

## **D'Angelo F/ Redman, Method Man**

### **"Lockdown"**

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[Chorus]

Yo, they got us locked down, in a cell under the ground  
Tryin' to push for a mainstream sound  
Yo, they got us locked down, in a cell under the ground  
Tryin' to push for a mainstream sound  
Every artist locked down, in a cell under the ground  
Tryin' to push for a mainstream sound  
Every rapper locked down, in a cell under the ground  
Tryin' to push for a mainstream sound

[Dice Raw]

Man, it used to feel like hip-hop had a lock on my soul  
And a deal was the only way I'd get parole  
I got knocked years ago when I wrote my first rhyme  
Ever since then, I been locked down doin' time  
Payin' dues with a lot to gain, but more to lose  
I play the game, but they keep changin' the rules  
The studio's a holding cell for lyrical criminals  
Doing demo tapes, hold mics like shanks  
Battlin', that's like a fight in the yard  
Lines chase niggas down like Lieutenant Gerard  
But I love it there, and some say that I'm  
institutionalized  
Freestyling's our only form of exercise  
I don't lift weights, lift my mind to a higher state  
If your shit's wack, you just can't relate  
I have nightmares of bein' back on the streets  
But when I wake up in my cell, I feel relief  
Bein' on tour is like bein' transferred to jail  
And the companies reattempt to boost your sales  
In my last case, they came at me with a deal  
The D.A., I mean A&R, said "You can still keep shit real  
But instead of Raw, be Dice Chill  
Give us some hits with some commercial appeal"  
I refused, then sent back to my cell  
And from next time, a poet's memoirs from jail

[Chorus]

[Steve G's]

The prisoner, verbal incision

They strangle me with barbed wires of fire, fuck a  
mainstream vision  
The label is the feds, they wanna find me and sign me  
With a market and promotion behind me, but they slimy  
My cellmate Dice Raw is nice, y'all  
I assassinate rehearsal, if I go commercial I'll slice y'all  
Studio's solitary, so I'm soliterrorizin' MCs  
Steve G's, freeze, melt, refreeze  
Mics get raped on my cell block, we battle for  
commissary  
Parole boards for adversary  
I lost the trial, I lost the case  
What a waste, judge threw the rhyme book in my face  
But my brain left and right is like the unstoppable  
engine  
Locked down, pushin' for mainstream like syringes  
Fuck a C.O., my shit's gone gold like C3PO  
Ask Kelo, he know we go T-O  
The top, this is cell block hip-hop  
Yo, the underground keep the shank hot  
Locked down with MCs doin' life bids  
Beware when the pen zags and zigs

[Chorus]

[Black Thought]

Aiyyo, it was far from warm, the middle of a storm  
And 5th Dynasty was on our way to perform  
It was me, Steve G's, Dice and the Quick Drawn  
And we got pulled over, we knew something was wrong  
The law wasn't concerned with license and registration  
Insurance information, or our point of destination  
But peep, they got us up out the Jeep five deep  
And took a look and saw the mics up under the seat  
And start'd snappin', flippin' and shit like "Who's  
rappin'?"  
Got on the radio and signaled back to the captain  
Who warned them we was known for action  
"Use caution, and get them contracts from when they  
brought us back" and  
The fingerprints matched and linked identities  
D.T.s was like "Shit, it's the 5th MCs"  
Ain't no escapin', locked us in a lab and started tapin'  
Mandatory, the judge said "Fuck jury deliberation"  
Maximum incarceration  
In these camps for concentration we call radio stations  
A place where hip-hoppin' is against the law  
Forever locked down within a lower corridor  
Of sound, where they sniff out cells with bloodhounds  
Pure MCs, MCs' remains is found  
Pick the park when a record executive's around

Yo, we bubble to the top notch round

[Chorus]

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