

## Julie Reeves

### "Retrospect for Life"

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Yo, we gotta start respectin life more y'all  
You look at your brother man you gotta see yourself  
Gotta see the God within him  
Brothers gettin changed real quick over nothin  
We losin too many of ours  
Gotta recreate y'all  
Yo, check it

Knowin you the best part of life, do I have the right to  
take yours  
Cause I created you, irresponsibly  
Subconsciously knowin the act I was a part of  
The start of somethin, I'm not ready to bring into the  
world  
Had myself believin I was sterile  
I look into mother's stomach, wonder if you are a boy or  
a girl  
Turnin this woman's womb into a tomb  
But she and I agree, a seed we don't need  
You would've been much more than a mouth to feed  
But someone, I woulda fed this information I read  
to someone, my life for you I woulda had to leave  
Instead I lead you to death  
I'm sorry for takin your first breath, first step, and first  
cry  
But I wasn't prepared mentally nor financially  
Havin a child shouldn't have to bring out the man in me  
Plus I wanted you to be raised within a family  
I don't wanna, go through the drama of havin a baby's  
momma  
Weekend visits and buyin J's ain't gon' make me a  
father  
For a while bearing a child is somethin I never wanted  
to do  
For me to live forever I can only do that through you  
Nerve I got to talk about them niggaz with a gun  
Must have really thought I was God to take the life of  
my son  
I could have sacrificed goin out  
To think my homies who did it I used to joke about,  
from now on

I'ma use self control instead of birth control  
Cause \$315 ain't worth your soul  
\$315 ain't worth your soul  
\$315 ain't worth it

[Lauryn Hill (two layers of vocals, same words)]  
I, never dreamed you'd leave, in summer  
You said you would be here when it rained  
[Common] Yo  
Why didn't you stay

Seeing you as a present and a gift in itself  
You had our child in you, I probably never feel what you  
felt  
But you dealt with it like the strong black woman you  
are  
Through our trials and tribulations, child's elimination  
An intergration of thoughts I feel about the situation  
Back and forth my feelings was pacin  
Happy deep down but not joyed enough to have it  
But even that's a lie in less than two weeks, we was  
back at it  
Is this unprotected love or safe to say it's lust  
Bustin, more than the sweat in somebody you trust  
Or is it that we don't trust each other enough  
And believe, havin this child'll make us have to stay  
together  
Girl I want you in my life cause you have made it better  
Thinkin we all in love cause we can spend a day  
together  
We talkin spendin the rest of our lives  
It's too many black women that can say they mothers  
but can't say that they wives  
I wouldn't chose any other to mother my understanding  
But I want our Parenthood to come from Planning  
It's so much in my life that's undone  
We gotta see eye to eye, about family, before we can  
become one  
If you had decided to have it the situation I wouldn't run  
from  
But I'm walkin, findin myself in my God  
So I can, discipline my son with my writin  
Not have a judge tellin me how and when to raise my  
seed  
Though his death was at our greed, with no one else to  
blame  
I had a book of Afrikan names, case our minds  
changed  
You say your period hasn't came, and lately I've been  
sleepy  
So quit smokin the weed and the beadies and let's

have this boy

[Lauryn Hill]

I, never dreamed you'd leave in summer  
You said you would be here when it rained  
You said you would be here when it rained  
Ohh I, never dreamed you'd leave in summer  
Now the situation's made things change  
Things change  
Why, didn't you stay  
Why didn't you stay...  
I, never dreamed you'd leave, in summer  
In summer  
You said you would be here when, it rained  
When it rained, it rained  
Ohhhohh I, never dreamed, you'd leave in summer  
You said you wouldn't leave  
Now the situation's made things change  
Things change, why didn't you stay?  
Stay, stay stay stay stay stay stay  
Mmmmm, stayyy  
Uh-uh  
Ohh why didn't you stay..

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