

## J-Live

### "The Sidewalks"

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[Verse 1] {J-Live}

Yo, I grew up on the chill side  
The no big deal side  
Where staying alive was no problem  
The other east side  
Projects and condos  
Somewhere in between downtown and harlem  
It's not quite accurate to claim half  
Either side was ever either all this or all that  
Some projects apartments be decked out fat  
Some condos still packed with roaches and rats  
But if New York is a concrete jungle  
My old earth kept me in the zoo where it wasn't so wild  
Who wouldn't want to find a way to make it safe for a  
child  
As a teenager I learned to escape for awhile  
But you know what they say being out of your element  
Whether giraffe, monkey, lion, or elephant  
In school they said I was on the right track  
But in the school of hard knocks I done got left back  
Nowadays no knocks get left  
My left knocks back  
Some say might makes right  
So my rights ain't light  
But whether giving beatdowns or getting down on beat  
You're not likely to see me or consider me street

[Chorus]

But from the sidewalks I see how it's rough out there  
I see the extra large dosage of life ain't fair  
From the sidewalks I see how the gas don't last  
In the streets and you crash when you go too fast  
From the sidewalks trust shit is just as real  
Even if your lifestyle ain't kill or be killed  
From the sidewalks Chris Rock got you gassed  
But I'm that smarter than y'all nigga that'll whoop your  
ass

[Verse 2] {J-Live}

Yo, I love New York, I am New York  
The way I spin break beats, make beats and talk

The way I eat, sleep, drink, fuck, spit, and walk  
The way I build and destroy cause that's how I was  
taught  
I'm feeling Philly for now, I don't get home sick  
I'm still close enough to the Yanks, Giants, and Knicks  
It's still city to city just different bricks  
See I don't divide by places, man fuck that shit  
It's a different state, but similar state of mind  
See every city got the same theme underlined  
A battleground for the lives of the dumb and blind  
Ya heard?  
Please believe that it takes all kinds  
We all got to get over in our own way  
Place to stay, peace to lay, and a pay day  
I get mines the legit way  
But no telling what I do to protect mines  
So you best respect my  
Kindness for weakness, face for fear  
Common mistakes are made until the cards are played  
But don't step to my door thinking something is sweet  
Or we won't even have to take it all the way to the street

[Chorus]

Cuz from the sidewalks, corners that I clean and own  
Never fuck with the sanctity of my home  
From the sidewalks, I rep from New York to Philly  
So from Broadway to Broad Street you got to feel me  
From the sidewalks, I know how to hold it down  
On my own when I come through and visit your town  
From the sidewalks, Chris Rock got you gassed  
But I'm that smarter than y'all nigga that'll whoop your  
ass

[Verse 3] {J-Live}

Yo, from the sidewalks, I been watching Hip-Hop grow  
And vice versa from school battles to my own show  
I watch skills evolve and the necks up blow  
Motivated by the love for the art and the dough  
I seen people influenced by the next man's flow  
To the point that it controls where they content go  
But if there's 8 million stories and a handful of rappers  
We can't all be pimps, players, and gunclappers  
It sounds sexy coming out your stereo, right?  
But then you wonder why we still getting stereotyped  
Like we a whole generation of  
Want to be thugs and soon to be hoes  
Like that's just how it go  
But everybody in the city ain't ghetto  
We all not slanging rocks and toatin' metal and  
Everybody in the ghetto ain't gangster  
Waiting for a reason to stomp, shoot, and shank ya,

and  
Every gangster in the ghetto ain't stupid as you  
Advocating that bullshit the way that you do  
Like there's no consequences or repercussions  
Like we don't even think first, before we start bustin'  
But whatever's clever son, I let them tell it  
Why should I play the role of zealot Just for y'all to repel  
it  
I'd rather rep for the rest of us with real talk  
So I'm out like that  
J transmitting live from the sidewalks

(From the sidewalks.... x 23)

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