

# 2nd Chance

## Karen Clark Sheard

I went to see my nigga, he doin' seventeen  
One of the realist niggas, I done ever seen  
Got caught wit' a bird, but his record was clean  
Comin' back from Dade on a Gator wit' speed  
He a real soldier but his partner was greed  
Get out when he forty, went in at twenty three  
How seventeen years worth one key  
Some shit cost twenty grand, he get you over ten piece  
He ain't wanna hurt nobody, he was just tryna eat  
He had a real job, went to work four days a week  
Said this his last trip and he was gettin' out the streets  
He a good nigga, second chance all he needs  
Some niggas make mistakes, all fucked up circumstance  
Now they life gone, probably gon' die in the pen  
They done gave up on life and put it in God's hands  
I thought this was America, what happened to a 2nd chance?  
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Wish I had one chance, to sentence the judge kids  
And watch 'em beg for they life like my niggas did  
Give them a life sentence fo' some shit that wasn't big  
'Fore they get granted they appeal, they gotta do ten  
Shoe gotta be on the other foot for you to understand  
The scariest shit in the world to be a black man  
What my future holds, wish I knew in advance  
I approach life everyday just hopin' I win  
A lot us already lost, we sittin' in the pen  
This shit crazy 'cause God, he forgive sin  
But when it come to the system that shit don't bend  
  
I guess it do, dependin' on the color of yo' skin  
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I thought this was America, what happened to a 2nd chance?  
I thought it was understood, nobody was perfect  
So, how can one mistake make yo' life worthless?  
God made us all, put us here to serve a purpose  
Your life in twelve stranger's hands to come back with a verdict  
But is that really fair, what if they all was dirty  
You mess up one time, and they come back with thirty  
But if you ain't got money, your whole family hurtin'  
Then you ain't got a choice, you gotta cop out early  
But if you was rich, you wouldn'ta got them thirty  
What if the judge racist, nobody'd overturn it  
The system fucked up, because it ain't sturdy  
Welcome to America, home of the controversy  
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