

## Lookin' Back

E-40

Lookin back when the days wasn't so easy\*  
You were either hustlin or strugglin  
Make it or break it, would take all different pieces  
And we'll make somethin of nothin  
Lookin back at the times when we had to grind  
When it came to freestylin we was glad to rhyme  
When it was hard to make a dime, let alone get a dollar  
Had to get your hustle on, knew not to ask your mama for it  
When you got it you couldn't blow it  
So I saved what I had in the bag, then I would go get  
Radio batteries, I'd buy the cassettes  
LPs, 4-tracks, wires and (?)  
And we was down for hours, we was known around town  
Come through with the crew and break the cardboard down  
Heh... glide (?)  
Then the whole thing started with the Odd Squad parties  
Met E-40 at the Rap-A-Lot office  
Him and Bela cool niggas with the Click that stay drunk  
We was gettin Houstin high, they already had the Bay crunk  
Straight up old school, wasn't no ProTools  
Jack you for your jacket, and they'll jack you for yo shoes  
Back then you had friends who had your back  
You only had three choices - sports, rap or crack  
And ah, it's a blessing to still be part of the game  
And I wouldn't change one thing  
Lookin back when the days wasn't so easy  
(It wasn't easy, mane)  
Were either hustlin or strugglin  
(Workin, hustlin and strugglin)  
Make it or break it, would take all different pieces  
(All of the pieces)  
And we'll make somethin of nothin  
(That's right, mane, we'd make somethin of nothin, mane)  
Make somethin out of nothin  
Hey Devin  
This 40, mane  
Let me gas it right quick, bro  
Let it tell it from my perspective, you smell me?  
Look here  
I just wanna spit a few bars  
Listen up, family  
Listen  
Lookin back before YouTube and social networks was founded  
A&R's'd go to the hood to find artists with talent  
Recording engineers was low-key lightweight crooks  
Not all of 'em but some of 'em'd take all day to fly hooks  
That's how they did it back then, based on a hourly rate  
The longer they make, the mo' money they make  
All we wanted to do was rap, young and enthusiastic  
Hopin that one day our tapes would be in stores shrinkwrapped and packaged  
We used to beg the promoters to do us a favor  
Let us perform for free, pimpin, mane, the money gon' come later  
We knew the money was gon' come later  
We was just tryina get our name out there  
And it ended up workin, mane, for real though  
Rehearse and practise, practise and rehearse  
Me and Too \$hort, Bun and Pimp C wouldn't charge each other to spit a verse

We all knew what we was worth, future legends up in the game  
RIP Pimp C, way ahead of his time  
Everybody wanna be that guy, everybody wanna be that dude  
But everybody don't wanna pay dues like 40 and Devin The Dude  
Two good dudes, old school but new school  
Meet 'em in person, you gon' say, "Them some cool fools"  
Good music still around, just gotta know where to find it  
The seasoned entrepreneur independently grindin  
20 plus 3 years deep in this music  
People always be askin me, "40, how the fuck is you still doin it?"  
Lookin back when the days wasn't so easy  
(It wasn't easy, mane)  
Were either hustlin or strugglin  
(Workin, hustlin and strugglin)  
Make it or break it, would take all different pieces  
(All of the pieces)  
And we'll make somethin of nothin  
(That's right, mane, we'd make somethin of nothin, mane)