

# How Not To Get Jerked

Boogie Down Productions

Now technically speakin' I ain't 'sposed to be doin' this  
Like givin' information to the ones that are new to this  
You want to make a record and get into the business?  
Here's a little plan from a six year witness  
First you gotta understand the music game  
It's not about fame it's about a rich name  
And who you're down with and who you clown with  
But most of all, you got to have a gift ("it's like that")  
Either music or the fresh lyrics  
Or a vibe; people like to buy your spirit  
Everybody knows KRS-One is dope  
To really see it, you gotta use a telescope, hah!  
There's no hope when you're shoppin' for a deal  
Either sex appeal, or the hard street feel  
But if you don't have a lawyer you're a goner  
Don't even think about chillin' in a sauna  
You need a lawyer, and a good manager  
Without this, the record companies won't be havin ya  
So I'm grabbin' ya now and showin' ya how  
Not to get jerked when you do hard work!

[Repeat x16]

"It's like that y'all"

"One, two, three, whoo!"

Yo, there's more to it, but let's get through it  
Many MC's reached the top and then blew it  
You say, "I knew it, that last jam was wack"  
Either you're strung out on crack, or you don't want to  
Be black anymore, or, you don't want to rap anymore  
Or, you do a wack tour, or, you get in trouble with the law  
Or, your fans you ignore, or, you get punched in the jaw  
'Cause, you're not hardcore!  
What makes a jam isn't luck or fate  
It's writin' the jams that the people can relate to  
Or else they'll hate you  
The public will mark you down as a fake crew  
You don't need all that  
Just rap from the heart and you'll have a good start  
But a lot of MC's want girls  
And want to live on top of the world  
In the jam they want to flirt  
Here's how not to get jerked when you do hard work!

[Repeat x16]

"It's like that y'all"

Now understand, rap is rebellious music  
Therefore, only the rebel should use it  
But pop artists abuse it  
When the audience hears real rap, they boo it  
See rap music is a culture  
And everyone outside that culture is a vulture  
The vulture makes money on the culture  
Understand, I ain't tryin' to insult ya  
But you're either usin' rap like the devil  
Or you're pushin' rap to another level

So don't wait for your company's promotions staff  
Promote yourself with your own cash!  
But this might mean you can't buy gold  
You might have to put that on hold  
'Cause if the artist falls, they diss him!  
But if the company falls, the artist falls with them!  
This ain't about a tight skirt  
Here's how not to get jerked when you do hard work!