



 VIEWS

HOME > VIEWS

The 5 Types Of Tears Of High-Profile People



Roz Bellamy
Freelance writer

Tue 09 Oct 2018 10:53 AM



Crying is the way that most of us enter the world.

As babies, tears mean one thing: our needs and desires. They signal life. As we grow, we start to understand tears in a different way, as symbolising happiness or sadness. Some begin to shy away from crying in front of other people, and may hide their tears in order to avoid being judged by others.

By adulthood, many have learned to shun tears and judge those who cry. The tears of high-profile people take on an even higher importance. We sympathise, empathise, pity, ridicule, mock, question or critique their tears.

illnesses, deaths, tragedies and injustices. Our responses to these tears vary based on the way that they are framed by the media, politicians and on social media.



Michael Jordan's tears during the 2009 Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony sparked the internet meme "Crying Jordan." (Photo by Jim Rogash/Getty Images)

READ MORE: [Does Crying Help? Apparently Not, According To New Research](#)

READ MORE: [Noah Cyrus Is Selling Her Tears For \\$12,000](#)

We decide which tears are legitimate. We tease Millennials for being easily #triggered despite the fact that trauma is not confined to specific generations.

THE GOOD GUYS



SPONSORED



Sunbeam Milk Frother

Sunbeam Cafe Creamy prepares enough milk for two standard coffees. It's so eas...

Presented by The Good Guys

We become a jury for tears; we decide if the tears are self-serving or selfless. If the tears are related to the loss of a parent, child or spouse, or over innocent children or animals, we might accept them. But when we add gender, sex, sexuality, alcohol and consent into the mix, our response to tears changes again. We become the judge and jury over public tears, especially in legal matters.

Brett Kavanaugh cried during the Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation hearing, when he was questioned about assault claims by Dr Christine Blasey

I tried to analyse Kavanaugh's tears on multiple levels.



Brett Kavanaugh gets emotional at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing into sexual assault allegations. Image: Getty.

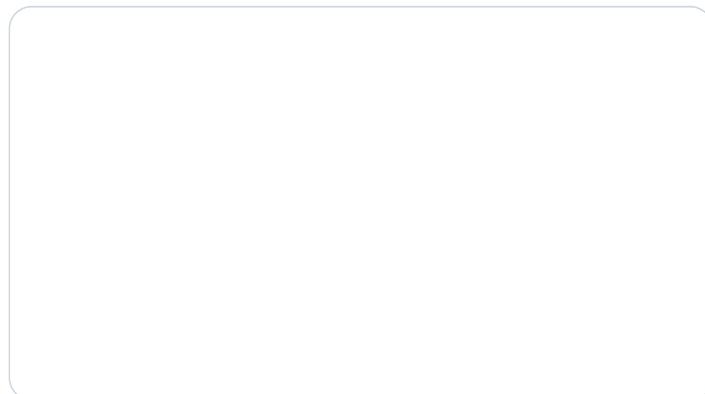
During the media representation of Kavanaugh's hearing, we saw the trope of the poor, wrongly accused man having his dreams crushed by bitter feminists. Dr Ford maintained her composure and integrity throughout her testimony despite the bizarre and often inappropriate line of questioning by a prosecutor. While she maintained her composure, remaining on the verge of tears at some points, the media often infantilised her.



Clementine Ford
@clementine_ford



I know [@mirandadevine](#) hasn't a shred of humanity in her and her entire career has been about assuring men she's no threat, but this is beyond comprehension even for her. What a hateful, disgusting person. An appalling, misogynist attack on [#ChristineBlaseyFord](#).



2:32 PM · Sep 30, 2018



they a performance?

 **Alexis Ohanian Sr.**  @alexis... · Oct 8, 2018 

Replying to @alexisohanian

Beta Brett:+ Played the "father card"
+ Cried & screamed
+ Insulted everyone's intelligence with lies about the definitions of phrases anyone with Google could debunk
+ Argued hysterically with sitting Senators, even going so far as to threaten them

 **Alexis Ohanian Sr.**  @alexisohanian

If you're going to be a Supreme Court Justice -- a job that requires maintaining sober judgement -- it shouldn't matter what questions you have to answer in your job interview, you keep it together.

I look forward to the cartoon @damonheraldsun puts on the front page about it.

9:11 AM · Oct 8, 2018 

 2.1K  385 people are talking about this

I wanted to understand more about this, so I read about the tears of high-profile people and viewed an inordinate amount of unflattering crying photos. From this, I identified five categories of their tears:

1. 'I am amazing' tears over athletic, artistic or professional achievements.
2. 'You are amazing' tears over family members, friends or partners.
3. 'I am hurting' tears over loss and grief, breakdowns or breakups. Also referred to as 'I can't even' tears when the person crying is a millennial or hipster.
4. 'I'm a survivor' tears over being assaulted, abused, shamed or discriminated against.
5. 'I'm a perpetrator' tears about being called out over abuse, assault or other bad behaviours, often due to a loss of status. These tears can also involve anger, condescension, gaslighting and lies.

All five of the types of tears on my list seem to fascinate people. There is a lot of jealousy and obsession about Tears 1 and 2, around achievements, relationships and children. The trauma involved in Tears 3, 4 and 5 also tend to draw in wide audiences.



Then-presidential nominee Senator Barack Obama cried while speaking about his grandmother, who died of cancer, during a rally in 2008. Image: Getty.



Kevin Rudd sheds a tear at a press conference after he was deposed as prime minister. Image: Getty.

I also noticed that race and gender impact heavily on the analysis and judgement of the person crying.

As the world watched Kavanaugh and Dr Ford testify, there was disagreement over who was the survivor and who was the perpetrator; whose emotions were legitimate and whose were fake. In the United States, people were drawn into intense debates about the allegations.

READ MORE: [Why Republicans Think Dr Ford Was Telling The Truth](#)

READ MORE: [This Photo Is Every Woman Watching The Kavanaugh Hearing](#)

READ MORE: [Christine Ford Testifies Against Brett Kavanaugh In Emotional Hearing](#)

Ultimately, Kavanaugh apologised for his tears, but not for his inappropriate behaviour, including the alleged assault and the drinking to excess. If we think about this in terms of gender, Kavanaugh's alleged behaviours were

When we look at the tears of high-profile people, it is worth remembering that even the guilty can weep and look like victims. Even, or especially, those who are guilty can turn allegations into what seem like injustices. It's time to stop being so simplistic about tears. Tears don't just come in binaries: happy or sad, innocent or guilty, victim or criminal. Just as children have to learn, emotions are far more complex than that.

[#australian-federal-politics](#)

[#brett-kavanaugh](#)

[#celebrity](#)

[#us-politics](#)



10 daily Favourites

QuaranTL;DR - Bold and The Beautiful



How You Make Hummus In Just Three Minutes



What Big Names Need To Know When They Visit Dubbo



Latest Videos

The Importance Of Auslan Interpreters



The Latest Life In Lockdown



Join The Project's
Fancy Friday Dinner



The Anzac In My Family



⚡ Quick Reads

4
MIN
READ

Cafe Serves Up Soup Kitchen Of
Human Kindness

3
MIN
READ

How To Stay Positive (And Not Cry)
When Things Ah... Don't Exactly Go
As Planned

2
MIN
READ

Exactly What To Wear To Your
Redundancy Meeting (Aside From A
Look Of Despair)

4
MIN
READ

Rules Are Lifting But You Still Don't
Want To Go Out? It Might Be FOGO

2
MIN
READ

Thursday Is The Best Day Of The
Week. Fight Me.

10 daily

Let us slide into your DMs

Get The Headlines →

📊 Trending

1

Why All Cruise Ships Should
Be Buried At Sea

👁️ VIEWS

2

I've Travelled The Globe But
My Heart Lies In These Fave
Aussie Holiday Spots



Legal CBD Oil In Australia

🕒 VIEWS



4 Our Leaders' Handling Of The Coronavirus, Ranked

🕒 VIEWS



5 How Can We Hold China To Account For Coronavirus Without Starting WW III?

🕒 VIEWS



Related Content



ANNA KOOIMAN

If You Think The Midterms Were A Rebuke Of Trump, Think Again

Anna Kooiman



ROZ BELLAMY

The 5 Types Of Tears Of High-Profile People

Roz Bellamy



The Terrifying Candidates Opt For Election In America's Midterms

 Adam Hurlburt



News

Entertainment

Lifestyle

Views

Video

WIN

10 play

10 daily social



Let us slide into your DMs

Get The Headlines 

©2020 Network Ten Pty Limited

[About](#)

[Help](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Updated Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Advertise](#)