

# Don't Shoot

Dave East

I asked my cousin why they pulled him over  
He gave me a look as if he didn't know  
I had my basketball and my now and laters  
Ain't get along with my neighbors, I was a rough kid  
Hearing sirens through my window  
Them blue and red lights kept me up at night  
I couldn't get enough of life  
I seen this kid get arrested in the park  
He was screaming he ain't do it  
They ain't even let him talk  
I ain't understand I'm like 10 blowing in the wind  
Tryna find a park to go play, I don't know the drama  
I ask my mama what do police do?  
She told me stay up out they way  
Go to school and get good grades  
One day I'm walking in my building and they stopped me  
Told me I looked just like this kid that did a robbery  
And I ain't never stole nothing in my life  
Maybe candy out the store or a bag of chips

Imagine this, years go by, I got a little older  
My best friends in group homes, I got a little colder  
I'm tryna make the varsity team, chill with Stacy and  
Shop at the mall, only Ralph Lauren they'll lace me in  
I had the Moncler, remember begging moms for it  
Walking home from school, I almost got robbed for it  
I took off, I can't go home without my jacket on  
Blue and whites harassing me but I don't know what happened to 'em  
Left and right I'm seeing homies get interrogated  
We ain't safe where we live, this America ain't it?  
High School they teaching me this the land of the free  
But everything got a price, they don't answer to me  
They don't answer to us, we getting tattoos  
They think we criminals cause we believe that cash rules  
Attitude a little different when you from the gutter  
I seen a cop talk crazy to my mother  
My father familiar, he told me all about 'em  
Told me never go around and avoid 'em, that's if you can  
Black intelligent man they worst nightmare  
They'd rather have you in prison forever, they don't fight fair  
Starting to think about college, I got some scholarships

I just graduated, two cops pulled me over  
Tried to show my diploma, they ain't acknowledge it  
Three young black males riding in the jeep  
Bout to go to college, they thinking we in the street  
They hate got a little bit deeper, I'm getting frustrated

A bunch of slick comments, I'm still a nigga  
Even if you got millions, they still'll get ya  
I played ball, I was the man on campus  
Little weed up in my dorm, I got ran off campus  
Then I got locked up, minor bid, it was short  
Staring at my mother crying up in court  
Came home, I started rapping, had to trap first  
Phone ringing all night, was tryna take a nap first  
Gang squad hopping out, narcotics watching

We had the weed and the pills then we got it rocking  
Cameras in the projects helped us move smarter  
Niggas turned butch building into the new carter  
Pooch did a bid and came home the same nigga  
Bully did a bid and came home the same nigga  
My moms working all night, I had late dinners  
Went broke tryna cope a coat, that made me hate winter  
Focused up, got a deal, now this shit is real  
Every time I leave the club, they hope I got the steel  
We just got some weed, we just tryna chill  
We just tryna eat, we just tryna build  
They follow every car I try to ride in  
I'm just praying this ain't the car that I die in  
I guess with this hoodie on I'm a murderer  
I'm just tryna buy my mother some new furniture  
This attitude is programmed  
Imagine getting harassed for you whole life  
All day and the whole night  
They say prison is the new slave ship  
They don't understand we hustling so we can pay rent  
Soon as they come around it feel like your luck gone  
They gotta show you they power, that's why they put the cuffs on  
Ain't no more weed in the car sir, the blunt gone  
I got my hands ups, officer what's the problem?  
Please don't shoot me sir, I just had a daughter  
Look here go a