

# The Streets

## Steve Coleman and Five Elements

Dear God, how can I explain myself?  
Oh God, bless me indeed when I'm so confused  
Enlarge my territory  
Place Your love and protection over me at all times  
Help me  
Keep me away from evil, somebody answer me  
Allow me not to cause pain  
Police in the background, screamin', "Put the thing down"  
That's how hard I was trying to put my thing down  
Sirens ringin' out, old ladies screamin' out  
All this attention for me and I'm barely sixteen now  
It's feelin' like a dream now  
Handcuffed, roughed up, I'm tossed in the bing now  
I'm lyin' next to fiends now, that's the end of the story  
Let me bring y'all niggaz back to the very first scene now  
December 4th, a child is born  
Before I knew it, had my pops trousers on  
That's how we do it when the man of the house is gone  
You either stand or fall, I chose to stand  
The hawk outside, so I blow my hand  
It's a cold, cold world but I overstand  
Tryin' to stay focused but I feel hopeless damn  
Can't cope with bein' broke, I'm a man, c'mon  
Son, don't let these streets, get the best of you  
I will be right by your side, when you goin' through  
Son, just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Get the best of you  
Late one night I was rollin' the streets  
Just thinkin' about what's goin' on with me  
And trapped in this thug life, tryin' to break free  
But this thug life just keeps callin' me  
I'm livin' life way too dangerously  
I'm drownin' in my misery  
Looked in the mirror, there's my enemy

'Cause poppa never was a part of me  
"Take one step at a time", mama said  
Sweet memories still remain in my head  
All of my life been lied to, misled  
Voices be like, "Don't you wish you was dead?"  
No ground to place my feet, I feel the fire under me  
A way out is all I need, somebody, answer me  
Son, don't let these streets, get the best of you  
I will be right by your side, when you goin' through  
Son, just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Get the best of you  
Now the only thing left is more spirit to roam free  
'Cause ain't no goin' home for me  
It's a cold, cold world but I blew my hand  
A true first 'cause I knew that man  
I knew what he would do if I didn't draw first  
And I couldn't stand the thought of  
My momma steppin' foot inside a church  
All I try to do is try to get up out the dirt  
Guess, he's tryin' to do the same  
Told me, get up out his turf  
I wanted to talk to him but that shit'd never work  
We was cut from the same cloth  
And what was under his shirt was his momma's rent  
His young brother's clothes, my nephew's food  
And with that I suppose and with that I froze  
Now my life is frozen in time behind these iron folds  
And this story is told for young soldiers  
Who never choose the life we chose  
Son, don't let these streets, get the best of you  
I will be right by your side, when you goin' through  
Son, just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Just don't let it  
(Just don't let it)  
Get the best of you  
Tears in my eyes as I look up  
I'm tryin' to hold back my pride but reality is screamin'

Gotta get a job 'cause momma also screamin'

Streets are just like drugs and it's like I'm out here fiendin'

Forget all the hits in the industry

'Cause ain't no exceptions in this game for me

Look, neither God or my enemies

I choose God 'cause He understands

This young man with a thuggish heart

Whole world in his hands but still torn apart

Like I'm so close but it's still so far

Nightmares of me in a swervin' car, oh

No ground to place my feet

(My feet)

I feel the fire under me

(Hey)

A way out is all I need

(All I need)

Somebody answer me

Son, don't let these streets, get the best of you

I will be right by your side, when you goin' through

Son, just don't let it

(Just don't let it)

Just don't let it

(Just don't let it)

Just don't let it

(Just don't let it)

Get the best of you

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