

# Show Business

## A Tribe Called Quest

### Verse 1

Let me tell you 'bout the snakes, the fakes, the lies  
The highs at all of these industry shing-dings  
Where you see the pretty girls  
In the high animated world  
Checkin' for a rapper with all the dough  
If you take a shit they want to know  
And if you're gonna fall, they won't be around, y'all  
So you still wanna do the show business?  
And you think that you got what it takes?  
I mean you really gotta rap and be all that  
And prepare yourself for the breaks  
Check it out!

Do you wanna be in the business? (The Business)  
The ups and downs with the hoes (The Business)  
Always gettin' fronted on at shows (The Business)  
People gotta stick their nose (In the Business)

### Verse 2

Yo, I gotta speak on the cesspool  
It's the rap industry and it ain't that cool  
Only if you're on stage or if you're speakin' to your people  
Ain't no-one your equal  
Especially on the industry side  
Don't let the games just glide  
Right through your fingers, you gotta know the deal  
So Lord Jamar speak, because you're real...

They're givin' you the business and puttin' on a show  
You're a million dollar man that ain't got no dough  
But you got a ho tickets backstage to a show  
Sedated and at that fact they elated  
Time pass and your ass say "Where's my loot?"  
The reply is a kick in the ass from a leg and a boot  
All you wanna do is taste the fruit  
But in the back they're makin' fruit juice  
You ask for slack and wanna get cut loose from the label  
Not able cos you signed at the table  
For a pretty cash advance, now they got a song and dance  
That you didn't recoup, more soup wit' ya meal?  
Cos this is the real when you get a record deal  
And I say...

Aw....shucks, look what the cat hauled in  
It's Phife Dawg from A Tribe Called Quest, let me begin  
Like Chuck D, I got so much trouble on my mind  
'bout these no-talent artists gettin' signed, they can't rhyme  
And if that ain't bad, you got bootleggers  
Goin' out like suckers, motherfuckers  
Feel it's time that I let loose the lion  
And if not that then I'll commence to head flyin'  
Seems in '91 everybody want a rhyme  
And then you go and sell my tape for only \$5.99?  
Please nigga, I've worked too hard for this

No more will I take the booty end of the stick  
Bogus brothers makin' albums when they know they can't hack it  
Cos they lyrics is played like 8-Ball jackets  
Now tell me I can't tear it up  
Go get yourself some toilet paper cos your lyrics is butt

Do you wanna be in the business? (The Business)  
People can't walk a straight line in (The Business)  
Some of these brothers can't rhyme in (The Business)  
A-yo, I'm tryna get mine (The Business)

### Verse 3

The party scene is cool, but then again it's all the same  
You see the same faces, but at different places  
When you're up and ridin' high everything is palsy-palsy  
Get a million pounds and all the skins give you hugs  
Well that's cool, I can dig it, it really ain't my bag  
Prefer to max on the side and let my pants sag  
"Oh, he's a cutie", yeah, real cute  
But I wasn't that cute when I didn't have no loot  
Although I hit a pound of herbs I'm still nice with the verbs  
So fuck what you heard  
The born cipher, cipher master makes me think much faster  
But critics still continue to plaster  
My name and discredit my fame  
All that shit is game  
And I don't really give a damn  
Eat from the tree of life and throw away the verbal ham

Well, excuse me, I gotta add my two cents in  
Don't be alarmed, the rhyme was condensed in  
A matter of minutes so it must be told  
All that glitters' not gold  
Everybody wants a deal, help me make a demo  
See my name in bright lights, ride around in a limo  
My moms keeps beefin' ("Boy, get a job")  
But I wanna make jams, damn, I know I'll slam  
Huh, well it's not that easy  
You gotta get a label that's willin' and able  
To market and promote, and you better hope  
(For what?) That the product is dope  
Take it from Diamond, it's like mountain climbin'  
When it comes to rhymin' you gotta put your time in  
Get a good lawyer so problems won't pile  
You don't wanna make a pitch that's wild.