

# Stay Down

Ruff Ryders

How many days we gonna live our life struggling on the streets  
How many days we gotta live our life searching for a way to eat  
You gotta stay down stay down just to see a brighter day  
Stay down stay down just to live a better way  
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How many blacks gotta die by the hands of another  
Don't you understand that man's the same color so that man is your brother  
That's what happens when that man is from the gutter  
And that man is a hustler trying to survive, moving grams of that butter  
See, his momma was a dope fiend, poppa was a rolling stone  
he never knew what family was he grew up in a broken home  
Ever since twelve years old he was known as grown  
'cause ever since twelve years old he was on his own  
And even though it seemed like school was the best plan  
his only choice was distributing the rock like Def-jam  
While everybody else was getting diplomas  
he graduated from the middle of the strip to the corner  
But I don't knock him cause he tryin to bubble  
there's no food on the table, the rents past due and that's why he hustles  
and I ain't sayin that its right to be dealin  
All I'm sayin is I feel him I guess  
I just see eye 2 eye wit his struggle you know

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Now baby girl's got a promising future  
But her moms passed away while she was younger and her father's a loser  
He'd always abused her but what else you expect from a coward  
He wasn't even proud when she got accepted to Howard  
And even though she loves college everyday it would stress her  
but it wasn't cause of exams or she hate her professor  
it was her financial situation here she couldn't pay a semester  
And the only means of making it better was totally reversing the role  
lap dancing working that pole even though deep down its hurting her soul  
And even if it meant taking off her clothes  
she was down for what ever to help her accomplish her personal goals  
And I ain't trippin off a-how shortie livin  
She gotta pay her tuiton put food in the kitchen and that's why she strippin  
and I ain't sayin I agree with her job but shit times is hard  
I guess I just see eye to eye with her vision you know

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Now see the moral of the story is this  
if you ain't tryin to help stop our troubles then don't knock our hustle

cause really at the end of the day its not ya'll struggle  
but you always got something to say  
well hear this fuck you  
Yeah that's right I'm talking to you come try to sleep in our beds  
eat off our plates, take a walk in our shoes  
look at the world from our view try to live by our rules  
drink the same water we do, put your kids in our schools  
I guarantee you won't maintain your health you'll probably try to end it all  
and hang yourself or bang yourself  
You couldn't possibly understand all pain we felt  
and without folding your hands play the games we dealt  
I'm being real I ain't tryin to be evil  
Look how we live, look how ya'll live  
c'mon be serious how is we equal  
Matter fact I feel I'm wasting my time  
I'm finished writing this rhyme  
Ya'll never gonna see eye to eye with my people you know

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