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Common "It's Your World"

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(feat. 'POPS')

[Verse 1]

Night Blows, Stoves don't work, Hoes at work A warrior, so I wear M.O. on my shirt Wishin I was free as Che was, I spend a day buzzed Trippin on heights, wishin for Nikes in different flavors The age of Kane and Big Daddy, shown by the caddies Uncles named Larry, that never really grabbed me My mother gave birth but she really never had me Left to the hood to play daddy Raised by niggaz named Butch, Puda, Bebe With weight so they weigh they status on the streets License plates that say they, motto This is Chicago in the hay day Similiar to Good Times, I guess that I was Jay Jay A skinny nigga, young girls with penny figures So many niggaz, stacked upon each other It's the black upon each other that we love so much Wonder how many of us, these drugs gonna touch Used to gangbang, ain't really thug that much Rather have some thick broads and a dutch to clutch Went to school in Baton Rouge for a couple of years My college career got downed with a couple of peers Came back home, now I gotta pay back loans Same nigga, same block, same shit they own Only thing different, quicker, they click that chrome In my defense, yo I had to hit that zone Man to man, I'm good workin with my hands My generation never understood workin for the man And, of bein broke I ain't a fan Now I stand in the same spot, as my old man My life I planned not to be on this corner I still wanna see California But this is my world

[Chorus Repeated Overlapping:] "It's your world"

[Common] Yeah

[Verse 2]

Life and death blow around us

Four pounds and pounds of herb from out of towners It's hard to stay grounded

We stay high, thats why old folks down us Lost, nobody found us, the force that sorrounds us Ain't with us, they get us on the ground and hit us We paint pictures of the change under their names and scriptures

Removed from earth, only to return through birth Knew this girl sellin her body, wish she knew what it was worth.

Between God and trash, lookin in every car that pass With a walk that suggests head, to milk niggaz she was breastfed

She know dairy so she say cheese to get bread In the area where it's more weaves and less dreads Kinda scary, amongst theives and base-heads Said it was her toes, but I could tell her soul hurt She was cold Turk, growin up she got to know hurt

very well in a world where self hate is overt Her step-father thought he was ike, so her mother he striked

she got to like like minded niggaz, who liked crimes and figures

Doin white lines and liquor, see hard times had kicked her

In the ass, that used to be thicker

Life is fast, some choose to be quicker

I remember in high school she had a passion to sing Now she see herself in a casket in dreams

These are the children of crack and rap, blacks that lack

Self-esteem, yo we forgot the dream On our jeffersons y'all but we forgot the theme In the Chi, we even rootin for a garbage team This queen never seen herself on this Corner She still wanna see California But this is her world

[Chorus repeated several times]

[Kids stating their dreams]

['POPS'] Be, be here, be there, be that, be this Be greatful for life, be greatful to life Be gleeful everyday, for bein the best swimmer among 500,000 Be-nign, be you, be mom's mean pie, be little black sambo With bad hair Be aware of what a lynch is, Be, be boundless energy Be a four star ghetto general, be no one except I Be a strong academic student, be an A student in sociology Be food for thought to the growin mind, be the author of your own horoscope Be invited, be long-living, be forgiving, be not forgetful Be a proud run, only to return to fight another day Be peaceful if possible, but justice in ways (?) Be high when you low, be on time but knowin to go Be cautious of the road to college, takin a detour through vietnam or the middle east Be absent of wars at any past or present fought amongst themselves Be visual of foreclosure over your shoulder while beggin A nation built on free labor for reperation, Be a cartopogropher Be a map maker, be able to find afro-american man search thoroughly it may be close to black man Be ammended 5/5ths, be ammended 5/5ths human Be the owner of more land than is set aside for wild life Be cupid, to world government Be found among the truth, lost tribe Be at full strength when walking through the valley Be not foolish as tender 18 of the mountain tops Be a brilliant soul, sparklin in the galaxy while walkin on earth Be loved by God as much as God loved Ghandi and Martin Luther King Be that last one of 144,000, be the resident of that twelfth house Be....eternal!

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