

# The Prelude

Jay-z

You know, you've got this fantasy in your head about  
Gettin' outta the life and settin' the corporate world on its ear  
What the fuck you gonna do except hustle?  
Besides pimpin', you really ain't got the stomach for that  
The game's fucked up  
Nigga's beats is bangin', nigga, your hooks did it  
Your lyrics did and your gangster look did it  
So I would write it if y'all could get it  
Bein' intricate'll get you wood  
Critic on the Internet, they like, "You should spit it?"  
I'm like, "You should buy it, nigga, that's good business"  
Forget this rap shit, I need a new hustle  
A little bit of everything, the new improved Russell  
I say that reluctantly 'cause I do struggle  
As you see, I can't leave, so I do love you  
But I'm just a hustler disguised as a rapper  
In fact you can't fit this hustle inside of a wrapper  
Back when crack was what these pills are, I was a real star  
Complete with real cars, no video ones  
You can come and set up a camera, let the video run  
And my real life, complete with real ice  
VVS boulders, oh, they're visibly set  
Head and shoulders, my invisible neck  
You see Hova wasn't digital yet  
Befo' Steve Jobs made the iPod  
Was gettin' head jobs, we call that intimate  
Back when rappers wouldn't dare play lyrical roulette  
With a automatic weapon, I was reppin' with a tec  
Fresh like Mannie be, chain like anti-freeze  
Shoe box full of cash, dealer man, hand me ki's  
Pantries full of Arm & Hammer  
Don't take Nancy Drew to see what it do? I'm a damn G  
Just sent a million dollars through a handsfree  
That's big money talk, can you answer me?  
Before the answer was a 3  
I was down in Georgetown with a Hoya chick, lawyer chick  
Sure he's rich now 'cause he saw the shit, all this shit  
That's why they call him Hov 'cause he came before all this shit  
Bought a 6, quarter seven, skipped on them quarter eights

Bought a 9 for non-stop glock work all the time  
Guess who's back?  
Since this is a new era, got a fresh new hat  
Ten year veteran, I've been set  
I've been through with this bullshit game but I never can  
I used to think rappin' at 38 was ill  
But last year alone I grossed 38 mill'  
I know I ain't quite 38 but still  
The flow so special, got a 38 feel  
The real is back

Lyrics provided by  
<https://damnyrics.com/>