

Black Star

"Thieves In Thie Night"

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[Talib Kweli]

Yo Dee (What?)

Come on (Yeah..)

What? What? Come on

(Yeah)

"Give me the fortune, keep the fame," said my man
Louis

I agreed, know what he mean because we live the
truest lie

I asked him why we follow the law of the bluest eye
He looked at me, he thought about it

Was like, "I'm clueless, why?"

The question was rhetorical, the answer is horrible
Our morals are out of place and got our lives full of
sorrow

And so tomorrow comin later than usual

Waitin' on someone to pity us

While we findin beauty in the hideous

They say money's the root of all evil but I can't tell
Youknowhatlmean, pesos, francs, yens, cowrie shells,
dollar bills

Or is it the mindstate that's ill?

Creating crime rates to fill the new prisons they build
Over money and religion there's more blood to spill
The wounds of slaves in cotton fields that never heal
What's the deal?

A lot of cats who buy records are straight broke
But my language universal they be recitin my quotes
While R&B singers hit bad notes, we rock the boat
Of thought, that my man Louis' statements just
provoked

Caught up, in conversations of our personal worth
Brought up, through endangered species status on the
planet Earth

Survival tactics means, bustin gats to prove you hard
Your firearms are too short to box with God

Without faith, all of that is illusionary

Raise my son, no vindication of manhood necessary

[M.D.]Not strong

[T.K.]Only aggressive

[M.D.]Not free
[T.K.]We only licensed
[M.D.]Not compassionate, only polite
[T.K.]Now who the nicest?
[M.D.]Not good but well behaved
[T.K.]Chasin after death
So we can call ourselves brave?
[M.D.]Still livin like mental slaves
[both]Hidin like thieves in the night from life
Illusions of oasis makin you look twice
[both]Hidin like thieves in the night from life
Illusions of oasis makin you look twice

[Mos Def]
Yo, I'm sure that everybody out listenin agree
That everything you see ain't really how it be
A lot of jokers out runnin in place, chasin the style
Be a lot goin on beneath the empty smile
Most cats in my area be lovin the hysteria
Synthesized surface conceals the interior
America, land of opportunity, mirages and
camouflages
More than usually -- speakin loudly, sayin nothin
You confusin me, you losin me
Your game is twisted, want me enlisted -- in your usary
Foolishly, most men join the ranks cluelessly
Buffoonishly accept the deception, believe the
perception
Reflection rarely seen across the surface of the lookin
glass
Walkin the street, wonderin who they be lookin past
Lookin gassed with them imported designer shades on
Stars shine bright, but the light -- rarely stays on
Same song, just remixed, different arrangement
Put you on a yacht but they won't call it a slaveship
Strangeness, you don't control this, you barely hold
this
Screamin brand new, when they just sanitized the old
shit
Suppose it's, just another clever Jedi mind trick
That they been runnin across stars through all the time
with
I find it's distressin, there's never no in-between
We either niggaz or Kings
We either bitches or Queens
The deadly ritual seems immersed, in the perverse
Full of short attention spans, short tempers, and short
skirts
Long barrel automatics released in short bursts
The length of black life is treated with short worth
Get yours first, them other niggaz secondary

That type of illin that be fillin up the cemetary
This life is temporary but the soul is eternal
Separate the real from the lie, let me learn you
Not strong, only aggressive, cause the power ain't
directed
That's why, we are subjected to the will of the
oppressive
Not free, we only licensed
Not live, we just excitin
Cause the captors.. own the masters.. to what we writin
Not compassionate, only polite, we well trained
Our sincerity's rehearsed in stage, it's just a game
Not good, but well behaved cause the ca-me-ra survey
Most of the things that we think, do, or say
We chasin after death just to call ourselves brave
But everyday, next man meet with the grave
I give a damn if any fan recall my legacy
I'm tryin to live life in the sight of God's memory
Like that y'all

[Mos Def]

A lot of people don't understand the true criteria of
things
Can't just accept the appearance
Have to get the true essence

[Talib Kweli]

They ain't lookin around

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[T.K.]Only aggressive

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[M.D.]Not compassionate, only polite

[T.K.]Now who the nicest?

[M.D.]Not good but well behaved

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So we can call ourselves brave?

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[both]Hidin like thieves in the night from life

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[both]Hidin like thieves in the night from life

Illusions of oasis makin you look twice

[both]Hidin like thieves in the night from life

Illusions of oasis makin you look twice

[Mos Def (singing)]

Stop hidin, stop hidin, stop hidin yo' face

Stop hidin, stop hidin, cause ain't no hidin place

* repeat 2X*

(Ad libs to fade)

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