

## Nas f/ Mark B. Mayfield

### "Hold Down the Block"

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[Chorus: Mark B. Mayfield]

I gotta lay down the block, when the block is hot  
I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

I gotta lay down the block, when the block is hot  
I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

[Verse 1: Nas]

Yea, Feds feast on street dons, look at their teeth  
showin'  
Salivatin' at the mouth, South to East Orange  
Keep pourin' that liquor, but nigga don't sleep on it  
You'll be givin' up your Jesus piece to your peeps to  
pawn it  
For legal fees in the penal dorm  
Screamin' on the horn with 'bout thirty years on your  
conscience  
I'm watchin' brothers disappear, it's appallin'  
Some dudes had just only a year of ballin'  
Counter-intelligence found a strange evidence (When  
the block is hot)  
Still we behind the wheel with heat on us, hangin' with  
predicates  
Position we placed in caves in, so they got us caged in  
Ways spinnin' like Mike Bivens from New Edition aging  
(I gotta... When the  
block is hot)  
I got families I'm feeding 'cause my mans is bleeding  
Every five seconds look in all directions  
I come through prepared; I give 'em a call  
I'm close, bring them guns downstairs

[Chorus: Mark B. Mayfield]

I gotta lay down the block, when the block is hot  
I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

I gotta lay down the block, when the block is hot (hold it  
down)

I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

[Verse 2: Nas]

Uh, uh, it's beef week, Monday, murder  
Two niggaz dead, Tuesday  
Wednesday and Thursday is hearse-day  
Friday, somebody-gotta-die-day  
Saturday, put the gat away  
Chillin' wit your chick and a bag of haze  
Wonderin' how it's all gon' end and what type of way  
'Cause Sunday back to gunplay  
Mo' shit start over nothin'  
And get finished quick 'cause the art of repercussion  
Yeah, I seen it, a G' going out indecent (When the block  
is hot)  
Takin' a plea agreement, thinkin' he secret  
Escape the crime scene, now you live straight like 9:15  
Then one-time intervene (I gotta lay...)  
My man ain't like me sayin' I don't care if I die  
But the SIG Sauer on me now I'm scared to die  
You thinkin' the one I send to clap you be a shorty  
But he old school, holdin' a .38, he in his forties

[Chorus: Mark B. Mayfield]

I gotta lay down the block, when the block is hot  
I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

I gotta lay down the block, when the block is hot  
I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

[Verse 3: Nas]

(I gotta...) Anytime brothers can't get jobs, then they  
rob  
(When the block is hot) A man rather die than live on  
his knees and starve  
Cops steady askin' your man what happened  
First he tell then he stop, like he not really rattin'  
Guess he not really in that casket from a sawed-off  
(When the block is hot)  
Listen, peep game from the brain of an all-star  
The rain hurt niggaz bones who been shot  
Metal pins in their leg, they walk with a limp-hop  
The streets lie, (When the block is hot) so you better be  
cautious  
Your man'll fry you plus, everybody talkin'  
A vet, a General, don't step where I walked in  
Make your own path, be a legend in your skin  
(Hold down the block, when the block is hot)  
Make your own cash, don't stress what I'm forcin'  
Don't expect more when you put in less work than all  
them  
Queensbridge projects has taught him, and that's for  
life  
You heard me right, I got the block (When the block is

hot)

[Outro: Mark B. Mayfield]

When the block is hot

I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

I gotta hold down the block, when the block is hot

I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

I gotta hold down the block, when the block is hot

I gotta use my imagination, to change the situation

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