

# This Can't Be Life

Jay-Z

[Jay-Z]

Geah.. whassup?  
Where's all my street niggaz, project niggaz  
Real niggaz, worldwide  
Let's reflect.. e'rybody got a story  
We all ghetto B - here's mine  
Geah

See I was -- born in sewage, born to make bomb music  
Flow tight like I was born Jewish  
Used the streets as a conduit - I kept arms  
38 longs inside my mom's Buick  
At any given moment Shawn could lose it, be on the news  
Iron cuffs - arms through it; or stuffed with embalmin fluid  
Shit, I'm goin through it - mom dukes too  
Tears streamin down her pretty face, she got her palms to it  
My life is gettin too wild  
I need to bring some sort kinda calm to it  
Bout to lose it; voices screamin "Don't do it!"  
It's like '93, '94, bout the year  
that Big and Mag dropped; and "Illmatic" rocked  
outta every rag drop, and the West had it locked  
Everybody doin 'em, I'm still scratchin on the block  
like "Damn; I'ma be a failure"  
Surrounded by thugs, drugs, and drug - paraphenalia  
Cops courts, and their thoughts is to derail us  
Three time felons in shorts with jealous thoughts  
Tryin figure where your mail is, guesstimate the weight you sellin  
So they can send shots straight to your melon; wait!  
It gets worse, baby momma water burst  
Baby came out stillborn, still I gotta move on  
Though my heart still torn, life gone from her womb  
Don't worry, if it was meant to be, it'll be -- soon

[Chorus: Jay-Z]

This can't be life, this can't be love  
This can't be right, there's gotta be more, this can't be us  
This can't be life, this can't be love  
This can't be right, there's gotta be more, this can't be us

[Beanie Sigel]

Chill dog  
Second oldest born, from Michelle Brown my mother  
Hell bound, grew with two sisters and one brother  
Pop wasn't around, so many stories that's another  
I'm thinkin damn; how my older sister gon' make me tougher  
When steel sharpens steel, I'ma keep it real  
I'm tired of tryin to hide my pain behind the syrups and pills  
Dead to the world, stretched out like a corpse for real  
Y'all niggaz thinkin what y'all readin in The Source is real  
What my life like, you lookin at the source, it's real  
What your life like? Mine dog, of course it's real  
Passin judgment, you niggaz second-guessin Beans  
Cause you don't eat swine don't make you Amin  
Dog you know a couple suras, out the Qur'an  
I guess you all on your din and I ain't on mine  
Stop that Akki, 'fore I send shots though your body

Make 'em feel feel hell on earth before Allah drop thee  
I feel the line's drawn here, nuttin more can stop me  
Till them feds pick me up, or them boys pop me  
There's only three things that make Mac not act like Beans  
Amatullah Tisha, Po Aldin, Samir Amin  
My seeds dog, gotta teach 'em that before I leave dog  
Shit I know that I'ma see 'em when I leave dog  
I come back in the afterlife  
Like fuck it I done touched hell twice; what's the meanin?

[Chorus]

[Scarface]

Yeah.. uhh..

Now as I walk into the studio, to do this with Jig'  
I got a phone call from one of my nigs  
Said my homeboy Reek, he just lost one of his kids  
And when I heard that I just broke into tears  
And see in the second hand; you don't really know how this is  
But when it hits that close to home you feel the pain at the crib  
So I called mine, and saddened my wife with the bad news  
Now we both depressed, countin our blessings cause Brad's two  
Prayin for young souls to laugh atlife through the stars  
Lovin your kids just like you was ours  
And I'm hurtin for you dog; but ain't nobody pain is like yours  
I just know that heaven'll open these doors  
And ain't no bright side to losin lifel; but you can view it like this  
God's got open hands homey, he in the midst.. of good company  
Who loves all and hates not one  
And one day you gon' be wit your son  
I could've rapped about my hard times on this song  
But heaven knows I woulda been wrong  
I wouldn'ta been right, it wouldn'ta been love  
It wouldn'ta been life, it wouldn'ta been us  
This can't be life

[Chorus]

[Jay-Z]

This can't be life..