

Better Get It Right The First Time

Rhiannon Giddens

(Young man was a good man)
Always went to school
(Young man was a good man)
Never played the fool
(Young man was a good man)
Never had no drama
(Young man was a good man)
Always took care of his mama

(Young man was a good man)
Hanging with his boys
(Young man was a good man)
Didn't know he'd made a choice
(Young man was a good man)
Only did it twice
(Young man was a good man)
But now he's paid the price

Better get it right the first time
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(Young man was a good man)
Did you stand your ground?
(Young man was a good man)
Is that why they took you down?
(Young man was a good man)
Or did you run that day?
(Young man was a good man)
Baby, they shot you anyway

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We done seen it on the daily, reposting obituary pages
Losing beloveds, they wanna change the subject
It's nothing new for the blue, is it the who or the hue?
It's kids watching they fathers die when they pull up the tube
We know enough to be cautious but honestly it's not simple
Told to reach for yo paper, they think you strapped with a pistol
I was chillin', had nothin' but good intentions
I knew to achieve success had to learn to finesse the system
It was GPAs and test scores, had to be the best for
College my only option, my mama told me to prep for it
So it was kinda tiresome, stress reddenin' my irises
I got the invite to another function like finally
Had to pull up with the homies, only pouring some soda
I keep a clear head, seen enough to know how it goes
But I noticed they getting louder, neighbors complain 'bout the noise
Before I knew it heard someone yell out, "Run, it's the boys!"
I didn't know what direction, I hit the curb and I run
Everybody loud ain't hear 'em, tell me put my hands up
Headed towards the lights someone screamed my name from behind
I guess you better get it right the first time

(Better get it right the first time)