Ooh-wee... mmmmmmmm, yeah...

See I was raised out on these mean streets
I'm from the projects, right, where poverty and hell meet
I'm searching everyday to find a better way, I've got a
Hustle still to get my pay before I hit bottom
Now some might say that I'm already there
But who are they to judge or question what I do, son, so I don't care
Tired of eating cheese sandwiches with no meat
Tired of watching all the playas from the same seat
So it's a life of crime, some might sing or rhyme
To escape the ghetto before the flatline
Choices to make, what am I gonna do
Got to use my talents, they gonna pull me through

Now with success, I become a target
They wanna set me up, I guess more money equals more problems
They wanna get me, wanna hit me, strip me of my riches
They wanna cut me up in pieces, leave me deep in ditches

And I can't take it... but I'm gonna make it... Yeah... oh... I'm gonna make it... yeah... ohhhhhh Fight to stay alive

I was raised out on these mean streets
You know where poverty and hell meet
Brothers get jail and life's for sale, cheap
Since momma held me, in her arms, to tell me
That it's a cold world, I done held heat
And held myself down, lotta bodies and shells found
And niggas into taking everything, that ain't nailed down
We fell down, ain't hard to tell now
I ain't trying, to see the cell now
or see momma put her house up for bail now
So I'mma give all I got, to try and get that gwop
Nigga I'm hot with this hustle, go 'head and get the cops
I use my talent to get more figures
Unlike these little corner store niggas
Go change your drawers, niggas

Now with success and I've become a target
They wanna set me up, take me hostage, or take me down some notches
They wanna hit me, wanna stick me, get me for my riches
They wanna diss me, want a clip me, leave me stiff in ditches

And I can't take it, no, no, but I'm gonna make it...
(This ain't no game, my life ain't nothing to play with)
Yeah... I'm gonna make it... oooh...
(Face it, money is power and I'ma make it)
I'm gonna make it... oooh...

Yeah, I'm gon' survive, yo, yo, aiyo
N.Y. City, gritty blocks, little love, plenty cops
Few rise, many drop, True Lies, semis cocked
Fishscale, already rocked, heavy shots, that we drop
New guys on every block, blue eyes and red dots
Pregnant mothers, broke fathers, more money, more problems

So hungry, won't starve 'em, work hard and so pardon I got mouths to feed, I got pounds of weed I need some more, another store, another house, indeed An X amount of G, the reason pounds'll squeeze And strip you naked, basic, trying to make it out the P's Don't ever doubt a G, and have me spaz like 'Face with the K, and my nose all powdery It ain't about the streets, it's 'bout the beast within That won't give in to 'lice, down to bleed, G

Now with success and I've become a target
They wanna set me up, take me hostage, or take me down some notches
They wanna hit me, wanna stick me, get me for my riches
They wanna diss me, wanna clip me leave me stiff in ditches

And I can't take it (yeah), no, no, but I'm gonna make it...

(Yeah, yea, turn the beat up a little right here)

Yeah... I'm gonna make it... oooh...

(Yo, yo, yo, yeah, yo, just, Wu-Tang, Wu-Tang)

Aiyo, RZA, Meth, GZA, Deck, Ghost and Chef be cashing checks Killa, Cap be snapping necks, Street and 'Zilla flash the tech Sacrifice a savage life, if he trying to bag my ice Tag a price on merchandise, tell me, is it worth ya life?

No... it's a cold, cold, cold world You can't be playing games with my life I've gotta fight to survive, fight to stay alive

Aiyo, metal pipes ignite, sparking fire, light the darkness night Trying to stick me for my riches, now y'all bitches taking flight Major business, raise the digits, tried to strike me for my life Slice and dice, men or mice, GZA tell 'em what it's like

Aiyo, money making, people flaking, Cash Rules, fuck the bacon Earthquaking, head is aching, bank stop, dice shaking Times are hard, sew a job, scheming niggaz wanna rob Use a hoe to slob ya knob, hit you with unruly mobs Stab you in the back and smile, watch you bleed for a while Hating on the agile, steal ya name and bite ya style Hold you for a ransom note, Goliath cutting David's throat Grab ya vest, abandon boat and leave you out at sea to float

Now with success and I've become a target
They wanna set me up, I guess more money equals more problems
They wanna hit me, wanna stick me, get me for my riches
They wanna diss me, want clip me, leave me stiff in ditches

And I can't take it... no, no... but I'm gonna make it...
Yeah... oh... I'm gonna make it... ooh... yeah...
It's a cold, cold, cold world
I got my hand on my gun, they got a brother on the run
Yeah... it's a cold, cold, cold world
You can't be playing games with my life
I've gotta fight to survive, fight to stay alive
This ain't a game, this is my life
Keep pushing me to the edge, I'm gonna push back
And you won't like that, it's guaranteed you won't like that
When ya laid down, laid flat...