

## **Bradley Hathaway**

### **"Manly Man"**

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I don't want my long hair  
Pretty green eyes with  
No I do not have on mascara  
Eyelashes  
Skinny figure  
Undersized T-shirt

Hip  
Shake  
Too  
Much  
When I walk

Confuse anybody...

I am a Manly Man!

Within this sissy frame  
Obviously rib laden chest  
Lies a heart  
That beats

To the drum of a  
Native American ritual dancing  
Wildness

It pumps an evercascading supply of untamedness  
That a herd of wild mustangs have yet to grasp.

If danger lurks about, I will seek it out.  
If adventure abounds, there I will be found.  
If a damsel be in distress

I will show her who is best.

I am a Manly Man!

Because I don't flush  
And I leave the lid up.

I drive a nineteen  
Eighty-eight

Ford Pick-up truck.

Girls don't break up with me  
I break up with them first!  
(Except the last time, it didn't really work out like  
That )

I don't shave the hair on my face  
(Because I still can't grow facial hair yet, but when I  
Can  
I won't.)

Because beards are tough.  
I fart  
Burp  
Spit  
When I want

Not caring who's nearby

Disrespect my momma  
And I will punch you in the eye!

I am a Manly Man!

Or am I?

I tell my guy friends that I love them.

And sometimes, sometimes, I even hug them.  
No because I'm gay. But because I love em'.

When I watched Bambi  
I cried.  
When my mema gets mad  
I still run and hide.

Like David I want to be a man after God's own heart.  
I'm not there yet, but I'm past the start.

And when people talk  
I try to listen  
A spirit of compassion  
That's my vision.  
Surely I am a Manly Man  
I want to be loved  
And have love  
And give Love.  
(And not just that romantic kind either)

Although I am looking for that beauty

Not helpless  
But wants to be rescued.  
The Damsel in distress  
Man  
Woman  
Myth  
True.

I will fight for her.

Climb the highest tower for her

Love her.

Share with her.

Delight in her.

Be her warrior.

Her protector.

She will be my crown  
And I will be hers.

My Masculinity will be passed down  
And affirmed to my sons.

Each of my daughters will know they are lovely  
And deserving of authentic romance.

Society tells me all day long

That I have defined manhood completely wrong.

But you ask any honest man and he will agree  
You ask any honest woman and she too will see

That I am a Manly Man!

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