stream Treat You Like a Man on December 15th!

