

## Blackalicious

### "The Rise and Fall of Elliot Brown"

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[Part I]

"I mean um, I got years man, I go back, actually  
I-I-I just got back to these streets man, this is home to  
me though  
Y'mean, I was goin' for a while, ten years to be exact  
I lost my lights in the streets, y'know but for these  
streets, me and my dude  
We got down and dirty for it, man, we did e'rythang,  
we took, nah'mean, to eat..  
That's what it's about when I was comin' up in the 80s',  
everybody tried to eat man  
and my way livin' to eat, man I gurped in theses streets  
I grind, walked to these streets here, nah'mean?"

[Gift of Gab]

Got to get this bread  
Got to get this dough, got to get these chips  
Got to get these whips, and fits and -  
Got to get real mean, got to get real clean  
Got to get these fiends a fixin'  
On a mission to get rich real quick use wit' no  
intermission  
Got to live big, gettin' the tip on them big {?}, so  
spendin' spendin'  
Any witness get hit quick, this lick isn't never no kid shit  
Not a picnic, flip bis-cuit/get rich, that's it  
Big bills, just Ben's, no frills, just Benzes  
Spendin' endless spendin' sprees  
Limitless, BUILD IT UP TO THE MILLIONS  
Then I can have things, like a new fly ring  
and a new fly fling, I can do Irene, Darlene, Charlene  
and Francine, even get inside Pam's jeans as clean as  
you ever did see  
On the scene doin' real big things, as I PIMP this simple  
SYSTEM  
Then I hear si-rens, and I see high beams  
Now I am fly-in', but they're behind me  
NOW I'M ON ONE KNEE, AND THE DOPE'S ON ME  
NOW MY HOPE'S GONE SEE AND I LOST MY FREEDOM  
LOCKED UP, SEE YA!!

[Part II]

[Gift of Gab - Verse One]

..He was a young lad  
Off of happiness and smiles, he was sprung bad  
Wanted all the trendy classy number one fads  
In a very short time, learned the rules of combat  
Learned who was a punk, and who would have swung  
back  
How to take from the weak, especially when hung-ray  
While mama's workin' two jobs, and daddy's gone  
away  
and police be throwin' you vibes, even at a young age  
and it was like he was livin' inside a cage  
from the outside world, 'cause he just couldn't relate  
..and then life really began  
and trifeness was a giv-en when he graduated

The Fall [\*echoes\*]

[Verse Two]

..So he hustled  
doin' whatever just to get the bread and the mustard  
Stacked high, grew wit' some niggaz he trusted  
He shouldn't have though, 'cause them same niggaz  
got him busted  
And 'bout the same time he 'bout to get sent up, his -  
Ex-girl is like, "I'm pregnant baby daddy - plus it's  
twins"  
and when he goes to jail, he has company  
in the form of fifty percent of the cats he grew up wit'  
Gets out, goes back, just like a puppet  
Caught in a genocidal death trap of the government  
The don't rehabilitate, they just be lovin' it  
When niggaz is in the pen, 'cause that's big money  
makin' to them

The Rise [\*echoes\*]

[Verse Three]

For some time he sat and pondered  
Trapped in a cell filled with criminals and convicts  
Time had arrived to confront the real conflict  
Lookin' within, not without, he got honest  
Started to read and acquire that self-knowledge  
Learned he was royalty and didn't come from garbage  
How to embrace struggle and learn from his problems  
True wealth is health, family, and a higher conscious-  
ness  
Learned most of what he was taught was nonsense  
Read up on economics and how to start a business

Self-determination and dedication empowered him  
Somethin' inside him told him only God could STOP him  
Now he's out livin' what others said was impossible  
Thought he would be another victim of ghetto  
obstacles  
Through a concrete, a rosebud started to blossom  
Remember change is really all that remains constant,  
yeah (\*echoes\*)

[Intro to "Black Diamonds and Pearls"]  
"Saved message...Friday...3:56...P.M."  
"Hey, ?B-Cam?, this is your sister Dee-Dee  
I was just callin' to tell you that I, gone to see Frankie  
and I told him that you wanted him to, um  
GIVE a, like, what it was like to be in prison  
and what, advice he would give and  
Oh my God, I got this letter from him  
Tim, you've got to hear it, this word should be in the  
book or a song or something  
I mean really..."

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