

# MAKE THAT MOVE - THE MUSICAL

Book by Z-Man, Cynthia Topps and Andrea Andresakis

Music and Lyrics by Z-Man and Christopher Gillard

Contact:

Andrea Andresakis

[Andrea\\_Andresakis@yahoo.com](mailto:Andrea_Andresakis@yahoo.com)

[www.Andresakis.com](http://www.Andresakis.com)

646.248.2748

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**CHARACTERS:**

(With doubling, it's possible with 12 actors)

DREW MOORE- Multi talented dancer/singer/rapper, high school student.

MRS. ROSLYN MOORE - Mother of Drew and Zoe Moore

ZOE MOORE - Younger sister of Drew Moore.

KASSIE MARTIN - Member of the dance crew "Strategy", Drew's love interest.

ETHAN MARTIN - Kassie's younger brother, member of "Reign Supreme".

CARLA –Hispanic member of Kassie's entourage, high school student.

AMANDA – Dim but cute Caucasian, member of Kassie's entourage, high school student.

PYRO - Hip Hop dancer, member of the dance crew "Strategy", high school student.

TRENCH - Head of dance crew "Reign Supreme", drug dealer, high school student.

MARCO - Trench's second, high school student.

JUSTIN- Member of "Reign Supreme", high school student.

COACH DARNELL WARD – Basketball coach at Hip Hop High

MS. LAUREN - Dance teacher and "Head of Entertainment" of Hip Hop High.

DETECTIVE WALKER - Police detective

DETECTIVE MENDEZ – Hispanic female or male Police detective.

MOHAMMED - Deli owner.

REPORTER

REVEREND HARPER

**Casting Note:**

Listed ethnicities for the characters are preferences, however they are flexible. In any case, casting should be diverse and interracial to reflect an inner-city population. The character of Drew has to be played by a strong dancer/singer/rapper/actor regardless of his ethnicity. The Moore family should be cast accordingly.

**SYNOPSIS**

In an attempt to save her son from the gang violence that took the life of his brother, Roselyn Moore has relocated her family. Drew Moore has transferred to Hubert Humphrey High School ("Hip Hop High") well known for its winning dance crews. The multi-talented dancer/rapper sees this as his opportunity to get out of "the hood". But when he witnesses a robbery and murder, this jeopardizes his chance of success as well as his very survival. Here is a place where struggles can be decided by a single gunshot. Will *Hip Hop High* change Drew's life or take it?

**SONG LISTING (Track numbers are the same. The lyrics in the script are the most recent.)**

## ACT 1

1. Just Believe	Ensemble –with Rev. Harper
2. Hip Hop High	Company
3. Repping NYC	Trench and “Reign Supreme”
4. The New Kid in Town	Company
5. Stomp Prelude	Instrumental
6. Everything	Drew
7. Check That Diva	Kassie, Drew and Female Entourage
8. Symbolic	Mendez, Walker, Drew
9. Bodytalk	Drew, Kassie, Pyro, Girls
10. Another Dead Young Man	Kassie and Ethan
11. Town to Town	Drew, Mrs. Moore, Zoe

## ACT 2

12. Snitch	Trench and Company
13. Stomp Prelude	Instrumental
14. You Hurt Me for the Last Time	Trench and Kassie
15. Rat-Tat-Tat	Trench and Gang
16. Don’t Let Me Drown	Kassie and Drew
17. Get Some Mo	Instrumental
18. Stomp	Drew and “Strategy”
19. This Gun	Coach Ward, Zoe, Drew
20. Don’t Let Me Drown Reprise	Kassie and Drew
21. Hip Hop High Reprise	Company

**ACT I, SCENE 1***TIME- The Present**PLACE- Any US inner city***REPORTER**

Looks like downtown had another violent night, another young man lost to gang violence. As you can see behind me, a large crowd has gathered in front of Town Hall. They have an impromptu sing-along, lead by Reverend Harper.

*As the reporter continues her coverage, we hear the crowd singing Genocide as they drown her out. People are holding signs and shouting "Stop the Violence", "Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe", "Clean Up Our Streets".*

**(MUSIC #1: JUST BELIEVE)****REVEREND HARPER**

THE WAY IT'S GOIN' DOWN NO ONE WANTS TO BE THE BLAME  
 THE CRITICS DON'T HELP AT ALL, BUT THEY ALL GOT SOMETHING TO SAY  
 IT'S NOT A FAMILY AFFAIR, BEEN GOIN' ON SO LONG  
 OUR CHILDREN DIE, OUR MOTHERS CRY TELL ME WHERE DID WE GO WRONG

**CHORUS**

JUST BELIEVE, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, WE CAN FIGHT THE GENOCIDE  
 JUST BELIEVE, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, WE CAN STOP THE GENOCIDE

**MOTHER**

ADDICTION DON'T DISCRIMINATE, DOWN TO LITTLE BABIES  
 LITTLE GIRLS GETTING PREGNANT OUR BOYS GOING CRAZY  
 SUICIDE HOMICIDE ALL ON THE EVENING NEWS  
 WHEN ALL THESE KIDS CARE ABOUT IS FASHION, HAIR, AND SHOES

THAT STEREOTYPE, A BEAST WE HAVE TO TACKLE  
 WHILE PAST FELONIES BECOME NEW SLAVE SHACKLES  
 TRASH TALKIN' MONEY TALK, ADDICTION'S ALL THE SAME  
 UNLESS WE COME TOGETHER, NOTHIN'S GONNA CHANGE

**CHORUS**

JUST BELIEVE, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, WE CAN FIGHT THE GENOCIDE  
 JUST BELIEVE, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, WE CAN STOP THE GENOCIDE

SISTER OF THE VICTIM

WE'RE ALWAYS THINKING WE'RE SO STRONG, THE OTHER MAN THINKS THE  
 SAME  
 THE STREET GAME AIN'T EASILY PLAYED, BUT IT GOES ON EVERY DAY  
 (EVERYDAY)  
 WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE IT'S BEEN BURNIN' SINCE THE PAST  
 BUT THINK, IN FIVE, TEN, FIFTEEN YEARS, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK WE CAN  
 LAST

CHORUS

JUST BELIEVE, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, WE CAN FIGHT THE GENOCIDE  
 JUST BELIEVE, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE, WE CAN STOP THE GENOCIDE

DETECTIVE MENDEZ

ANOTHER MOTHER'S SON DEAD IN THE STREET  
 ANOTHER YOUNG MAN LIVING BY THE BEAT  
 ANOTHER SINGLE MOM TRYNA FEED HER BABY  
 SELLIN' HER BODY CUZ THE STREETS DROVE HER CRAZY

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER ROSE THAT GROWS FROM CONCRETE,  
 ANOTHER ONE BEING THE PEACE HE WANTS TO SEE  
 ANOTHER DREAM THAT BECOMES REALITY  
 I'M TALKIN' REVOLUTION SOMETHING WE CAN SEE.

CHORUS

*Not everyone is involved in the rally.  
 MOHAMMED, a bodega owner, steps out of  
 his store to see what the noise is all about.  
 DREW and ZOE are bringing in the last of  
 the packing boxes into their new home, a  
 lower income housing complex. DREW and  
 ZOE watch the rally. ZOE, a young girl of  
 about 12, moves up the stairs and meets her  
 mother.*

ZOE

What was that all about?

MRS. MOORE

That's what getting involved looks like. We just landed in a neighborhood that cares about what's going on around them. I like this place already.

ZOE

How did I know you would say that?

MRS. MOORE

Because I'm so predictable? I hope your school has a zero tolerance policy towards violence.

ZOE

If they don't, I'll start a petition. *(MRS MOORE takes the box from ZOE and exits. DREW enters with more boxes)* Ready for school tomorrow Drew?

DREW

As ready as I'll ever be. *(He sits)*

ZOE

It's exciting. A new place, a new start *(ZOE sits next to her brother and puts an arm around his shoulder)*

DREW

Maybe for you Zoe, but for me it's a new place to get pounded. We were just getting used to Philly and bam! We move again! *(Slamming his fist)* This is bull!

ZOE

Shhh! Don't let Mom hear! It's hard on her too. She was pretty upset about losing her job. Maybe this will be our last move. Can't you just give it a chance?

DREW

Easy for you to say! A soon as you walk in the door you become the smartest and most popular kid in school...

ZOE

That's not true. In Chicago I was only the second smartest! *(DREW gives her a look)* Besides being popular is not all it's cracked up to be.

DREW

Poor baby... *(He lightly punches her arm and laughs. ZOE laughs with him and they start to mix it up a little)*

MRS. MOORE

*(Entering)* Hey no goofing off. We've got more boxes to unpack. *(She is holding a box marked "Ryan")*

DREW

*(DREW grabs the box)* Ma, why'd ya pick this place? It's a dump.

MRS. MOORE

Wait until we get unpacked. It won't be so bad. You can walk to school and I can walk to my new job. I have a feeling that our luck is about to change. Besides I think Ryan would have ... *(she gets choked up)* just take his stuff to my room.

DREW

Is that why we keep running? Running away from what happened to Ryan? It ain't gonna bring him back. Nothin's gonna bring him back. *(The bottom flaps of the box open from the weight and the contents spill onto the floor. MRS MOORE bends down and picks up a broken picture frame with Ryan's picture in it.)*

MRS. MOORE

Drew! Look what you've done!

ZOE

I'll fix it Mom. *(There is an uncomfortable silence.)* I'm starving, when do we eat?

MRS. MOORE

I have some cereal in one of the boxes but we need milk. *(handing DREW some money)* Here. Please run to the bodega and get some.

DREW

Come on Ma, I'm gonna miss the finale of America's Best Dance Crew!

MRS. MOORE

Bodega now! *(DREW stands in protest)*

ZOE

Just go Drew. *(She bends down to pick up the things that have fallen out of Ryan's box. DREW starts to exit)* Why do you have to get so mad when we talk about Ryan? You know, you're not the only one who lost a brother that day!

DREW

You lost a brother and I lost my best friend! *(He turns to exit)*

ZOE

Drew wait. *(she follows him out)*

DREW

What now?

ZOE

Come on D, Mom's doing the best she can and all you can do is be a butt-head!

DREW

Butt-head. Is that the best you got?

ZOE

You are so mean! *(She gives Drew a sisterly punch and he gives her a "nuggy" on the head.)*

## SCENE 2

*The corner bodega. The clerk, MOHAMMED Mojaffa, a middle-aged man, stands at the cash register near the door. He is reading a paper. DREW enters.*

DREW

Yo!

MOHAMMED

*(Under his breath)* Delinquents *(Goes back to reading)*

DREW

Where's the milk?

MOHAMMED

*(From behind paper)* Cooler at the back.



DREW

Thanks! (*He heads offstage*)

*A group of young thugs come to the bodega. They are masked and armed. JUSTIN stays outside to keep watch. TRENCH and MARCO enter the bodega. TRENCH stands at the counter.*

TRENCH

Old man - gimme all the money.

MOHAMMED

(*Putting down his reading*) Not again you bastards!

MARCO

(*Pointing gun at him*) Listen old man - you got three seconds. One one thousand, two one thousand...

MOHAMMED

Look- I escaped the war in my country, now I'm not going to keep running from you stinking hoodlums!

MARCO

Come on, you know how this works, you give us the money and we let you go home to your fine wife and nappy kids.

MOHAMMED

No, if I don't stop you now, this will never end!

JUSTIN

(*outside the door*) Quick, there's a woman coming.

TRENCH

(*Raises gun*) Give us the money!

MOHAMMED

No! I'm putting my fist up! (*He puts his fist up.*)

TRENCH

(*getting furious*) Do what I tell you!

JUSTIN

Yo! She's getting closer.

*(MARCO pushes MOHAMMED and empties the register)*

MARCO

I got it let's go.

MOHAMED

You stinking hoodlum bastards! *(He tries to get the bag)*

MARCO

Oh we're going but nobody disses me.

*(MARCO pulls the trigger. The clerk falls behind the counter to the floor.)*

JUSTIN

*(looking into the bodega)* Whoa...Snap!!!! I can't believe he busted a cap in him!

*As DREW hears the gunshot, he drops the glass bottle. The gang turns towards the sound.*

TRENCH

*(Motioning for JUSTIN)* No witnesses.

*JUSTIN enters the bodega. The sound of gunshots is heard. DREW, with his hoodie up, comes running out. TRENCH and MARCO take off after him followed by JUSTIN. The group is on DREW's tail. More shots are fired. DREW finds a hiding place. TRENCH and MARCO take off their masks and send JUSTIN on ahead.*

TRENCH

Marco, did you clock 'im?

MARCO

No. Shit!

TRENCH

I don't think he saw us.

MARCO

Dunno, but we better split before the 5-0 get here.

*TRENCH and MARCO leave. DREW comes out of hiding with their faces forever locked in his memory.*

### SCENE 3

*The bodega is now a crime scene. People have gathered outside the store. Crime scene tape is draped around the outside. Two detectives WALKER, in his mid 40's and MENDEZ in his or her mid 30's have secured the scene and are gathering evidence.*

WALKER

What have we got?

MENDEZ

Fifty five year old clerk shot to death. Witnesses 'cross the street say they saw a couple of boys running from the store. I'm going through the surveillance tapes now.

WALKER

Great, movie night. I believe it's your turn to get the coffee.

MENDEZ

No, I brought the churros, Pappy.

WALKER

I can't eat spicy food this late.

MENDEZ

*(Scrolling through the tape on the surveillance monitor) Churro is Spanish for **donut**. Mira, Mira, we might have ourselves an eye witness. (WALKER joins MENDEZ at the surveillance monitor and sees DREW watching the whole scene in the back as it happens. It shows DREW running out with the gang running after him)*

That kid saw the whole thing.

WALKER

If the lab can lift his prints off that broken bottle and he's in the system...

MENDEZ

We'll find him. Look at that - the perps wore masks. Not standard practice around here.

WALKER

Maybe the kid saw them later on, or recognized their voices...

MENDEZ

We have to find that kid before they do.

WALKER

We better canvas the area. You grew up around here, where should we start?

MENDEZ

I'll take Liberty Street. You take Grand.

WALKER

I'll have the "uniforms" get statements from the *concerned citizens* outside. (*They start to exit.*) Could I have one of those choo choos? (*They exit*)

#### SCENE 4

*School hallway during class change. Students are passing by as DREW starts to go to his next class. Not paying attention, he bumps into KASSIE and knocks her books out of her hand. Her girlfriends CARLA and AMANDA begin to give him attitude. KASSIE stands by watching.*

CARLA

Mira, aqui! Another clumsy transfer.

DREW

(*Surrounded by the girls*) Sorry, I didn't see ya...

CARLA

Now my feelings are hurt!

DREW

No, I didn't mean.....

AMANDA

Maybe he's blind.....

CARLA

Estúpido transfer!

DREW

(*To CARLA*) Yo, what did you say?

AMANDA

He deaf too? Deaf, dumb and blind?

CARLA

(*DREW tries to answer but CARLA stops him.*) ¡Callate la boca!

KASSIE

Ladies, why are you being so hard on him? After all - it was an accident.

DREW

(*Approaching her*) Yeah. Right. Next time I'll be sure to get a good look in. (*giving her a charming smile*)

*DREW tries to follow KASSIE and her friends but CARLA and AMANDA close the door, knocking DREW'S books all over the hallway. DREW is left in the hallway with the rest of the students. DREW's stuff is all over the floor. PYRO comes along and helps him.*

PYRO

Those girls could drive a guy off a cliff.

DREW

Yep. Full speed ahead. Do I know you?

PYRO

Pyro is the name. Be-boppin' is my claim to fame!

DREW

Word?

PYRO

They call me Pyro 'cause my moves are hot! (*Throws a move in*)

DREW

Well, I'm Drew.

PYRO

Just Drew? No handle? (*DREW shakes his head "no"*) Everybody here at Hip Hop High has something. What's your claim?

DREW

Well I...

PYRO

Wait. If you got it, flaunt it!! Come on, let me show you.

## SCENE 5

*Cafeteria. Kids are crowded around tables and chairs. DREW and PYRO enter.*

PYRO

Check it. This ain't no regular high school. Right now we are in the middle of the baddest dance-off in school history, and my team is in the finals. In two months we can win it and be on our way to Hol-ly-wood. (*He leaps onto a table in the cafeteria and shouts to the kids*) Can someone tell this foo' where he at?

GROUP OF KIDS

Hip Hop High!

**(MUSIC # 2: HIP HOP HIGH)**

## PYRO

RENDITION, TRADITION OF THIS HIP HOP HIGH  
 THEY'LL NEVER BE ANOTHER, LET ME TELL YOU WHY  
 'CAUSE THEY'RE MAKING AND FAKING  
 AND RUNNING AND TAKING  
 HIP HOPPING AND AH HOPPING  
 JUMPING AND I'M BREAKING IT

NEVER HAVE THERE BEEN SUCH A HIP HOP SCENE  
 TO GET THIS FIRE STARTED  
 WE DON'T NEED NO GASOLINE  
 THIRTY DIFFERENT CULTURES IN THIS SCHOOL SO FLY  
 IT AIN'T NOTHING BUT A PARTY  
 LET ME TELL YOU WHY

TRADITION, POSITION, PRECISION, COLLISION  
 EXPLOSION OF A NOTION  
 IN A SPLIT SECOND DECISION  
 EVERYONE'S IN COMMON  
 WITH THIS DANCE FLOOR CRY  
 TELL ME WHERE YOU AT

## ALL

HIP HOP HIGH

KASSIE, AMBER, CARLA

FOUNDATION, SALVATION  
 MY SOLUTION TO FRUSTRATION  
 IS A TRIPLE SOMERSAULT  
 ASSAULTING DANCE COMBINATION  
 ILLUSION, CONFUSION  
 MY FIRE IS MY FUSION  
 THERE'S NO WINNING WHEN I'M GRINNING  
 WHEN I'M BREAKING YOUR DELUSION  
 REPETITION, PRECISION,  
 THE KEY TO EDUCATION  
 IS A FULL DANCE FLOOR  
 IN THE NUANCE HIP HOP NATION  
 REVOLT, REVOLUTION  
 WON'T RESOLVE THIS SOLUTION  
 300 HEADS ALL IN SYNC

FROM THIS MOVEMENT

CARLA

GIVE ME LOTION FOR MY MOTION  
 BANDAGE FOR MY BRUISES  
 ON MY KNEES, ON MY HEAD  
 ON MY FEET, ALL MY BRUISES  
 GIVE ME SLIP FOR MY SLIDE  
 CHOPSTICKS FOR MY NOODLES  
 AS I WATCH MY HOME BOY DO  
 THE WHOLE KIT AND CABOODLE  
 AS HE'S TAKING IT FAKING IT  
 DANCING AND BREAKING IT  
 PRANCING, ENHANCING  
 GLANCING, DANCE SHAKING IT, MAKING IT  
 NEVER WILL THERE BE SUCH A BEAT SO FLY

ALL

TELL ME WHERE YOU AT  
 HIP HOP HIGH

JUSTIN and ETHAN

POLLUTION NOT THE REASON, WATER NOT THE TREASON  
 HIP HOP HIGH IS THE SCHOOL FOR ALL SEASONS  
 WHEN WERE STOMPING, CRUMPING  
 AND JUMPING, HUMPING, SLIDING  
 GLIDING AND RIDING TO THIS HIP HOP BEAT  
 WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER  
 IT'S MORE LIKE A CANCER  
 WHEN WE STARTED THE MILLENNIUM  
 WE THOUGHT WE HAD A CHANCER

BUT WE WAITED, IT FADED  
 DEBATED AND HATED  
 WE'RE TRYNA FIND A WAY  
 TO MAKE IT TO THIS HIP HOP BEAT

IF YOU STILL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS  
 HERE'S A SUGGESTION  
 A MUSICAL CURRICULUM  
 MIGHT BE THE BEST OF THEM



SO KEEP LYIN' AND CRYIN' AND TRYIN'  
 TO FIND A WAY TO GET ACROSS TOWN  
 TO THIS HIP HOP BEAT  
 SO IT ALL STAYS THE SAME  
 THE QUESTION REMAINS  
 WHERE THE PARTY AT?  
 AND YOU WONDER WHY

ALL

IT'S NOT IN THE CITY  
 IT'S NOT IN THE PARK  
 IT'S IN A CLASSROOM  
 AT HIP HOP HIGH

TELL ME WHERE YOU AT  
 TELL ME WHERE YOU AT  
 TELL ME WHERE YOU AT  
 HIP HOP HIGH...

*The bell rings MS. LAUREN enters. She is a tall, attractive and serious looking woman who commands attention.*

PYRO (to Drew)

Here's the queen herself.

MS. LAUREN

Save it for the competition. Remember some of you are born with it and some of you have worked all your life to achieve it. We don't care how you got it. We simply want to find it and make money with that talent, period. Here at Hubert Humphrey High, our only objective is to sign you with major agencies to get you to Broadway and Hollywood. Anything less is a waste of time. Your objective is to work hard so you can leave this God-forsaken neighborhood and make something of yourself. So, it's up to you; are you ready to make that move? *(kids cheer)*

*(COACH WARD and MS. LAUREN take their places for the judging)*

MS LAUREN

Let's get started...We are down to eight groups. Today's winner will advance to the finals.

Only a few of you will be left standing, on your way to Hollywood to compete. Ladies and gentlemen any questions? *(They are silent)* Now bring it!

*(Two groups of dancers come on. DREW recognizes MARCO from the night of the murder. He tries to hide.)*

DREW

Uh oh. This ain't good.

*The music starts to a banging Hip Hop beat. TRENCH and his crew, "Reign Supreme" starts to dance as the other groups look on.*

**(MUSIC #3: REPPING NYC)**

TRENCH

I'M REPPING NEW YORK CITY  
I GOT MY DOGS WITH ME  
(WOOF)

AND WE ALL ILLY  
I KNOW THAT YOU ALL FEEL ME  
(AY)

I'M REPPING NEW YORK CITY  
I GOT MY DOGS WITH ME  
(WOOF)  
AND WE ALL ILLY  
I KNOW THAT YOU ALL FEEL ME  
(AY)

CREW

WE RIDE AND WE SMOKE  
WE RIDE AND WE COAST

I'M REPPING NEW YORK CITY  
I GOT MY DOGS WITH ME  
(WOOF)  
AND WE ALL ILLY  
I KNOW THAT YOU ALL FEEL ME  
(AY)

## TRENCH

I'M FROM NEW YORK BABAY HUFF  
 THE MURDER CAPITAL  
 SO WHY THINK YOU STEPPIN' US?  
 WE RAW ANIMALS FROM THE BLOCKS  
 TO THE HARDWOOD  
 ME AND MY TEAM IS ALL GOOD

YOU CAN TURN AROUND AND FALL BACK  
 AS YOU ALL SHOULD THE BIG APPLE  
 BUT IT'S ROTTEN DON'T FORGET THAT  
 NAH THE WRONG STEP WILL FORCE MY DUDES  
 TO PUSH YA WIG BACK AND I'M REAL  
 WE ALL KILL FROM GOOD MOVES TO DRUG DEALS  
 FROM BIG TOOLS TO HOPPIN' IN WHIPS AND  
 LETTIN' SLUGS PEEL BUT YOU FELLAS  
 AIN'T BUILT FOR THAT

YA TEAM IS SMALL FISH  
 IN THE LAKE WITH A GATOR  
 Y' ALL NEED TO SQAUSH THIS  
 I SEE Y' ALL NEXT READY FOR BIG T  
 FROM NYC  
 BRINGIN' ALL OF MY DOGS WITH ME  
*(they salute)*

*The rival group sees by the crowd's and judge's reactions, that Reign Supreme has taken the show. They leave.*

## MS. LAUREN

Great effort all of you. Today's winner is "Reign Supreme". *(The small group that is left gets up and claps)* We have our finalists. Just as a reminder, the next competition will be our first public showcase. Everyone should be at the top of their game.

*TRENCH, MARCO and the boys congratulate each other as they see PYRO walking out with DREW. MARCO approaches them.*

MARCO

What's this a new secret weapon? You're gonna need it chump!

*(MARCO steps up in PYRO'S face, DREW steps in to protect him. TRENCH approaches.)*

TRENCH

*(To MARCO about DREW) Doesn't look like a threat! (Reign Supreme laughs.) Let's rock.*

**(MUSIC #4: THE NEW KID IN TOWN)**

*The group circles PYRO and DREW as the music starts. In a combination of dance and martial arts DREW defends PYRO as he battles the four other dancers. MS. LAUREN sees the confrontation and is amazed by DREW's moves.*

TRENCH AND THE GANG

YO THERE'S A NEW KID IN TOWN  
YO THERE'S A NEW KID IN TOWN

MS LAUREN AND THE GIRLS

DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT  
DON'T YOU EVEN TRY TO FIGHT  
OH, OH, JUST LET IT GO  
DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT  
DON'T YOU EVEN TRY TO FIGHT  
OH, OH, JUST LET IT GO

JUSTIN

SORRY MS. LAUREN, I GOT TO SAY  
THIS NEW KID IN TOWN  
I DON'T THINK HE CAN STAY  
HE TALK A LITTLE BIT OF THIS  
AND A LITTLE BIT OF THAT  
NEXT THING YOU KNOW HE BECOMES A RAT

PYRO

HOW YOU GONNA STAND THERE AND TRY TO JUDGE HIM?  
YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND SEE WHERE YOU'VE BEEN  
EVERY ONE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR CRAZY HISTORY

AND EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT YOU WANNA BE ME

TRENCH

YO, IS THIS PYRO TALKING?  
 YOU WALK THE WALK  
 AS YOU TALK THE TALK?  
 AS YOU PRETEND TO STALK?  
 DON'T YOU EVEN GO THERE  
 DON'T TRY TO PRETEND  
 THAT WE DON'T KNOW  
 WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN

TRENCH AND THE GANG

YO THERE'S A NEW KID IN TOWN  
 YO THERE'S A NEW KID IN TOWN

MS. LAUREN AND THE GIRLS

DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT  
 DON'T YOU EVEN TRY TO FIGHT  
 OH OH, JUST LET IT GO  
 DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT  
 DON'T YOU EVEN TRY TO FIGHT  
 OH OH, JUST LET IT GO

DREW

SO WHAT, I'M THE NEW KID IN TOWN  
 YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO BE ME  
 WHEN I START TO GET DOWN  
 I'LL SHOW MOVES  
 THAT YOU'VE NEVER SEEN  
 I'LL SHOW YOU STYLE  
 THAT YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE  
 CHECK MY SKILLS  
 THAT YOU COULDN'T CONCEIVE  
 I'LL SHOW YOU FOUR DOORS  
 SO YOUR BOYS CAN LEAVE  
 I'LL SHOW YOUR GIRLS  
 ANOTHER BA-BY  
 I'LL SHOW YOUR MOMS  
 HOW TO PAR-TY  
 I'LL SHOW YOUR DAD

A SON THAT HE NEVER HAD  
I'LL SHOW HIP-HOP-HIGH  
THAT THIS KID IS JUST BAD

*As TRENCH punches PYRO in the stomach,  
he doubles over. DREW rolls over PYRO'S  
back to protect him.*

MS. LAUREN

Save it for the finals gentlemen!

COACH WARD

*(Pulling the kids apart) Come on...Break it up. (Most of the kids leave.)*

MS. LAUREN

*(to TRENCH and PYRO) Was that really necessary?*

*(TRENCH shrugs and leaves with the rest of  
his crew. MS. LAUREN cleans up the table  
getting her papers and leaves.  
The bell rings and the students start to exit.  
COACH WARD motions DREW over*

COACH WARD

Yo Drew, hold up...

*DREW looks at PYRO*

PYRO *(to DREW)*

That's the the king.

*(DREW looks at him as if to say "huh?")*

PYRO

He's the basketball coach,

DREW

*(going over to the COACH) Sorry, I didn't mean to get into it....*

COACH WARD

*(Interrupting) Look, I think you have some real skills kid.*

DREW

Well, I do need to practice my jump shot.

COACH WARD

I don't mean basketball. I mean your flow - you can rhyme.

DREW

No offense, but what do you know about flow?

COACH WARD

They don't call this place Hip Hop High for nothing. *(He takes off his hood.)*

DREW

Whoa snap! You're Darnell Ward!

COACH WARD

Last time I checked.

DREW

Man! I knew you left the Pistons after you had that shoulder injury. But coaching basketball to a bunch of high schoolers?

COACH WARD

Don't you know "Those who can, do and those who can't, coach"?

DREW

Sorry, but that's whack!

COACH WARD

Naw, it's all good. Some of the greatest have walked these halls. And will continue to do so with the right guidance. *(he leaves)*

PYRO

What was that with Trench and Marco?! Bruce Lee on crack?!

DREW

It was ... nothing

PYRO

Nothing?! That was like the hottest thing since wasabi. *(Drew looks confused)* Dude you gotta compete with us. With your skills, my choreography and of course, my brilliance, we could win this thing!

DREW

No, I fly solo. Besides you guys don't need me, you already made the finals.

PYRO

Yeah, but Reign Supreme will pull out every dirty trick in the book. Do you know who that was?

DREW

Just another mama's boy seeking attention?

PYRO

That was Trench. His group wins every competition they enter.

*KASSIE walks past DREW with CARLA and AMANDA. DREW takes a long hard look at KASSIE, she gazes back and smiles.*

PYRO

Focus man. She's trouble-

*(PYRO and DREW watch as TRENCH walks up to KASSIE)*

PYRO cont.

Trench can't seem to let that one go!

TRENCH

Wussup baby, you comin' to my crib later?

KASSIE

Trench, you know the answer to that, we are done. *(She starts to walk away and TRENCH grabs her)*

TRENCH

We're done when I say we done. You feel me? *(He tightens his grip on her and she cries out in pain.)*

CARLA



*(Pulling TRENCH away from KASSIE by his ear)* Not anymore, she don't. You feel me?!

KASSIE

For once, can you not make a scene?

CARLA

*(She gets in between KASSIE and TRENCH)* Echazado!

TRENCH

Shut up! And speak English! *(TRENCH turns and walks past DREW)* Watch your back, brand Nubian. *(DREW makes a move to say something but PYRO stops him)*

CARLA

*(Pointing towards DREW)* If he knew what we know, he'd add extra security on his cute but-tay.

KASSIE

I'm so done with that!

*(DREW and PYRO are talking on one side of the stage while the girls talk to KASSIE)*

CARLA

I saw how you was looking at the fresh meat over there, like a kid in a candy store.

PYRO

I saw how you were looking at Kassie, like a cat at a goldfish bowl. ...A dog at the butcher shop...

AMANDA

...Kim Kardashian driving her pink Barbie car!!

KASSIE/DREW

You're crazy!

CARLA

Oh Mommy! What's wrong with you girl?

AMANDA

You didn't see him looking at you?

PYRO

You better get your mind off her. I told you, don't go there.

KASSIE

He's just a player, he probably has another girl in his hood!

KASSIE/DREW

He's/She's so not my type!!! *(The girls dismiss her and walk away)*

**SCENE 6**

*Moore family apartment. DREW enters and passes ZOE, who is reading.*

DREW

Mom home yet?

ZOE

She called. She's running late. She told me to remind you to take out the trash.

DREW

Ya. Right. That's happening. *(He goes into his room and turns on some music)*

**(MUSIC #5: STOMP PRELUDE)**

*ZOE continues to read until there is a knock on the door. She gets up and answers the door. PYRO stands there.*

PYRO

What's good? Drew here?

ZOE

Maybe. Who are you?

PYRO

I'm Pyro, a friend of his.

ZOE

*(Shocked)* Drew has a friend....who's a Pyromaniac?

PYRO

Is that a problem?

ZOE

Just don't set fire to my stuff. *(she let's him in)*

*(PYRO looks in and sees DREW dancing)*

PYRO

Yo that be illin!

ZOE

When we lived in Philly he won City Dance Champion - twice. He probably would have won a third time if we didn't have to move again.

PYRO

For real? What happened?

DREW

Shut up Zoe!

*(He closes the door to his room. PYRO opens the door and watches as DREW works on a move)*

PYRO

Yo, that beat is hot but you should kick it before you slide. *(He demonstrates)*

DREW

What the hell! Are you stalking me?

PYRO

Hey, I'm dogging you until you join my crew. Is that your beat?

DREW

My boys in Philly came up with that. It's called "Stomp".

PYRO

I've heard of that! Yo, show me again slowly.

DREW

Man I told you, I fly solo.

PYRO

Sure, copy that. But having some new moves can't be bad. Now check this.

*He does the move that DREW was working on. DREW looks at ZOE, she shrugs her shoulders and smiles. DREW then joins in the dance. Both start chanting "Stomp". MRS. MOORE enters with a bag of groceries. She watches until the music ends. ZOE and MRS. MOORE clap, PYRO takes a big bow.*

PYRO

*(In a Michael Jackson voice)* Thank you, thank you, I'd like to thank my Mom, and my grandmother and last but not least Bubbles. *(They all laugh)*

DREW

Mom this is Pyro - from school.

MRS. MOORE

I'm very pleased to meet you.

DREW

Pyro this is my Mom.

PYRO

The pleasure's all mine. *(PYRO kisses MRS. MOORE'S hand)*

DREW

*(DREW pushes PYRO)* What the.....?

PYRO

Chill! Just being a gentleman.

MRS MOORE

Drew can use some of that.

ZOE

*(Trying to calm DREW down)* D, will you teach me to dance?

DREW

Will you teach me calculus?

PYRO

Calculus?

MRS. MOORE

Brains (*points to ZOE*) Talent (*points to DREW*)

ZOE

I don't have two years.

DREW

Neither do I. (*They laugh*)

MRS. MOORE

Pyro, would you like to stay for dinner?

PYRO

Sure, but then I gotta get to rehearsal with my crew. We're working on our routine for the dance finals. I'm trying to get your stubborn son to join us. But "he flies solo". (*Imitating DREW's voice*)

MRS. MOORE

Maybe we could discuss this over dinner.

DREW

Mom!

MRS. MOORE

(*To PYRO ignoring DREW*) I'm a great cook.

DREW

Ma! No you're not!

PYRO

(*Ignoring DREW*) Whatcha makin'?

## SCENE 7

*MARCO'S basement - A drab, dreary place full of broken furniture, piles of trash and*

*beer bottles. An obviously expensive flat screen TV and stereo system are also present. TRENCH, ETHAN, MARCO and JUSTIN are hanging out.*

MARCO

So what do we do about that biatch...?

TRENCH

You do nothing, 'cause he means nothing. You feel me?

MARCO

I think he was the one in the bodega.

JUSTIN

Why?

MARCO

Just a feeling!

JUSTIN

You had a feeling about two other guys this week.

TRENCH

Marco, did you even catch the guy's face? (*MARCO shakes head no*) Then shut up.

ETHAN

Yeah let's not start jumpin' to conclusions.

MARCO

(*in Ethan's face*) Who asked for your opinion rookie?!

TRENCH

Chill Marco!

JUSTIN

What makes you think the new kid is the one?

MARCO

Cause he rubs me wrong.

TRENCH

So stay on him, if that makes you feel better! But we ain't makin' a move on him until you got something more than feelings.

MARCO

Bet!

*Cross fade to MRS MOORE, DREW, ZOE  
and PYRO sitting around the table eating.*

MRS. MOORE

So Gyro, explain this dance competition.

DREW

Mom, its Pyro.

MRS. MOORE

Sorry, occupational hazard.

*(DREW and PYRO look confused)*

ZOE

*(Pointing at her mother)* Waitress in a Greek Diner.....food....duh!

PYRO

Well, you see Mrs. Moore, we have been training hard this year to win... and I'm sure if we mix Drew's talent, with my superior intellect and good looks, it would give us the competitive edge we need.

ZOE

Can Drew really help you guys win?

PYRO

Can a Kangaroo hop?

*(Zoe laughs.)*

DREW

I told you...

MRS. MOORE, ZOE and PYRO

I FLY SOLO!

PYRO

Why?

MRS. MOORE

*(Stops eating)* He didn't always.

ZOE

*(Putting her fork down)* Drew and Ryan...

DREW

Didn't you say you had to go to rehearsal?

PYRO

I got time. *(to ZOE)* Who's Ryan?

*(DREW gets up and takes his dishes off)*

ZOE

He was our older brother.

MRS. MOORE

He died. Drew doesn't like to talk about it.

ZOE

That's why we moved here.

PYRO

I wondered what brought you to our hood.

MRS. MOORE

We needed a fresh start... *(DREW comes back in and MRS. MOORE turns to ZOE)*

Zoe, don't you have some homework to do?

ZOE

*(Getting the hint)* Yep. Gotta keep up my A+ average.

PYRO

Maybe you should teach me some calculus. I got two years.



MRS. MOORE

Pyro, we don't want to keep you from your friends. I'll talk to Drew about joining your dance troupe.

PYRO

*(Getting up to leave)* Ballerinas are in a dance **troupe**, homies are in a dance **crew**. Thanks for the meal Mrs. Moore. *(Taking her hand and kissing it.)* See ya tomorrow Drew. *(Making a hasty exit before DREW can get to him. DREW turns to his mother)*

DREW

Mom. Why'd ya have to tell Pyro our personal business?

MRS. MOORE

Drew you have to get on with your life. Pyro seems like he'd make a good friend. Just let him in and give him a chance.

DREW

Let him in for me or for you?

*(MRS. MOORE slaps DREW)*

**(MUSIC #6: EVERYTHING)**

MRS MOORE

Drew, I'm sorry, I ...

*DREW runs out of the house. As he wanders the streets he passes homeless people, hoodlums and drug dealers.*

DREW (sings)

I WALK ALONE, ALL ALONE  
 IN THESE CITY STREETS  
 FINDING A REASON FOR MY SANITY  
 PLEASE DON'T PITY ME  
 'CAUSE RYAN GOT SHOT, NOW HE'S DEAD, DAD IS GONE  
 PLEASE RESCUE ME  
 DRUG DEALERS ON MY BACK  
 SOMEONE, FIND ME SOME COURAGE PLEASE

'CAUSE YOU CAN'T, TAKE NO MORE, FROM ME  
 I GAVE EVERYTHING I HAD, CAN'T YOU SEE  
 I HAVE NOTHING, NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE  
 SO YOU CAN'T TAKE NO MORE FROM ME

*(Rap)*

MIND TWISTED, NO DIRECTION  
 CALLIN ON GOD, NO BLESSING  
 WHERE DID I GO WRONG?  
 IS THE QUESTION  
 WAS IT THE WRONG CROWD?  
 I'M GUESSIN'  
 I'M STRESSIN' FEELIN' DEE -RANGED  
 I MEAN IT'S PEOPLE AROUND ME  
 BUT IT SEEM STRANGE  
 I MEAN HOW MUCH B.S. CAN THE STREETS BRING?  
 DANGER, TORTURE, PAIN

KICKIN' THESE CANS OFF THE SIDE BLOCK  
 FEELIN' LIKE I AIN'T GOT HANDS ON MY TIME WATCH (WATCH)  
 WHEN I'M BACK ON TOP THEY GONNA LOVE THAT  
 BUT FOR NOW I'M TRYNA FIND WHERE THE LOVE AT  
 WHAT ELSE CAN I GIVE?  
 YOU GOT EVERYTHING  
 MY DAD AND NOW RYAN  
 I MEAN EVERYTHING  
 MARRIED TO THE STREETS  
 ICE COLD WEDDING RING  
 HAVE NOTHIN LEFT  
 DARK CLOUDS IN THE RAIN

## SCENE 8

*The next day at MS. LAUREN'S dance class.  
 Students are lounging around, some stretching  
 or warming up. MS. LAUREN enters as the  
 bell rings.*

MS. LAUREN

*(Clapping her hands)* Okay let's get started. For those of you who are new to my class, let me set you straight on a few things. I was dancing with Alvin Ailey before you were born. I

danced in a music video choreographed by the late great Michael Peters. You might have seen it- Michael Jackson's "Thriller". *(The kids laugh)* And I appeared on Broadway in "Chicago". All that gives me the right to rule this little kingdom I call dance class. My first proclamation is everyone pair up boy/girl.

*Students take partners. All of the boys avoid KASSIE. DREW is without a partner. MS. LAUREN grabs him and takes him over to KASSIE.*

MS. LAUREN

Kassie, consider yourself divorced, at least during my class.

DREW

You're married?

KASSIE

You're stupid.

DREW

I know we got off on the wrong foot...

MS. LAUREN

Mr. Moore, I'll tell you when you're on the wrong foot. *(The kids laugh.)* Some of us are born with it. Some of us earned it. Kassie did you earn it?

KASSIE

No Ms. Lauren, I was born with it!

**(MUSIC #7: CHECK THAT DIVA)**

CARLA

Mira! Mira! You know who this is? This girl is Kassie Martin, the next supreme Diva!

KASSIE (sings)

IF I TRAVELED THE WORLD  
LEFT THIS TOWN, I TELL YOU BOY  
IF I COULD MAKE SOME CHANGES  
IN MY LIFE, NO MORE STRIFE  
GOT NO TIME TO WASTE ON FOOLISH BOYS  
WITH THEIR GAMES  
THINK THEY KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT  
GOT IT FIGURED OUT

SURE ENOUGH WITHOUT A DOUBT

STUDENTS

CHECK THAT DIVA, SHE'S SO FINE  
GOTTA FIND A WAY, TO MAKE HER MINE  
CHECK THAT DIVA, SHE'S SO FLY  
GOTTA FIND A WAY, TO MAKE HER MINE

KASSIE (DREW and KASSIE dance together)

IF WE LIVED IN A PERFECT WORLD  
HE'D BE SUPERMAN, I'D BE HIS GIRL  
BUT SOMEHOW, WE THINK WE SHOULD REMAIN  
PERFECT STRANGERS

DREW

GIRL I MUST AGREE YEAH  
BUT THE URGES REMAIN  
WHEN I LOOK AT YOU  
YOU TAKE MY BREATH AWAY YEAH  
SO I'M BEGGING YOU PLEASE  
JUST GO AWAY  
DON'T YOU TRY TO TEASE, YEAH

STUDENTS

CHECK THAT DIVA, SHE'S SO FINE  
GOTTA FIND A WAY, TO MAKE HER MINE  
CHECK THAT DIVA, SHE'S SO FLY  
GOTTA FIND A WAY, TO MAKE HER MINE

*The class applauds and cheers, DREW hugs  
KASSIE. MARCO leaves to report to  
TRENCH)*

MS. LAUREN

*(Applauding)* I'm impressed Mr. Moore. I think if you keep out of trouble, I could teach you something.

DREW

Thanks Ms. Lauren.

MS. LAUREN

Okay, I'm going to pair you two up for the Spring Dance Festival. I want you two to work on your own and come up with 64 counts for next week.

KASSIE

But Ms. Lauren, I...

MS. LAUREN

You can get your butt to rehearsal, I don't want to hear any arguments. Class dismissed.

*MS. LAUREN walks away and talks to another student. The Bell rings and the students get their belongings together. Detectives WALKER and MENDEZ enter the class room. They approach and speak to MS. LAUREN.*

PYRO

So Ms. Lauren likes your moves. Why don't you wake up my dude? We need your skills Yo.

*MS. LAUREN point towards DREW and PYRO. CARLA and AMANDA draw KASSIE away. The DETECTIVES approach PYRO and DREW.*

WALKER

*(Placing his hand on DREW'S shoulder)* Drew Moore, I'm Detective Walker and this is Detective Mendez. We need you to come with us.

PYRO

Hold up Kojak. Is he under arrest?

MENDEZ

No, we just want to talk to him!

WALKER

Want to come along?

PYRO

Uh yo Drew flies solo. Later.

*TRENCH, MARCO and ETHAN have come into the classroom to watch.*

MS. LAUREN

Where are you taking him Detective Mendez?

MENDEZ

Down to the station.

MS. LAUREN

I assume the principal has been informed?

WALKER

Of course.

MS. LAUREN

Drew I'll make sure he calls your mother.

DREW

No. Don't bother her at work.

*As the DETECTIVE escort DREW out, the students start pointing and "ooing". One student yells, "Snitch". TRENCH, ETHAN and MARCO look on.*

MARCO

(to ETHAN) Can I jump to conclusions now? ....

ETHAN

It looks bad.

MARCO

I hate it when I'm right.

TRENCH

So do I!

**SCENE 9**

*A standard interrogation room at the police*

*station. Table and chairs under a few mean lights. DREW is seated. MENDEZ is standing. WALKER is seated across from DREW. A file is on the table.*

WALKER

We have a reason to believe that on the night of September 6th you were at a bodega where Mr. Mojaffa was murdered.

DREW

Who's Mojaffa? What bodega?

MENDEZ

Mohammed Mojaffa, he was the clerk at the bodega on Jacobs Ave.

DREW

I don't think I was there that day.

WALKER

Don't get smart with me kid. We have it all on tape.

DREW

Well, if you have it on tape then you don't need a witness. Can I go home now?

*(MENDEZ gets closer to DREW)*

WALKER

Sure, right after you explain how your fingerprints ended up at the crime scene.

DREW

Easy, I go to that store all the time. I live down the street.

MENDEZ

*(Reading from file)* Your fingerprints really get around kid. Breaking and entering, joy riding, drunk and disorderly... all while you were in a gang.

DREW

That was a long time ago. I don't do that stuff anymore.

WALKER

So, you've gone completely straight now!

MENDEZ

(To WALKER) That's probably 'cause he got his brother killed.

DREW

Shut up about my brother. Yeah I lost a brother to the gangs. There's no way I am going to tell you anything that would put my mother or my little sister in danger! I would die first.

**(MUSIC #8: SYMBOLIC)**

MENDEZ and WALKER

TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS  
TELL ME HOW IT FEELS  
TELL ME WHAT IT COSTS  
TO BE SYMBOLIC  
TELL ME DOES IT HURT?  
CAN YOU FEEL THE PAIN?  
WHAT IS THERE TO GAIN?  
TO BE SYMBOLIC

DREW

TELL ME IF YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL  
TO BE ALONE, THAT'S SO REAL  
AND TELL ME CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE PAIN  
THAT I HAVE, THAT REMAINS

MENDEZ

(Rap)

ALL WE KNOW SON IS THAT YOU DONE IT YOURSELF  
THERE'S NO ONE TO BLAME, THERE'S NOBODY ELSE  
WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR PAST  
BOUT THE GUNS, BOUT THE CRACK  
BOUT THE LIES, AND YOUR BROTHER  
WE KNOW ABOUT THAT  
TELL US ABOUT THE NIGHT MOHAMMED GOT WHACKED  
WE'RE THEY TALL? WE'RE THEY WHITE?  
WEARING MASKS? WE'RE THEY BLACK?  
SO YOU BETTER FIND A WAY TO HELP US QUICK  
BE A MAN, MAKE A STAND  
BECOME SYMBOLIC



## WALKER AND MENDEZ

TELL ME WHAT IT MEANS  
TELL ME HOW IT FEELS  
TELL ME WHAT IT COSTS  
TO BE SYMBOLIC  
TELL ME DOES IT HURT?  
CAN YOU FEEL THE PAIN?  
WHAT IS THERE TO GAIN?  
TO BE SYMBOLIC  
DID YOU TELL A LIE?  
DID YOU MAKE YOUR MOTHER CRY?  
WILL YOUR SISTER HAVE TO DIE?  
TO BE SYMBOLIC

## DREW

GIVE ME ONE REASON WHY I SHOULD HELP YOU  
EITHER WAY, I WILL LOSE  
IT HASN'T STARTED YET, BUT I FEEL SOME PAIN  
ONLY TEARS STILL REMAIN

## WALKER

(Rap)  
THE TEARS THAT YOU CRY  
YOU SHOULD BE ASKING WHY  
WHEN YOU ROB, WHEN YOU STEAL  
WHEN YOU KILL, WHEN YOU LIE  
WHEN YOU PROSECUTE EACHOTHER  
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TRY  
BE A MAN  
WHEN YOU STAND  
HAVE SOME COURAGE WHEN YOU CAN  
TAKE A PILL  
IF YOU WILL  
ON YOUR FEET YOU WILL LAND  
THINK ABOUT YOUR MOTHER  
WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR NEXT PLAN

## DREW

KEEP MY MOTHER OUT OF THIS

LOTS OF DAYS THAT SHE MISSED  
 WAS IT OUT OF PAIN?  
 OR WAS IT OUT OF BLISS?  
 LOTS OF LOVE YOU WILL FIND  
 LOTS OF FAITH THAT WAS BLIND  
 I KNOW FOR A FACT  
 MOTHER'S LOVE'S DIVINE  
 STOP IT, TRY TO MAKE YOUR STORY SOLID  
 THEN YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE  
 TO BE SYMBOLIC

MENDEZ

Okay hot shot. Have it your way. Don't help us. But if I find out you were there that night...  
*(They close in)*

WALKER

If I were you Drew...

DREW

Well you're not.

MENDEZ

MENDEZ (cont.)

How long do you think you have before the killers figure this out? They might not be Einsteins but their boss is sharp.

DREW

*(Starting to leave)* If I am not under arrest, that means I can go, right?

MENDEZ

For now!

WALKER

Drew...We could protect you and your family if you would tell us what you know.

DREW

*(Exiting)* That's what the Chicago cops told Ryan.

## SCENE 10

*Outside the school - DREW approaches*

*KASSIE. KASSIE is listening to music on her iphone with a headset.*

DREW

Hey Kassie. That was pretty dope in Ms. Lauren's class. Where did you learn to dance like that?

KASSIE

When Ethan and I were little we always used to dance for our relatives. Next thing you know, we were making money on the streets breaking, dancing and be-bopping.

DREW

Ethan, he's your brother? (*KASSIE shakes her head yes*) Why is he hanging with Trench? You must know that Trench and his crew are bad news.

KASSIE

It's my fault; Ethan became good friends with them when Trench and I dated. Once you hang with them, it's hard to break away. I'm worried. I know some of what Trench gets into. So far Ethan....

DREW

So you and Trench...

KASSIE

There's no more "me and Trench". He acts like he owns me when everyone's around. But we haven't been an item in a year.

DREW

Good! So, when do you want to work on those 64 counts?

KASSIE

*(doesn't answer)*

DREW

Do you have any time now? I want to stay on Ms. Lauren's good side.

KASSIE

Um...I guess we could, but we don't have any music.

DREW

What were you listening to on your iphone?

KASSIE

*(plays the song on the iphone speaker)* Body talk.

DREW

That'll work.

**(MUSIC #9: BODYTALK)***(DREW begins to choreograph to the music)*

DREW

NEVER GONNA SETTLE DOWN  
 TRY'NA FIND THE WORDS TO SAY  
 YOUR BODY WANTS TO TALK TO ME  
 SO LET THE MUSIC PLAY

KASSIE

I'LL TELL HIM WHAT HE WANTS TO KNOW  
 WHEN HE HOLDS ME AND HE DANCES SLOW  
 NEVER MIND THE WORDS THAT WE SAY  
 LET'S BE MYSTERIOUS

DREW

HOW CAN YOU EVER BELIEVE  
 THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND  
 IS LOVE A KIND OF DISEASE  
 FORGET THE CONVERSATION BABY  
 JUST TAKE MY HAND.

SURE LOVE THE WAY YOU MOVE  
 COMMUNICATION SENSUAL  
 THE VIBE IS ALRIGHT WITH ME  
 AS YOUR BODY TALKS  
 I SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO EXPRESS  
 WORDS WOULD GET IN THE WAY  
 I'M FEELING EVERY WORD YOU SAY  
 WHEN YOUR BODY TALKS

AN AVERAGE MAN MUST PROTECT HIMSELF  
 FROM THAT BODY  
 YOU'RE EVERYTHING A MAN EVER WANTED TO SEE  
 NEVER MIND THE WAY THAT I FEEL  
 I CAN ADORE YOU

AND ONLY TIME WILL TELL  
IF YOUR NEED WILL BE ME

BUT YOU CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND  
THE NEEDS OF A COMMON MAN  
I CAN FEEL YOUR HEART BEAT IN MY HAND  
I CAN MAKE YOU LOVE ME  
YES I CAN  
SHOW ME WHAT YOU REALLY NEED  
PUT YOUR BODY NEXT TO ME

BOTH

SURE LOVE THE WAY YOU MOVE  
COMMUNICATION SENSUAL  
THE VIBE IS ALRIGHT WITH ME  
AS YOUR BODY TALKS  
I SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO EXPRESS  
WORDS WOULD GET IN THE WAY  
I'M FEELING EVERY WORD YOU SAY  
WHEN YOUR BODY TALKS

*(They start to kiss but. DREW pulls away when he sees ETHAN and JUSTIN)*

KASSIE

What's the matter?

DREW

We've got an audience.

KASSIE

So, let's really give them something to watch.

*(DREW and KASSIE kiss until ETHAN comes between them. JUSTIN enters)*

ETHAN

*(Finger in DREW's face)* Not smart!

*(ETHAN and JUSTIN shake their heads in agreement.)*

KASSIE

We're just rehearsing.

JUSTIN

Look like a bedroom scene.

ETHAN

I don't care what it was as long as it's not with my sister!

KASSIE

*(To DREW)* I'll catch you tomorrow.

*(DREW starts to respond)*

JUSTIN

No you won't!

*(DREW exits with JUSTIN following him out.)*

ETHAN

What the hell are you thinking? You want that kid dead?

KASSIE

Trench may own you, but not me. I can see whoever I want. Get that through your thick head.

ETHAN

I won't tell Trench 'cause I'm trying to protect you.

KASSIE

Trench is no good. You've got to quit the gang before you end up dead or in jail. Haven't you learned from what happened to Mom and Dad. I'm responsible for you now, you gotta listen to me.

**(MUSIC #10 ANOTHER DEAD YOUNG MAN)**

*MUSIC Note: Recording of the MUSIC is titled "Another Dead Black Man". Lyrics can be adjusted to suit whoever is playing the Ethan.*

KASSIE

YOU WERE RAISED WELL, IT AIN'T HARD TO TELL  
AND OUR FATHER WON'T KNOW BUT IT ALL SHOWS  
THAT HE LEFT US BOTH BEHIND, IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME  
A DISEASE THAT'S NEVER UNDERSTOOD

PRISON AND CRIME IS THE AFTERMATH  
SO MANY YOUNG MEN TAKE THE WRONG PATH  
MIGHT AS WELL BE A TRAP, CUZ IT HAPPENS LIKE THAT  
NO SIMPLE REMEDY TO RELIEVE WHAT WE NEED  
FAMILY CAUGHT UP IN THE PAIN IT SUSTAINS IT REMAINS

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JUST ANOTHER DEAD YOUNG MAN  
NO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JUST ANOTHER ONE, 'NOTHER ONE  
ANOTHER DEAD YOUNG MAN  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JUST ANOTHER DEAD YOUNG MAN  
NO YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JUST ANOTHER ONE, 'NOTHER ONE  
ANOTHER DEAD YOUNG MAN

KASSIE

RUNNING WITH THE WRONG CROWD

ETHAN

SELLING GUNS AND DRUGS

KASSIE

SMOKING WEED AND TALKING LOUD

ETHAN

TRYING TO BE A THUG

KASSIE

MOM AND DAD TAUGHT US BETTER

ETHAN

I WISH THAT THEY WERE HERE

KASSIE

I'M JUST TRYING TO KEEP IT ALL TOGETHER

ETHAN

I MIGHT BE DEAD IN A YEAR

KASSIE

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE THAT WAY

BOTH

IF WE STICK TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A BETTER DAY

ETHAN

YOU'RE MY SISTER

KASSIE

YOU'RE MY BROTHER

ETHAN

I BELIEVE YOU

KASSIE

AND I LOVE YA

ETHAN

NO MORE DADDY, NO MORE MOTHER

BOTH

WE ARE FAMILY, THERE'S NO OTHER

ETHAN

NOW YOU GOT ME CRYIN' TEARS

KASSIE

THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS

ETHAN

THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANNA DO

KASSIE

BABY BROTHER, I BELIEVE IN YOU



ETHAN  
I PROMISE I'M GON' MAKE A CHANGE

KASSIE  
THAT'S WHAT I WANNA HEAR

ETHAN  
NOW I KNOW THE SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR ME

KASSIE  
AND I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE

CHORUS  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JUST ANOTHER DEAD YOUNG MAN  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JUST ANOTHER ONE 'NOTHER ONE  
ANOTHER DEAD YOUNG MAN

**SCENE 11**

*The MOORE family apartment, evening. ZOE is sitting at the table doing her homework. DREW enters and puts his backpack on the table.*

ZOE  
You still need me to help you with your calculus homework?

*(DREW sits next to her, and starts to pull his book out.)*

MRS. MOORE  
*(Entering, very upset)* Zoe, go to your room.

ZOE  
But Mom, I'm helping Drew...

MRS. MOORE  
I need to talk to Drew alone. Please go to your room.

ZOE  
Is Drew in trouble?

DREW

It's okay Zoe. Just go to your room.

ZOE

No! I have a right to know. We're a family.

MRS. MOORE

Yes we are. Alright Drew, explain to us why your principal called me at work today.

*(DREW doesn't answer)*

MRS. MOORE cont.

He told me that you were taken down to the police station.

ZOE

Oh no! Not again.

DREW

Mom it's not what you think...they just wanted to ask me some questions.

MRS. MOORE

About what?

DREW

That bodega shooting.

MRS. MOORE

*(Shocked)* You were there? *(Realizing)* I sent you there for milk!

DREW

They were out! I had to go somewhere else.

MRS. MOORE

Oh thank God, you weren't there when that man was murdered.

**(MUSIC #11: TOWN TO TOWN)**

MRS. MOORE

I don't want to think what could have happened to you.....not again.

DREW

Mom, it's okay. I promise! I promise!

MRS MOORE (sings)

IT WASN'T LONG AGO, WE HAD EVERYTHING  
THE WORLD WAS OURS, WE REALLY DIDN'T NEED ANYTHING  
AND THEN THINGS FELL APART, YOUR DADDY WENT AWAY  
YOUR BROTHER DIED, IT FELT LIKE WE LOST EVERYTHING

ZOE

BUT WE CAN MOVE ON  
WE'LL PULL THIS THING TOGETHER  
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO LIVE  
IF WE JUST MOVE ON  
I'LL PROMISE NOT TO LEAVE YOU  
WE CAN BE TOGETHER

MRS MOORE AND ZOE

WE'LL MOVE FROM TOWN TO TOWN  
WE'LL PULL THIS THING TOGETHER

WE'LL MAKE THIS FAMILY RIGHT  
WE'LL MOVE FROM TOWN TO TOWN  
WE'LL KEEP OUR LOVE TOGETHER  
WE'LL MAKE THIS FAMILY TIGHT

MRS MOORE

AND NOW SO SUDDENLY, TROUBLE COMES OUR WAY  
NO NEED TO RUN AND HIDE, WE'LL DEAL WITH IT  
LET'S FIND A WAY, WE JUST CAN'T FALL APART  
NO WE CAN GET THROUGH THIS  
I PROMISE BABY  
WE CAN MAKE THE BEST OF THIS

ZOE

AND WE CAN MOVE ON  
WE CAN PULL THIS THING TOGETHER  
AND FIND A WAY TO LIVE  
AND WE SHALL MOVE ON  
I PROMISE NOT TO LEAVE YOU  
I PROMISE I CAN GIVE

WE'LL MOVE FROM TOWN TO TOWN (IF WE HAVE TO)  
 WE'LL PULL THIS THING TOGETHER  
 WE'LL MAKE THIS FAMILY RIGHT  
 WE'LL MOVE FROM TOWN TO TOWN (IF WE HAVE TO)  
 WE'LL KEEP OUR LOVE TOGETHER  
 WE'LL MAKE THIS FAMILY TIGHT

DREW

*(RAP)*

I KNOW WE GOT PROBLEMS, BUT WE'LL SOLVE THEM  
 MAMMA, IT'S A THING CALLED KARMA  
 AND I'M HONEST AND I WANNA BE GREAT  
 I WANNA SHINE, BUT ALL I EVER SEE IS HATE  
 ALL UP IN MY FACE  
 I CAN'T SEE CLEAR  
 SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE I DON'T WANNA BE HERE  
 YEAH! LIFE AIN'T FAIR  
 BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT YOU HERE  
 SOON WE'LL BE SINGING CHEERS  
 LAUGHING TOGETHER, PASSING THE YEARS  
 BUT RIGHT NOW THINGS DON'T LOOK UP  
 FEEL THE RAIN, PAIN  
 KEEP MY WINDOWS SHUT  
 AND NO THEY CAN'T SHUT ME UP  
 I NEED A HORSE SHOE  
 'CAUSE I'M RUNNING OUT OF LUCK  
 I FEEL LIKE THE PAIN LEAVES ME HOLLOW  
 MOVING TOWN TO TOWN,  
 BUT THE PAIN STILL FOLLOWS  
 YOU FEEL ME?

CHORUS

*ZOE and DREW go back to their homework.  
 MRS MOORE exits to the kitchen. Suddenly  
 a rock comes through the window.*

ZOE

*(screams)*

MRS. MOORE

*(running in)* Honey are you alright?

DREW

*(reading the message attached to the rock)* We don't want you at Hip Hop High – SNITCH!

**END OF ACT I**

## ACT II, SCENE 1

*Cafeteria, the next day. Students are taking seats at tables with trays. DREW enters and behind him are TRENCH and MARCO.*

MARCO

*(In his face)* So, I heard you had a little vi-si-ta-tion with the po-lice!

DREW

What does that have to do with you?

TRENCH

You tell us, Snitch.

*(MARCO punches DREW in his stomach, he buckles over in pain. PYRO and two other boys come over)*

PYRO

Hey Marco, looks you found your place in the world - Trench's henchman!

*(The group laughs. DREW tries to stand up and speak)*

MARCO

Mind your own business, Pyro.

COACH WARD

*(Enters)* What's going on here?

DREW

Stomach cramps.

JUSTIN

The food here makes him sick.

MARCO

You gonna feel a lot more pain if you don't stay out of this.

TRENCH

Maybe he should see the school nurse. *(He and MARCO walk off)*

## COACH WARD

That's a good idea Drew! *(He walks away to talk to TRENCH)*

## PYRO

*(Helping DREW to a bench)* How long you gonna let those guys clown you?

## DREW

I'll be fine. *(obviously in pain)*

## PYRO

Yeah, I can see that. *(Sits down next to him. DREW looks up at him and laughs.)* Look, join our crew and we can put them under the table.

*(DREW starts to answer, but PYRO cuts him off)*

## PYRO cont.

You can still do your solo gig **and** be part of a team. That gives you two shots. Look, we rehearse after school. If you are interested, I can clue you in on our location.

## COACH WARD

Drew let me give you a word of advice. Lots of kids go through here. The ones who make it have one thing in common.

## DREW

They brown bag their lunch?

## COACH WARD

Funny! You're a dancer and a comic. I'm giving you some valuable advice here, so pay attention! Those who made it joined a team. These guys seem to want you and need you. There's strength in numbers.

## DREW

I hear ya. Thanks Coach, appreciate the advice. *(DREW walks off)*

*More students enter. PYRO motions for DREW to come with him. They exit and then re-enter with trays. KASSIE and ETHAN have entered and are arguing. As DREW and PYRO head to a table with their lunch, TRENCH, MARCO and JUSTIN come up to him as he tries to sit down.*

TRENCH

*(Bumps him)* You know the word of a snitch travels fast. You should be careful!

JUSTIN

Maybe he was telling the cops about our dance moves, cause they're criminal. *(he sings the last word and does a move)*

TRENCH

Or maybe he was just visiting his parole officer.

*(MARCO grabs an apple off of DREW'S tray and bites into it and then wipes it on his shirt and puts it back on the tray. The boys laugh)*

MARCO

*(Sits)* Good luck fitting in here, SNITCH! Don't forget to watch your back.

*(DREW moves towards another table where KASSIE, ETHAN and the girls are sitting)*

ETHAN

This seat is taken!

CARLA

You shouldn't sit here! Cheezmoso!

ALL

Snitch. Snitch. Snitch. Snitch!

**(MUSIC # 12: SNITCH)**

TRENCH

YOU WALK INTO THIS HABITAT  
ACTING YOU OWN THE PLACE  
BUT IN REALITY  
NOBODY WANTS TO SEE YOUR FACE  
YOUZ A SNITCH  
WE KNOW THE COPS GOT YOUR BACK  
PROBABLY GOT A WIRE STRAP  
NARCING US WITH WIRE TAPS



MARCO

I SEE THE COPS AROUND  
 AND THERE'S NO ONE TO BLAME  
 WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT A RAT  
 WITHOUT BRINGING UP YOUR NAME  
 AND IT'S A DAMN SHAME  
 ALL THESE THINGS, DON'T SCARE ME  
 YOU PROBABLY AT THE PRECINCT  
 SINGING LIKE A CANARY

JUSTIN

WERE ONLY BEING FAIR SEE  
 WE WEREN'T TRYING TO CAST YOU OUT  
 BUT YOU DID YOURSELF  
 BY OPENING YOUR MOUTH  
 BUT CRY ME A RIVER, HOMIE, BOO-WHO  
 YOUZ JUST A SNITCH, AS USUAL

STUDENTS

YOUZ A SNITCH, A SNITCH  
 WHAT YOU HAVE TO TELL 'EM FOR?  
 A SNITCH, A SNITCH  
 WE DON'T WANT YOU ANY MORE  
 A SNITCH, A SNITCH  
 YOU BETTER WALK RIGHT THROUGH THAT DOOR  
 WE GOT THE RUMOR STARTED  
 WE DON'T WANT YOU ANYMORE  
 YOUZ A SNITCH, A SNITCH  
 WHAT YOU HAVE TO TELL EM' FOR?  
 A SNITCH, A SNITCH  
 WE DON'T WANT YOU ANY MORE  
 A SNITCH, A SNITCH  
 YOU BETTER WALK RIGHT THROUGH THAT DOOR  
 WE GOT THE RUMOR STARTED  
 WE DON'T WANT YOU ANYMORE

*(DREW walks away. The large group of students follows him with TRENCH and MARCO leading the mob)*

TRENCH

DON'T WALK AROUND THE AVENUES

BAD THINGS HAPPEN  
 YOU CAN BECOME THE FRONT PAGE NEWS  
 WITH THE CAPTION  
 READING RAT – SPLATTER  
 READING RAT – BATTER  
 READING HE WAS A RAT  
 SO IT DON'T REALLY MATTER  
 WE SEE YOU RIDING AROUND WITH THE FIVE-O

MARCO

THE STREETS SEE YOU  
 WE DON'T HAVE OUR EYES CLOSED  
 WHEN WE DRIVE SLOW  
 YOU BETTER PUMP YOUR BRAKES  
 WE DON'T NEED MISS CLEO  
 TO SEE THAT YOU A FAKE

JUSTIN & ETHAN

AND IT'S A BIG MISTAKE  
 TALKING OUT YOUR ASS KID  
 WITH NO EFFORT  
 WE KNOW WHAT YOUR PAST IS  
 THE SCHOOL TALKS  
 WE DON'T HAVE TO ASK HIM  
 EVERYONE AT HIP HOP HIGH  
 KNOW WHAT YOUR SELF DID  
 BUT WE'RE PAST IT  
 YOU'RE FAKE LIKE PLASTIC  
 COME AROUND THE WRONG CLICK  
 SITUATION DRASTIC  
 WE DON'T ASK NO WHO? WHAT? WHEN OR WHY?  
 ALL I KNOW IS  
 WE DON'T WAN'T NO SNITCH AT HIP HOP HIGH

CHORUS

*The music ends with DREW running out of the cafeteria. But PYRO follows him.*

**SCENE 2**

*Outside the school. PYRO catches up to DREW and grabs his arm. DREW pulls away and sits down with his head in his hands*

PYRO

Look Man that was a bad situation. We need to talk. Seriously.

DREW

I am not gonna sweat those guys.

PYRO

You should. They're bad ass mothers. School is a joke to Trench and his crew. They just use it as a way to sell weed, iphones, alcohol and blow. Word is that they have guns.

DREW

Man, I just go from one evil place to another.

PYRO

Is that why you keep moving?

DREW

*(Getting up and walking away)* Remember my older brother Ryan?

PYRO

Yes your Mom said he died. I'm sorry...

DREW

*(Angry)* He didn't just die! *(Calming down)* In Chicago, we got in with a gang. We were into jacking cars and drugs. The last time we got caught, the cops offered Ryan a deal. But the set-up went bad and Ryan caught a bullet. History's a bitch...you know repeating itself. Now the cops want me to deal....but I'm not a Snitch!

PYRO

I believe you Drew. But look maybe this competition could be your ticket out of this hell-hole.

DREW

How's that?

PYRO

If you join our crew and we win, we get to go to LA. We could get signed! Make a living dancing on two coasts. Dude I'm telling you, you have the juice. We just need a bomb like you on our team and you need us to watch your back.

DREW

I'll think about it.

*PYRO's crew is rehearsing. DREW is watching from the doorway.*

DREW

That was absolutely hot.

PYRO

And that's just a sample of what my crew can do. *(Drew starts to say something.)* Don't give me that crap about "I Fly Solo!"

CARLA

He just thinks he's better than us.

KASSIE

*(Interrupting)* No Carla he's scared 'cause he knows we're better than him.

CREW

Ooooh!

DREW

*(DREW tries to keep his composure, he then steps up)* That little stunt you pulled, I can do that with my eyes closed, while I'm sleeping.

CREW

Oooohh...snap

KASSIE

Yeah, prove it

PYRO

Show 'em that Stomp move.

**(MUSIC #13: STOMP INSTRUMENTAL)**

*(Drew goes into the same move he showed Pyro a few days earlier with a couple of added flourishes. A few of the others watch and join in with him. Kassie just watches. When he finishes, the group applauds and congratulates him.)*

PYRO

Well???

ALL

Welcome to Strategy!!!

*(They congratulate DREW. The last to hug him is KASSIE. TRENCH observes, then calls KASSIE over, the others continue chatting or practicing, then exit)*

TRENCH

Yo Kas, wassup baby?

KASSIE

I'm not your baby. What is it?

TRENCH

Why the par-tay?

KASSIE

Drew joined our crew. The guy has mad skills.

TRENCH

*(Enters) He won't with a broken leg. (KASSIE steps up to him)*

KASSIE

That's right hurting people makes you feel like a man!

*(TRENCH slaps KASSIE, she falls to the ground, ETHAN runs to her)*

ETHAN

What are you doing?

KASSIE

Showing his true colors. This is the kind of guy you wanna be, Ethan?

TRENCH

Shut up bitch! He's weak 'cause you baby him! If you wanna go, then go. But Ethan stays with us! I'll teach him how to survive on the streets.

KASSIE

You're going to get him killed. I let you "teach" me and I have the bruises and scars to prove it.

*(TRENCH motions for ETHAN to leave)*

ETHAN

Kassie?

KASSIE

Go on home Ethan. *(ETHAN hesitates and then goes)*

TRENCH

Look I'm sorry I lost my temper. I didn't mean it... *(TRENCH walks towards her and tries to apologize. KASSIE pushes him away and walks off)*

KASSIE

How many times did you say you were sorry, promise not to hit me again and break that promise?

TRENCH

A few. But it couldn't have been all bad between us, 'cause you stayed. *(He approaches her smiling)* We had a lot of fun. *(He touches her hair)*

KASSIE

Sure, but not enough to make up for the pain.

**(MUSIC # 14: YOU HURT ME FOR THE LAST TIME)**

KASSIE

I USED TO LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME  
 BUT YOU LOST YOUR WAY  
 YOUR TOUCH ONCE MADE ME FEEL SO HAPPY  
 BUT THE HURT REMAINS  
 HOW COULD I EVER LOVE YOU THE WAY I DO  
 WITH OUT PAIN?  
 EVERY TIME YOU HIT ME, YOU CALL IT LOVE

IT DON'T FEEL THAT WAY

I'M DONE WITH THE PAIN  
 I'M DONE WITH THE LIES  
 I'M DONE WITH YOU BOY  
 YOU HURT ME FOR THE LAST TIME  
 I'M DONE WITH THE SCARS  
 IT HURTS EVERY TIME  
 I'M DONE WITH YOU BOY  
 YOU HURT ME FOR THE LAST TIME

THERE WAS A POINT IN TIME  
 I WAS SO IN LOVE WITH YOU  
 BUT SOMEHOW THIS LOVE TURNED INTO HATE  
 AND I KNEW WE WERE THROUGH  
 HOW COULD YOU THINK I'D EVER FALL  
 IN LOVE LIKE THIS  
 MY MAKEUP ONLY HIDES THE SCARS OUTSIDE  
 ONLY WE KNOW THE TRUTH

I'M DONE WITH THE PAIN  
 I'M DONE WITH THE LIES  
 I'M DONE WITH YOU BOY  
 YOU HURT ME FOR THE LAST TIME

#### TRENCH

*(Rap)*

YOU MUST THINK I'M A FOOL MAMMA  
 I'M OUT THE DRAMA  
 YOU DEALING WITH HOMEBOY  
 ACT LIKE I'M CAUSIN PROBLEMS  
 I AIN'T DEALING WITH THE MESS  
 I TRY'NA PROVIDE PAPER  
 YOU TRY'NA PROVIDE STRESS  
 LOOK, I OUTTA HERE  
 YOU DON'T APPRECIATE THE THINGS THAT I DO FOR YOU  
 SO WHAT, I GOTTA GIRL ON THE SIDE  
 KASSIE WHO'S DOING YOU?  
 I GOT EARS ON THE BLOCK  
 PEOPLE THEY LOOK AND WATCH  
 THEY TELL ME EVERYTHING

AND YOU HERE TRY'NA BLOW MY SPOT  
 PLEASE LISTEN, GRAB ME AGAIN  
 AND I'M A GO OFF  
 I RATHER WALK AROUND WITH MY STEAM  
 AND LET IT BLOW OFF  
 TIME AFTER TIME I HEAR YA B.S.  
 I'M DONE WITH THAT  
 PLUS MY SIDE GIRL UP THE STREET  
 DON'T EVEN COME WITH THAT  
 NAGGING AND CRYING  
 ALL THE CHEATING AND THE LYING  
 ALL THAT GOING THROUGH MY PHONE  
 ALL THIS IN HOUSE VIOLENCE  
 YOU KEEP SAYING TRENCH BRINGING ALL OF THIS PAIN  
 SO LET ME GO AND DO MY THANG...I'M GONE

CHORUS

KASSIE

It's over. We've both moved on. Of course you moved on **before** we were over.

TRENCH

Can I help it that the women can't leave me alone.

SCENE 3

*Later that day. COACH WARD'S office.  
 COACH WARD is sitting at his desk and MS.  
 LAUREN is handing him paperwork.*

MS. LAUREN

Here you go, thanks for offering to help!

MRS. MOORE

*(Entering with ZOE)* Sorry to interrupt. I was told I could find Ms. Lauren here?

MS. LAUREN

Hello Roselyn. Coach Ward, this is Drew's Mother....and his sister ...Zoe.

COACH WARD

*(Shaking MRS. MOORE'S hand)* It's a pleasure to meet you. Drew's a great kid, lots of potential.



MRS. MOORE

It's great to hear someone other than me say that. Drew has told me a lot about both of you.

COACH WARD

Nice things, I hope.

MRS. MOORE

Absolutely!

COACH WARD

Mrs. Moore.....

MRS. MOORE

*(Interrupting him)* Please call me Roselyn.

COACH WARD

If you would give your permission, Roselyn, I would like to be Drew's mentor. You know, help him fit in, find his "claim to fame" as the kids say.

ZOE

Can you keep him out of trouble?

MRS. MOORE

*(Teasing, yet firm)* Zoe quiet!

COACH WARD

Is there a time where I can stop by for a chat?

MRS. MOORE

Anytime you're free. You could come by the Acropolis Diner. I'm there every day from noon to seven.

COACH WARD

I'll do that

MRS. MOORE

It would be great having another set of eyes on my son.

COACH WARD

*(Looking at his watch)* Sorry, to cut this short but I've got a class. Nice to meet you Zoe. I

look forward to seeing you soon Roselyn. (*He exits.*)

ZOE

Mom, did you just make a date with Coach Ward?

MRS. MOORE

Yes, I mean no! We are here to discuss Drew. Ms. Lauren, you were saying...

ZOE

She's changing the subject!

MS. LAUREN

(*Giving ZOE a look*) Drew has more raw talent than I have ever seen. Coach Ward is right! Drew needs to find his place here and become a part of a team. Coach Ward can help him do that. I've seen him work miracles with some of these kids, especially the tough cases.

MRS. MOORE

After I lost my job in Philadelphia, my sister convinced us to move here, close to her. She had heard about your program and thought this school would give Drew a chance to succeed.

MS. LAUREN

I'm glad you took her advice. Now, Zoe I hear you are quite the student....straight A's.

ZOE

Well when you're number two in the family, you have to try hard to get noticed.

MRS. MOORE

Zoe that's not true. I always say Zoe got the brains and Drew got the talent.

ZOE

I don't mind. I love my brother. Whatever it takes to keep him out of trouble, I'm down with it.

MS. LAUREN

(*Addressing Mrs. Moore*) She's really something.

ZOE

I know!

## SCENE 4

*DREW is about to enter his apartment.  
MARCO and JUSTIN are following him.  
Detectives WALKER and MENDEZ enter.  
MARCO and JUSTIN make a hasty retreat.*

MENDEZ

Well, if it isn't little Stevie Wonder. "I didn't see anything".

DREW

And I don't know anything either.

WALKER

Your boys hit a pawn shop today. You could really help us nail these guys and their boss.

DREW

They ain't my boys and ....

*(MENDEZ hands DREW an envelope, it contains a photo of DREW at the bodega the night of the robbery)*

MENDEZ

Nice profile.

WALKER

Look kid, we know you weren't involved. Wrong place at the wrong time, that's all.

MENDEZ

So why are you protecting these guys?

DREW

You don't go to school with them. My mother already lost one son...

WALKER

I told you, we can protect you.

DREW

Can you protect all of us? No thanks.

*(DREW starts to walk away, when WALKER grabs him)*

WALKER

Sorry kid, it isn't that simple. You know you could be charged with obstruction.

MENDEZ

The word could get out to the gangs that you were there.

*(DREW pulls his arm away)*

DREW

Do what you want. I didn't see a thing. Got it!

*(COACH WARD walks up with MRS. MOORE)*

DREW cont.

Mom! Coach Ward!

MRS. MOORE

Drew what is going on?

WALKER

Hello Mrs. Moore. I'm Detective Walker and this is Detective Mendez. We were just asking Drew if he saw anything the night of the bodega murder.

MRS. MOORE

You already took him in and questioned him.

COACH WARD

This is borderline harassment.

MENDEZ

We have reason to believe he knows more than he is telling us.

COACH WARD

Look, no offense detectives, but this family has gone through enough. Roselyn, maybe it's time to get a lawyer.

MRS. MOORE

Does Drew need one Detectives?

MENDEZ

Not if he cooperates. Perhaps you aren't aware of how serious the situation is.

MRS. MOORE

I listen to the news!

WALKER

Your son was a witness to a murder.

MRS. MOORE

*(Turning to look at Drew confused)* He wasn't.....

DREW

I'm sorry Mom. I didn't want to scare you. I was in the bodega when the clerk was shot. *(turning to Walker)* But I didn't see the shooters. I heard the shots and ran away.

COACH WARD

Your continued questioning of Drew at school and here at his home is putting him at risk.

WALKER

We need to find the shooters and get them off the streets.

MRS MOORE

You stay away from my son! I will not allow you to use Drew as bait!

MENDEZ

We need his help!

WALKER

*(Handing him a business card)* Drew if you change your mind, just give us a call. *(The DETECTIVES leave)*

DREW

*(Looking at the card)* I'm sorry Mom. I got homework to do. Thanks Coach. *(He crosses to the apartment crumpling the picture and throwing it in the trash before he exits)*

MRS. MOORE

I love my son, but I don't know what to do. No matter how hard I try to keep him out of trouble....

COACH WARD

Don't beat yourself up Roslyn. I promise I'll keep an eye on him at school.

MRS. MOORE

Thank you Darnell. But it's going to take a miracle.

COACH WARD

Back in the day, they called me "Emergency Ward".

*MRS. MOORE laughs and COACH WARD takes her hand and kisses it. MRS. MOORE exits into the apartment. COACH WARD exits. MARCO and JUSTIN come out from where they were hiding, see the photo and pick it up.*

## SCENE 5

*COACH WARD'S office. TRENCH and the gang, including ETHAN are there. COACH WARD is not. TRENCH has the photo of DREW in his hand.*

MARCO

Let's take him out.

ETHAN

You're freakin' nuts.

TRENCH

You got no stake in this. You weren't there that night. So butt out!

MARCO

*(to ETHAN) Once a coward, always a coward. (MARCO pushes ETHAN and a shoving match breaks out)*

TRENCH

*(Pulling them apart s) Save it, Marco. Don't take courage to kill, just smarts to get away with it. I'm not worried about the new kid. I'm more concerned about the old one. (Getting in MARCO's face) No one gets hurt....for now, cause that's what the boss wants.*

*During this KASSIE has approached the*

*office looking for ETHAN. She stops when she hears the argument inside. She stays and listens.*

ETHAN

What about Saturday?

TRENCH

Nothing has changed, the job stands.

ETHAN

I'm not sure if...

TRENCH

You know bro, if you're not sure, then I'm sure we don't need you! So make up your mind right now. In or out? It's just that simple.

*(They all look at him, waiting for a decision)*

ETHAN

Of course I'm in. You said it, nothing has changed. But nobody tells my sister about this.

TRENCH

What happens in Trench Town.

ALL

Stays in Trench Town.

TRENCH

Let's go over it again. Thursday after rehearsal we stake out the place.

MARCO

Friday we set up shop.

JUSTIN

Saturday we make the biggest heist of our lives.

TRENCH

And we win first place at the finals.

JUSTIN

A perfect alibi!

TRENCH

Marco, bring me the box.

*(MARCO hands TRENCH a cigar box, TRENCH opens it, inside is a 9mm hand gun. He takes it out and hands it to ETHAN)*

ETHAN

Is this real?

MARCO

Whatta you think it's a water pistol?

*(ETHAN takes it and starts to wave it around.)*

TRENCH

Whoa Ahole. Hell yeah it's real and loaded!

**(MUSIC #15: RATT-TATT-TATT)**

TRENCH'S GANG

RATT-TATT-TAT GOES THE GUN  
ANOTHER ONE DEAD  
THERE'S ANOTHER GONE  
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE  
RATT-TATT-TAT GOES THE GUN  
THERES ANOTHER ONE DEAD  
THERE'S ANOTHER GONE  
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE  
(REPEAT)

TRENCH

OK.OK, I'M LIVING MY LIFE IN THIS HOOD  
AIN'T NOTHING GOOD  
BUNCHA BULL  
SO I JUST COPPED ME SOME BACKWOODS  
CUT MY TREES  
PUSHED MY CRACK, BUST A GAT



IF I GOTTA PUSH THIS GANGSTA WIG BACK  
I'M STRAIGHT ELIMINATING DRAMA

MARCO

WHEN I POP MY STASH  
GET THAT IF A GANGSTA WANNA ACT BAD  
THEN I MOVE IT UP BY THE WEED SPOT  
ONLY GET IT IF A GANGSTA NEED TO GET SHOT  
CALL A GANGSTA TELL I NEED IT REAL QUICK  
ONLY HIT  
IT'S GONNA BE REAL SHIT  
RATT-TATT-TATT GOES THE GHAT  
I'M TOO HOOD FOR THIS CRAP  
I MEAN I'M IN MY OWN LANE  
CAUSE MY FAME BRING ME SO  
I'M BUST THOSE FAMES  
AND THAT'S WORD TO MY NAME

TRENCH, MARCO, JUSTIN & ETHAN

RATT-TATT-TAT GOES THE GUN  
ANOTHER ONE DEAD  
THERE'S ANOTHER GONE  
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE  
RATT-TATT-TAT GOES THE GUN  
THERES ANOTHER ONE DEAD  
THERE'S ANOTHER GONE  
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE  
BANG

*TRENCH has moved toward the door and  
sees KASSIE. KASSIE turns to leave but  
TRENCH stops her.*

TRENCH

You played it like a hot shot in front of your brother earlier. What do you have to say now bitch?

KASSIE

I don't care what you do; just leave my brother out of it!

*(TRENCH rushes KASSIE and grabs her by the throat)*

TRENCH

I told you I'm your brother's keeper now. If you tell anyone about what you *didn't* hear, I swear on my mother, your little brother will end up splashed all over the 5'oclock news. And you'll be next. *(In her face)* You hear me?

KASSIE

*(Gasping for air)* Loud and clear!

*TRENCH hits her in the face and then walks away. KASSIE runs off. COACH WARD enters and walks into his office.*

COACH WARD

*(Passing her)* Kassie? *(Walks into his office)* What are you punks doing in my office? Out!!

**SCENE 6**

*The Acropolis Diner- a few tables, chairs and a counter with stools. ZOE is sitting at a table doing her homework.*

ZOE

Mom, how long do I have to stay here? I'm not a baby. I can be at home alone.

MRS. MOORE

Drew promised he would come by and get you after practice. I have to work late tonight since I took off to take you to the dentist. How about I make you a milk shake?

ZOE

Strawberry! *(MRS. MOORE exits)*

TRENCH

*(Approaching the diner with the crew)* This is the place! No one gets hurt. We go in take the cash and get out. *(Pulls his mask down)*

MARCO

You do this with us Ethan, and we'll have no doubt about you and Saturday!

ETHAN

No one gets hurt right?

TRENCH

*(Handing him a bottle of Ciroc)* How many times I got to say it? Here's a little courage, courtesy of Diddy.

ETHAN

*(Drinking)* Okay let's do it.

*They all pull masks over their faces. Lights come up on the diner. A couple is sitting at a table and a few people are sitting on stools at the counter. At the counter is a man dressed in an apron standing at the cash register. He is ringing out a customer. The guys bust in. TRENCH and MARCO have guns in their waistbands. ETHAN'S is pulled.*

ETHAN

Everyone hit the floor! *(The patrons and ZOE all do as instructed. ETHAN points gun at the guy at the register)* Not you! Empty it, in the bag. *(He throws the bag to the man. While this is happening MRS. MOORE appears and sees what is going on.)* Give it to her! *(ETHAN indicates MRS. MOORE)* Nice and easy bring it here! *(She starts towards him and looks back at ZOE. This draws TRENCH's attention. ZOE has pulled a cell phone from her mother's purse. She starts to dial)*

TRENCH

*(Pointing his gun at Zoe)* Put down the cell kid!

ETHAN

*(Taking the bag from MRS. MOORE)* I got it. Lets' go.

ZOE

*(Completing the call and smiling)* Too late!!!

*(MARCO fires at ZOE. MRS. MOORE throws herself into the line of fire and is shot. She falls to the floor)*

ZOE (cont.)

*(Going to her)* MOM!

*(MARCO and JUSTIN exit. ETHAN throws the bag of money at TRENCH)*

ETHAN

*(Pointing his gun at him)* You said no one gets hurt!!!

TRENCH

*(Pointing his gun at ETHAN)* Accidents happen! Don't make another one!

*ETHAN lowers his gun and leaves, TRENCH follows. The sound of sirens is heard. The man at the register rushes over to MRS. MOORE, while ZOE cries.*

## SCENE 7

*DREW is at his Mom's bedside at the hospital. MRS. MOORE is sleeping. PYRO, CARLA and AMANDA enter with flowers. DREW takes the flowers and puts them at the bedside. They go out to the hallway.*

AMANDA

How is she?

CARLA

She got shot, how do think she is?

DREW

She's sleeping now but she's doing okay. The doctor said she was very lucky. They got her really drugged up for the pain.

PYRO

Did they catch the guy that shot her?

CARLA

I heard there were five guys.

PYRO

I heard your mom took the bullet meant for Zoe. Where is Zoe? Is she okay?

DREW

She's staying with my aunt, blaming herself. Didn't Kassie come with you?

AMANDA

Drew, Kassie is missing.

DREW

What do you mean missing?

PYRO

She was seen arguing with Trench, and she just took off.

*KASSIE is in the hallway. She motions for DREW to come out. He leaves the others in the room. She is wearing sunglasses.*

DREW

Kassie. Are you ok? (*DREW takes off the glasses*)

AMANDA

Oh my God. Your eye! (*KASSIE reveals the black eye that TRENCH gave her*)

DREW

That Son of a....That's it, he won't be putting his hands on you ever again. (*He starts to leave and KASSIE runs after him*)

KASSIE

No Drew, don't go after him now.

DREW

Why do you even care about him?

KASSIE

I don't care about him, I care about you

(MUSIC # 16: DON'T LET ME DROWN)

KASSIE

SOMETHING 'BOUT THE WALK YOU WALK  
SOMETHING 'BOUT THE WAY YOU TALK  
I WANNA GET CLOSE TO YOU  
(*Spoken*) BUT I'M HURTING SO BAD

DREW

IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD SAY?  
I KNOW IT HURTS FROM WHAT HE DID  
IT'S HARD TO GET CLOSE TO YOU

BOTH

DON'T LET ME DROWN  
FROM THE TEARS  
THAT I FEAR  
DON'T LET ME DROWN  
FROM THE FEAR  
OF WHAT HE DID  
DON'T LET ME DROWN  
FROM THE PAIN  
THAT REMAINS  
I WANNA MAKE IT CLEAR  
I WANT YOU HERE  
NEXT TO ME

DREW

PLEASE UNDERSTAND  
YOU KNOW I CARE FOR YOU  
AND I WANNA BE HERE, BE HERE FOR YOU

KASSIE

I'M REALLY SORRY, I'M TRY'NA BELIEVE  
IT'S THE FEAR THAT YOU MIGHT LEAVE ME  
ALL ALONE, DON'T LEAVE ME

BOTH

DON'T LET ME DROWN  
FROM THE TEARS  
THAT I FEAR  
DON'T LET ME DROWN  
FROM THE FEAR  
OF WHAT HE DID  
DON'T LET ME DROWN  
FROM THE PAIN  
THAT REMAINS  
I WANNA MAKE IT CLEAR

I WANT YOU HERE  
NEXT TO ME

DREW

*(Rap)*

SEE THE PAST IS THE PAST  
AND I KNOW YOU FEELING LIKE I CAN'T GET PAST  
BUT YOU THE ONE  
TRY'NA LIVE MY WHOLE LIFE WITH  
SO I AIN'T REALLY PAYING ATTENTION  
TO THAT STUFF  
FOR THAT HE WILL GET HIS  
LONG AS I GOT YOU  
MY HEART GIRL SO BEAUTIFUL  
I KNOW IT FEEL WRONG BUT IT'S SO RIGHT  
THE LOVE WE SHARE BETWEEN ME AND YOU  
SEE BABY I AIN'T LETTIN YOU DROWN  
I AIN'T LETTIN' YOU DOWN  
YOU THE ONE I ADORE  
AND IF YOU HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS  
I'MA BE THERE FOR YOU  
ALWAYS TEACH ME GAME  
AND I'MA FOLLOW THE COURSE  
SO YOU AIN'T GOTTA WORRY 'BOUT A THING  
MA JUST KNOW I'M HERE TO HOLD YOU DOWN  
LET YA TEARS FORM TO A WHOLE RIVER BABY  
AND I WILL NEVER LET YOU DROWN

CHORUS

*(The two embrace)*

DREW

I'll deal with Trench later. I need to find out who shot my Mom.

KASSIE

I think Trench is involved. I overheard them. Marco says you have something on them.  
What is it?

DREW

If I didn't tell the cops, what makes you think I'm telling you guys?

AMANDA

What else did they say?

KASSIE

Trench is planning something that's happening Saturday and Ethan is involved.

AMANDA

But the finals are Saturday.

KASSIE

This dance stuff is just a game to Trench. They're using the finals as a cover. Drew you got to understand. Ethan is messed up. Mom's dead and Dad's in prison. ACS is letting us stay together 'cause I'm eighteen. But if he gets in trouble, they will split us up. Please help me!

PYRO

Dude...if you know something that could help...

KASSIE

Tell me and I'll go to the cops. I need to protect my brother.

PYRO

With Reign Supreme out of the picture, we'll win the finals.

AMANDA

"Hollywood Here We Come!"

*(KASSIE and DREW react to their callousness)*

CARLA

Dude, Trench has got to be stopped!

DREW

Okay, OKAY! Remember that bodega clerk that got killed? *(KASSIE and PYRO shake their head "yes")* I was there.

CARLA

Madre de Dios! You saw who shot him?

DREW

Yeah, Marco. Then somebody took a shot at me. The cops saw me on the surveillance tapes.



PYRO

Drew you got no choice. Keeping quiet didn't keep your family safe.

DREW

You're right. I gotta protect what's left of my family. I can't let my sister or my mother down, not like I did my brother.

KASSIE

But what about Ethan?

DREW

He wasn't at the bodega.

KASSIE

Well that's a relief. But I still have to get him away from Trench before he wrecks his future!!

PYRO

I've got a plan. I need everyone's help with it.

DREW

I'll leave right now. But what about my Mom?

KASSIE

Carla, Amanda and I will stay here. We'll text you if anything happens.

PYRO

Let's go.

*DREW and PYRO leave. The girls come closely together chatting as the COACH approaches with a bouquet of roses.*

GIRLS

Coach Ward!

COACH WARD

Hello ladies. Is Mrs. Moore well enough to have a visitor?

KASSIE

She's sleeping but I'm sure you can go on in.

*(The COACH goes in and gives MRS. MOORE the flowers)*

AMANDA

Ya think he brings roses to every parent teacher meeting?

CARLA

My parents never got any.

### SCENE 8

*Backstage on the night of the competition.  
KASSIE and DREW are warming up. COACH  
WARD and ZOE enter. DREW sees ZOE  
waving at him.*

DREW

Zoe you made it!

ZOE

Coach Ward brought me!

DREW

Thanks Coach. Zoe this is Kassie.

ZOE

Is she your girlfriend?

KASSIE

I'm his partner *(smiling)* dancing that is...

COACH WARD

Roselyn said to wish you both good luck. I'm anxious to see this after the glowing reports I heard from Ms. Lauren. She says you're really something!

DREW

We're okay.

KASSIE

We are better than okay!

DREW

I wish she could be here.

VOICE OF MS. LAUREN

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Sixth Annual City Dance Off. We are very proud to host this event and even prouder that our past winners have moved on to Broadway, London's West End and Hollywood. Tonight our groups are even better than last year's.

COACH WARD

Oh it's starting. Let's go Zoe. (*COACH WARD and ZOE start to leave*). See ya afterwards.

ZOE

Break a leg! (*She stops*) That's right isn't it?

(*Curtain rises to find MS. LAUREN at a microphone*)

MS. LAUREN

We are down to six groups. The bad news is that four groups will go home tonight losers. But the good news is that two groups will go to Hollywood to the National Finals. (*Applause*) Let's get this started. Our first two groups are from the east and west side of town. Presenting "Cat-tastrophe" followed by "Street Beats".

(*CAT-TASTROPHE comes to the stage and begins to perform.*)

**(MUSIC #17: GET SOME MO)**

*While CAT-TASTROPHE is doing their routine, other action is going on at the same time backstage: TRENCH and his crew, including ETHAN watch the show; CARLA enters and motions seductively to ETHAN, he looks around like "Who Me?", CARLA shakes her head "yes" and she leads him out; as TRENCH motions for the rest of his crew to exit, he notices that ETHAN is missing.*

TRENCH

Where's Ethan?

JUSTIN

He was right here!

TRENCH

Son of a ...

MARCO

He must have wimped out!

JUSTIN

We can't do this with only three guys!

MARCO

He'd probably screw up anyway.

TRENCH

Let's just do it now! We gotta get back in time for our appearance.

*They exit.*

*The dancers finish their number. Applause. CAT-TASTROPHE bows and leaves the stage. Music starts for "Street Beat" but lights dim to indicate the end of the number. The lights come back up and MS. LAUREN walks back to the microphone.*

MS. LAUREN

Thank you "Street Beats". The next group is like none I have ever seen at our school (*some cheering and chanting "Hip Hop High" is heard from the audience*) As their mentor, I have had the pleasure and privilege of yelling at them on a daily basis. (*Laughter and more applause*) Ladies and gentlemen presenting "Strategy".

*The curtain opens with DREW, KASSIE, PYRO, AMANDA and CARLA on stage.*

**(MUSIC #18: STOMP)**

DREW

WE'RE DEFIANT, OUR SYSTEM IS NOT ORDINARY

TO DEFINE US, WE MOVE LIKE WE'RE EXTRAORDINARY  
 WITH THE SWAGGER OF A GANGSTER  
 ROBBING WITH A GUN  
 WHEN WE HIT THE FLOOR  
 YOUR'E DEALING WITH THE BETTER ONE  
 ONLY TIME WILL TELL  
 IF FORTUNE COMES BEFORE THE FAME  
 IT'S A GIVEN  
 THE SYSTEM WILL KNOW OUR NAME  
 THIS AIN'T TALK WERE FOR REAL  
 AND WITHOUT A DOUBT  
 DON'T STEP UP ON THIS STAGE  
 WERE GONNA TAKE YOU OUT

## GROUP

WHEN WE STOMP  
 WHEN WE HIT THE FLOOR  
 WE KNOCK 'EM OUT  
 WE LEAVE THE CLUB WITHOUT A DOUBT  
 WE STOMP  
 YOU MIGHT AS WELL MOVE OVER ROVER  
 'CAUSE THIS STOMP IS TAKING OVER  
 STOMP!  
 WHEN WE MAKE OUR MOVES  
 YOU FEEL THIS GROOVE  
 WE'RE THE ONE THAT LIGHT THE FUSE  
 'CAUSE WE STOMP  
 RECORD UNDEFEATED  
 'CAUSE WE'LL NEVER BE DEFEATED

## PYRO

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING  
 WHEN YOU JUMPED YOUR ASS ON THE STAGE?  
 NOW YOU'RE LOOKING  
 LIKE A CRAZY MONKEY IN A CAGE  
 YOU SEE YOU FOUND A FULL 800 POUND GORILLA  
 DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS ME  
 AND I'M THE KILLER  
 ON THE DANCE FLOOR  
 CLUB, PARTY, STAGE  
 I WROTE THE BOOK ON DANCE

THIS IS JUST ANOTHER PAGE  
 CAN YOU FEEL THE BEAT  
 UP AND DOWN YOUR BACK?  
 DON'T GET CLOSER  
 I'LL GIVE YOUR ASS A HEART ATTACK  
 STOMP, HIT ME!  
 STOMP, STOMP, STOMP...

CHORUS

*("Strategy" finishes to huge applause)*

VOICE OF MS LAUREN

Our fourth group tonight is called "Bronx Cheer" and you guessed it that's where they're from. Let's give them a warm Hip Hop High welcome. *(Applause. Music starts. Lights dim again)*

*Backstage. TRENCH'S gang enters. They drop their duffle bags and start to change clothes for their performance. Two cops and Detectives WALKER and MENDEZ approach. The cops pull their guns and MENDEZ opens one of the duffle bags pulling out stolen property. The GANG is quickly handcuffed and escorted out. Cross to MS. LAUREN at the microphone.*

MS. LAUREN

Our next group is also part of our school. They were winners in last year's finals. "Reign Supreme".

*Applause, but the group does not come on stage.*

MS. LAUREN *(tries again a little louder)*

"Reign Supreme". *(Applause.)* "Reign Supreme"?

*Detective WALKER approaches MS. LAUREN*

DETECTIVE WALKER

Sorry Ms. Lauren, Reign Supreme is withdrawing from the competition. *(Taking microphone*

*from her*) They have another appointment Downtown. They will be visiting the DA rather than LA.

*General hubbub from audience during which COACH WARD and ZOE are seen leaving. WALKER covers the microphone and whispers something to MS. LAUREN before he exits.*

MS. LAUREN

*(Trying to keep her composure)* Well we have one more group to see. Let's put your hands together for "Exodus". *(Applause)*

SCENE 9

*The COACH'S OFFICE. Coach Ward is pacing.*

COACH

It was a perfect operation. Trench and his thugs doing my dirty work. Meanwhile I protected my day job and my nice guy image. Now because of that Moore kid, a million dollar setup is ruined. *(He goes to a drawer, takes out a metal box and removes a gun.)* You and me, baby, we have a long history. *(As he cleans and loads the gun, he sings)*

**(MUSIC #19: THIS GUN)**

COACH WARD

I COPPED THE GUN IN '94  
THE YEAR THE STREET GAME, THAT COCAINE CAME KNOCKING AT MY DOOR  
STARTED OUT AS A LOOKOUT THAT WAS THE JOB I DID  
SIX MONTHS LATER GRADUATED TO A STICKUP KID  
BACK THEN, RUNNING FROM THE MAN  
MAKIN' CRACK SALES HAND TO HAND  
HAND OVER FIST, GOTTA GET THAT PAPER,  
I DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN.

IN '95 MAKIN' SALES IN THE DARK  
EVERY WEEKEND BREAKIN' ANKLES UP AT RUCKER PARK  
YEAH I DID SOME TIME PLEADED TO POSSESSION  
TWO YEARS LATER NOW I'M OUT AND I'M ON A MISSION  
FOUND THE TOP DOG NEIGHBORHOOD PAIER CHASER

STILL MAKIN' IT HAPPEN OUT ON THAT HARDWOOD  
 KINGPIN, HOOP STAR AND IT'S ALL GOOD  
 NBA CAME CALLIN' BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW  
 THEY WERE GETTING' A POINT GUARD AND A PSYCHO  
 THIS GUN'S GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 IT PROTECTED ME  
 SO IT GOTTA HAVE LOVE ON IT  
 THIS GUN IS GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 IN MY YOUNGER DAYS  
 I SHOOT GANGSTERS FOR THE FUN OF IT  
 THIS GUN'S GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 IT PROTECTED ME  
 SO IT GOTTA HAVE LOVE ON IT  
 THIS GUN'S GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 IN MY YOUNGER DAYS  
 I SHOOT GANGSTERS FOR THE FUN OF IT

NOW I'M A WORLD STAR, GETTING' MAD LOVE FROM THE HOOD  
 SUPERMODELS AND POPPIN' BOTTLES I WISH Y'ALL WOULD  
 '99 MORE CRIME HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER  
 BUT NOW I GOT THE CASH TO KEEP IT ALL OUTTA THE PAPERS  
 PAID OFF THE DA, THE COPS AND JUDGES TOO  
 GOD BLESS AMERICA, IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU  
 2001 THE TOWERS CAME DOWN  
 EVERYBODY PANICKED  
 I JUST BOUGHT MORE ROUNDS  
 2002 I WAS LOST  
 I KNEW MY HEART WAS DARK, BUT I FOUND THE CROSS  
 GOD BECAME A MAN OF THE CROSS  
 KEEP TRYING TO FIND A REASON WHY I'M LIVING  
 THIS GUN'S GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 AND WILL NEVER BE FORGIVEN

THIS GUN'S GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 IT PROTECTED ME  
 SO IT GOTTA HAVE LOVE ON IT  
 THIS GUN IS GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 IN MY YOUNGER DAYS  
 I SHOOT GANGSTERS FOR THE FUN OF IT  
 THIS GUN'S GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 IT PROTECTED ME



SO IT GOTTA HAVE LOVE ON IT  
 THIS GUN'S GOT BLOOD ON IT  
 IN MY YOUNGER DAYS  
 I SHOOT GANGSTERS FOR THE FUN OF IT

COACH

*(Placing the gun in his coat pocket)* Now I just need a little insurance policy to get me out of here. *(He smiles and exits)*

**SCENE 10**

*KASSIE, DREW, PYRO and CARLA open a closet where ETHAN was being held captive. CARLA unties his hands.*

ETHAN

*(ETHAN takes CARLA'S bandana off of his mouth)* Are you crazy? I could have suffocated in that closet.

KASSIE

We should have left you in there, after what you did.

ETHAN

Trench swore no one would get hurt!

DREW

She'll be fine, no thanks to you.

PYRO

Hey it's over. Trench and his crew are going away for a very long time.

KASSIE

If you cooperate with the police and tell them all you know, maybe they will go easy on you.

ETHAN

Kassie, I'm sorry I should have listened to you. But Ward's money was too good to refuse!

PYRO and DREW

Ward?

ETHAN

Yeah! Good 'ole Coach Ward is "The Boss". He's the mastermind behind all of the stolen goods, the hits, and the drugs. We were all just working for him. He was arrested, right?

AMANDA

I don't think so. He was here just a minute ago with a little girl.

DREW

He's got my sister, Zoe!

**SCENE 11**

*COACH WARD'S office - COACH WARD has ZOE tied up and strapped to a chair. She is crying. COACH WARD is packing up his office.*

ZOE

You sure played us. What are going to do to me?

COACH WARD

*(Starts to untying ZOE from the chair) Just shut up. We're leaving. (He has turned his back to the door)*

ZOE

*(She sees Drew and Pyro opening the door. She starts to struggle and raises her voice to cover their entrance. Drew approaches and Pyro stays at the door.)* No! No! You're hurting me. Just Leave me. I'll slow you down.

COACH WARD

*(He is untying ZOE from the chair and doesn't see DREW) Stop your bitchin! Now get up. (He grabs ZOE).*

DREW

Take your hands off my sister.

ZOE

He's got a gun Drew.

DREW

You're such a bad ass, Coach, holding a gun on a little girl!

COACH WARD

Desperate times calls for desperate measures!

DREW

Let her go. You know it's me you want.

COACH WARD

I should have let Marco kill you. Instead I've got to clean up the mess. *(He finishes untying Zoe and pushes her toward Drew)* Zoe gets to watch you die, just like you watched Ryan die. Must be a family tradition.

DREW

I'm not afraid , cause I don't think you've got the juice.

COACH WARD

Your Mother's life would be so much easier without a whiny brat and a loser son. Maybe I should do her a favor? No, it would probably ruin any chance I had with her. And we were getting along so well.

DREW

You keep away from my Mother!

COACH WARD

You gonna make me?

*(COACH moves toward Drew and ZOE kicks the chair in Coach's way. He trips. PYRO comes out from hiding and grabs ZOE and pulls her out the door. DREW picks up the gun as COACH drops it)*

DREW

Because of you my Mom could be dead. I should... *(He points the gun at Coach)*

COACH WARD

*(Laughing and getting up)* Because of you, your brother Ryan is dead.

*(Detectives WALKER and MENDEZ come in with their guns drawn. DREW walks toward COACH)*

DREW

Shut your mouth about my brother or I will shut it for you.

WALKER

Drew put the gun down. We got this...

MRS. MOORE

*(Entering with her arm in a sling)* Listen to Detective Walker, Drew. Ryan knew the risk he was taking but he should never have let you get involved. I blame myself for Ryan's death. Don't anyone convince you it was your fault.

DREW

But Mom, what happened to you was my fault. I could have lost you too.

MRS. MOORE

But you didn't and you saved Zoe.

WALKER

Give me the gun, son. *(DREW gives the gun to WALKER)*

*(MENDEZ starts to walk COACH WARD out)*

COACH WARD

Bye Roslyn. It was fun while it lasted.

MRS. MOORE

*(MRS. MOORE walks up to COACH WARD and slaps him)* You make me sick! How could you betray everyone? Your students admired and respected you. And you used them. For what? Money!

COACH WARD

The cops will figure out my motives. You don't have a clue who I am.

MRS. MOORE

Oh I think I do. Detectives, take out the trash. *(WALKER takes COACH WARD out)*

**SCENE 12**

*Back at the competition. The audience is waiting for the results of the finals. DREW*

*and ZOE enter. KASSIE runs to him.*

KASSIE

Drew are you okay? (*He nods.*) I was so worried. (*She hugs him*)

PYRO

Did they arrest Coach Ward?

DREW

Yeah, it's over.

MS. LAUREN

Not quite! I haven't announced the winner of the City Dance Off. (*She goes to the microphone. The audience takes their seats*) The two crews that are going to LA are Catastrophe (*applause and high fives from that group*) and Strategy (*larger applause*). I couldn't be happier.

*The guys congratulate each other and KASSIE gives DREW a long big kiss. The girls woo-hoo and that breaks them apart. KASSIE and the girls congratulate each other and PYRO pulls DREW to the side.*

PYRO

So what do you think LA will be like?

DREW

(*Checking out KASSIE*) Smokin' Hot!

AMANDA

I knew those two were going to hook up.

PYRO

How? You got ESP?

AMANDA

What does sports have to do with it?

*(ZOE and MRS. MOORE enter)*

PYRO

Glad to see you back on your feet Mrs. Moore. (*Starts to take her hand but stops and smiles*)

*at DREW)*

MRS. MOORE

Glad to be back. And thanks for your help, Pyro.

KASSIE

You guys were so brave.

MRS. MOORE

Yes they were. I'm very proud of you, Drew.

ZOE

Mom, this is Kassie, Drew's dancing partner and girlfriend.

DREW

No Zoe she...

KASSIE

*(Interrupting)* I could be if you play your cards right. *(She kisses him)*

**(MUSIC #20: DON'T LET ME DROWN REPRISE)**

BOTH

I'LL BE AROUND  
THROUGH THE TEARS  
AND THE FEAR  
WON'T LET YOU DROWN  
FROM THE FEAR  
OF WHAT HE DID  
I'LL BE AROUND  
THROUGH THE PAIN  
THAT REMAINS  
I WANNA MAKE IT CLEAR  
I WANT YOU HERE  
NEXT TO ME

CHORUS

*(The two embrace)*

THE END

BOWS

**(MUSIC #21: HIP HOP HIGH REPRISE)**