

“Cries Of A Rose”: The Hood’s Tragedy By K.A.

All tracks written, produced, recorded, and mixed by Kevin Anglade, unless otherwise noted.

* = Produced and co-written by Anthony “Y-NOT?” Avery

** = Produced by Carlos, “The Neighbor”

***= Additional production by Carlos, “The Neighbor”

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“I. Emotions” (The Intro)

Ruth: Hello.

Roy: Hey, it’s me.

Ruth: Do you know what time it is right about now?

Roy: You mean to tell me that I can’t check on my baby girl?

Ruth: She’s fine.

Roy: Look, I’m sorry I wasn’t able to spot you a couple for the rent.

Ruth: That’s already been taken care of Roy.

Roy: Word, that’s what’s up. Where’d you get the bread?

Ruth: It’s late. Maybe we can talk sometime in the morning.

Roy: Answer the question Ru. Where’d you get the bread?

Ruth: Your mom looked out for me.

Roy: Damn! You just had to tell her, huh?

Ruth: Well, what was I supposed to do? Depend on you?

Roy: Look, you have every reason to feel the way you do but all that I ask is that you just have some patience with me.

Ruth: I been patient with you and to be honest, my patience is wearing thin.

Roy: Look, I got a call from Puff. He wants to meet next Thursday to talk about doing something at Bad Boy.

Ruth: I don’t give a damn, Roy! Shit! Life is just a game to you, huh? We had this conversation already.

Roy: I know, but I think—

Ruth: I don’t care what you think. Your daughter needs you right now!

Roy: Damn it Ru! I done told you we gon’ be straight.

Ruth: That’s your problem, you stay living in a fantasy world! When are you going to grow up?

Roy: If you want me to stay out on the street selling just to feed our child, I’ll do it but you know I’m not trying to do that anymore.

Ruth: Well, do something! Anything but this rap dream you got.

Roy: Look, I gotta go.

Ruth: Oh, now you gotta go? Says who? Why?

Roy: I’ll stop by first thing in the morning with diapers.

Ruth: I go to work at eight, just before Alicia comes to watch the baby.

Roy: Aight.

Ruth: Don’t be late.

Roy: Aight, bye!

Ruth: Jesus Lord! What am I gonna do with that man?

Roy (In His Head): Man, this is much harder than I thought. No money, no food, no dough for the rent. Shorty had to borrow a coupla dollars from moms. Sheesh...I gotta do something...But it’s almost like...there’s no hope for the Black man in this

country...I wonder if this is how my pops felt just before his demise. But damn...I'm lost...No! This can't be the story though...Somehow...I'll find a way...

“Up” (All Night)

Roy Intro: I don't know what this is. Is it a dream? Or is it a nightmare? All I know is...Is that I'm tired...I'm ready to give up...

Larry (Voiceover #3): Ladies and gents, The FC Company presents: “Cries...Of A Rose”

Chorus [1x]: I'm staying up all night/Without a light/Without my sight/Can't make it right/I'm staying up all night/Without a plan/Without a dream/They stole my rights

Verse: Tell me what you think when you see me in the dirt/Like desert/Got me feeling like a cruff/And the pain from a thorn hit my stem now I'm torn which means that I'll never be enough/Through the pain for the cane that they gained from my veins/Got me going through a slump as I'm shackled to the chains/About to lose my mind/You can call me Kurt Cobain/Swear to God this life is for the tough/Been going through a lot/Cause they wanna see me rot/So then my water spouts like a tea kettle pot/Moving with the grace of a Prime Autobot/But they'd rather give me three hots and a cot/Tried to make a movie/They don't want to see a plot/Really wanna live/They would rather see me not/Got a lot to give but the pain is all I got/Push brothers to the margin like a dot/Gotta make a mil/I don't want a tater tot/Feedin' you thoughts with the ink is how I jot/Feedin' you thoughts with the ink is how I jot/It's time to share my story/So it's time to make a plot/I've been living in a booth/Spittin pain like a tooth/Although I try to run/I can't deny the truth/I wanna be a father/But I'm caught up in my youth/Now I'm not a man/Says my baby mama Ruth/Tryna make some money/And I know you want the proof/Promise I'm not lying/Swear this ain't a spoof/Look I know you want me looking out for you and the baby/But if I save y'all/Who gon' save me?/In America, this flick is crazy/Plight of the Black man is daily/I swear, I won't let it faze me, faze me

Chorus [1x] up all night/Without a light/Without my sight/Can't make it right/I'm staying up all night/Without a plan/Without a dream/They stole my rights

Roy Outro: They stole my rights...Without a light...I'm up at night...yeah...

“Trapped” (In My Mind)

Ad-Lib: Ooooh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Got me trapped up in my mind and I’m still tryna get it right...So you know that I’m on the grind...Tryna make it all through the night...

Chorus [1x]: Trapped in my head tryna free my mind/I stay tryna get it right/I’m feeling kinda broken from the grind/And now I’m tryna make it through the night/I’m lost in the thoughts that are in my head/These demons won’t let me succeed/I really wanna see a brighter day/But they won’t let the Black man be free!

Verse: Everybody wanna see just where I’m headed/Ain’t looking towards the future believe that I dread it/If you had to know/I got the dough below from po’ and then they blow/Yes, I said it/Chilling on the corner in my durag/Holding all that work my pants will sag/Quarter ounce a zip to make a bag/All just a scheme to get the jag/Niggas sick of me because my ambition/Waiting for the plot/I got ammunition/If they try to fight, I got the right, to go ignite, the grip/Just my inner intuition/Really can’t be stopped, my ego, I fed it/Tryna hit a quota, believe I’ve not met it/Don’t let me forget regrets, the threats, my debts and life’s a bet/So trust that now’s the time to get it

Chorus [1x]: Trapped in my head tryna free my mind/I stay tryna get it right/I’m feeling kinda broken from the grind/And now I’m tryna make it through the night/I’m lost in the thoughts that are in my head/These demons won’t let me succeed/I really wanna see a brighter day/But they won’t let the Black man be free!

“The Drop Skit” (Trapped In My Mind)

Roy: Ugh, who’s paging me at this time of night? Ah man, this guy, Guy. What the hell is wrong with this man?

Guy: Yo! It’s half past ten.

Roy: Exactly! Which means whatever it is, it could wait.

Guy: C’mon bro. It’s Friday. The night is young.

Roy: Nigga, I gotta be up early in the morning. Got some things to drop off to Ru.

Guy: That’s cool, we won’t be long.

Roy: Where we heading?

Guy: I gotta make a drop real quick.

Roy: Bro, I’m over that shit man. I’m tryna rap!

Guy: Says the same dude that was out here moving dope on Sunday.

Roy: That was the piece of work I had man. I’m tryna go clean now.

Guy: Nigga look, just meet me downstairs in 15 minutes and hop in the car. I ain’t bothering you no more after this weekend.

Roy: I'm serious!

Guy: Yeah, me too. See you in a few.

Roy: Whatever bro. Aight, one.

Guy: One. Damn! Always gotta be mad difficult!

“Constantly” (Overthinking by Myles)

DJ J.L. (Intro): Ha! Good evening people! It’s your boy D.J. J.L. coming to you on a Friday night. My boy Myles just dropped his hot new album “Soulfood” and we’re gonna get into this first joint. It’s called, “Overthinking” only on 94.5 Jams. The only place where Hip-Hop and R&B meets food for thought. Check it out!

Myles: Just let it go baby...I know you just...I know you just...I know you just wanna...just let it all leave...let it all go...but baby, I’m here to let you know...

Roy: Yo, turn that up bro. That’s the jam right there. Speaking my life.

Guy: Got you.

Myles: Constantly overthinking/You were constantly overthinking/Now you and I ain’t been speakin’/ You and I ain’t been speakin’/You were constantly over drinking/Constantly overdrinking/So now the ship is sinking/Now the ship is sinking.

“Pulled Over Skit” (Constantly)

Guy: Shit! These goddamn Jakes man!

Roy: Ugh, where the work at?!

Guy: In the trunk.

Roy: Yo, if I go to jail tonight over your bullshit—

Guy: You not going to jail nigga, shut up!

Roy: Hello, good evening officer!

Officer: Do you know why I stopped you tonight?

Roy: Ugh, no sir, we don’t.

Officer: You seem to have a broken taillight, so I wanted to just check to make sure everything was alright.

Roy: Oh, we didn’t even notice, to be honest.

Officer: Where you boys headed?

Guy: His place, I’m just dropping him off.

Officer: Alright, license and registration please and if everything is clear, I’ll let you boys go. I’ll be right back.

Roy: If he pops open that trunk man.

Guy: Shut up. I got a .45 and a glock nine to boot.

Roy: What the hell?

Guy: Shut up, here he comes.

Officer: I'm going to have to ask you both to step out of the vehicle.

Guy: Is there a problem officer?

Officer: Turns out that there's a warrant for your arrest over several unpaid speeding tickets and your license is suspended.

Guy: Damn! Those tickets.

Officer: C'mon, both of you. Out of the car and hands behind your back.

“Never End” (The Cycle)

Larry (Voiceover #3): This world is wicked brothers. So, watch how you move...For real!

Roy (Intro): Yeah, I'm just sittin' here in my cell, wondering how I got here, you know? I mean, I know what got me here but...still...I need to do better...And so, I'm just trying to figure out a way to make things right...with you...I mean...I know this relationship between us is complicated but...listen...check it...

Chorus [2x]: I just wanna know, why we keep going through these things again/Caught up in a vicious cycle that just never ends.

Verse: Sittin' in my cell/what the hell/Know I failed/Now I can't make bail/Losing our connect/like I'm Dell/Just a shell/I mean, can't you really tell?/Feeling kinda blue/I love you/Yes it's true/I just don't know what to do/Put my hands on you/This ain't new/Be a man/Guess I really have no clue

Chorus [3x] I just wanna know, why we keep going through these things again/Caught up in a vicious cycle that just never ends.

Bridge (Myles): I just want you to treat me right/Someone to help me get through the night/Really don't like it when we fight/Baby come be my shining light!

Post-Chorus [2x]: I been thinkin' bout you/Ooh noo noo noo/I been thinkin' bout you/nooo

Roy (Outro): I been thinkin' bout you...I just can't seem to get you off my mind...It's like...I can't do nothin'...Girl, you got me in a bind...

“If You Knew” (In My Head)

Roy (Intro): Man, I just don’t even know where to begin...I done seen many things in my short twenty years of life on this earth and..it feels like...nothing’s changed since birth...There’s reasons for me being the way I am...I didn’t ask for any of this... You see...If you only knew some of the things that I’ve been through...If you only knew...some of the things that I’ve done...Sometimes it feels like..I’ll never overcome...

Chorus [1x]: If you only knew what was up in my life/Tryna make it through all the pain and the strife/If you only knew what was stuck in my head/All the evil in their heart left me straight for dead/If you only knew what was up in my life/Suffering through all the pain and the strife/If you only knew what was all in my head/Better wish you prayed and hope I was left for dead

Verse 1: I was probably better off left for dead/After they put the bullet through my Daddy’s head/Momma told me if I love the streets boy make your bed/But before I rest/Gotta make sure I’m fed

Chorus [1x]: If you only knew what was up in my life/Tryna make it through all the pain and the strife/If you only knew what was stuck in my head/All the evil in their heart left me straight for dead/If you only knew what was up in my life/Suffering through all the pain and the strife/If you only knew what was all in my head/Better wish you prayed and hope I was left for dead!

Verse 2: Living in the hood there really ain’t no calm/Holding off my fate by the grip of my palm/Staring at reflection just before I go drop a bomb/Every passing moment makes me think of Vietnam

Half Chorus [1x]: Chorus (1x): If you only knew what was up in my life/Tryna make it through all the pain and the strife/If you only knew what was stuck in my head/All the evil in their heart left me straight for dead!

Bridge: No, I don’t wanna give you a dime

No, I’d rather stick to doing crime

And no, only other thing I do is rhyme

So no, please don’t be wasting my time!

Chorus [1x]: If you only knew what was up in my life/Tryna make it through all the pain and the strife/If you only knew what was stuck in my head/All the evil in their heart left me straight for dead/If you only knew what was up in my life/Suffering through all the pain and the strife/If you only knew what was all in my head/Better wish you prayed and hope I was left for dead!

Roy (Outro): If you only knew the pain..that was going on in my head...Sometimes I wonder if I’d be better off dead instead...But somehow...I’mma make it...Just...somehow...believe...that I’ll find a way...

“Bailed Out Skit” (If You Knew)

Officer: Yes, how I may I help you?

Syreeta: I'm looking to bail out my son.

Officer: What's your son's name?

Syreeta: Richard Parks.

Officer: Ahhh, one of the two sorry motherfuckers we picked up Friday night?

Syreeta: Excuse me officer, but what did you say?

Officer: Well, one of them at least. If your boy is who I think he is then he hasn't given us any trouble.

Syreeta: That's disrespectful sir, whether it's my son or Gary, that's not how you speak about other people's children.

Officer: Look m'am, I'm just doing my job. Give me a second and I'll give you the bail amount and have you sign a couple of forms.

Officer: Here, you go m'am.

Syreeta: Nah-ah. I think you gave me the wrong form. This says \$1500 dollars.

Officer: No mistake. That's the bail.

Syreeta: Shit, my rent is pennies compared to that.

Officer: Look, lady I don't have all day.

Syreeta: Keep talking to me like that and I'mma have to put my foot in your ass.

Officer: Bring out Parks! His mother is here to get him.

Roy: Ma, thank you.

Syreeta: Boy, shut yo ass up! Got me coming down here on a Monday paying Manhattan, skyline rent just to bail you out. If it wasn't for my hip flexor, I'd bust you up. Keep it up and you gonn end up dead just like your daddy and brother.

Roy: But ma, what about Gary?

Syreeta: I don't give a damn! He's not my problem! Lord, give me strength! Let's go boy.

“II. Hand That Was Dealt”

Roy: Who is it?!

Guy: It's me.

Roy: Ugh, this guy. No!

Guy: Bro, you don't even know what I was gonna say.

Roy: I don't need to know. You stay with the bullshit!

Guy: Nah, this one's legit. I promise.

Roy: Bro! It's not a great feeling when your mom's feels like you've failed her as a son. As her child. Like I said, I'm done with the streets for good. I got a baby to take care of. Do you know how it feels when your mom gives your girl money for the baby and for your bail?

Guy: Can't relate.

Roy: Exactly! I was supposed to have a meeting with Puff tomorrow, but his peoples haven't paged me. I got my cassette tape ready to go.

Guy: Sorry to burst your bubble but that music shit ain't popping off no time soon. C'mon b, you know where the real bread is at.

Roy: Maybe I should try to see if I can get a job at Blockbuster or Radioshack.

Guy: Yo! I can't believe what I'm hearing. Who are you anymore?

Roy: I'm the man that's got a kid and is trying to live a better life!

Guy: Look, say Puff doesn't call. Then what? What's the plan?

Roy: I...I don't know...

Guy: Exactly!

Roy: Damn, it man! What's the plan?

Guy: Haha, my boy! I knew you wouldn't let me down. Aight, so here's what it is... We're gonna hit this strip later midnight. Once we do that, we're gonna...

“Put Me Through” (Back To You) feat. Keion & Myles

DJ J.L. Intro: We hope y’all liked that last one from Myles. We’ gon’ get into his next joint, it’s called, “Back To You” only on 94.5.

Pre-Chorus (Myles): This is Myles...playing with your heartstrings.

Chorus [3x]: I’m tired of dealing with someone like you/I really just don’t know what to do/I think about the things you put me through/And yet I still keep running back to you

Verse 1: Why has life done played me?/Why is life is so hard?/Before you go and judge me/Make sure you’ve seen my scars/Progress has delayed me/I guess that it is true/Do unto others/What they would do to you

Chorus [2x]: I’m tired of dealing with someone like you/I really just don’t know what to do/I think about the things you put me through/And yet I still keep running back to you

Verse 2: Tryna get my paper/As if my name was Bill/So if you try to stop me/Thou shall see me kill/All I need is freedom/Working like a slave/Proof is when the night hits/Home of the brave

Verse 3 (Keion):

Insanity, what is the definition
Doing something in repetition, expecting different results
sometimes I sit and I
sulk
How I live life in my default, way of being
Dreams of Pushing a European
But for now I’m just ducking Europeans
Haha...How ironic right?
Hypocritical way of life
How I could preach black power and still take another Black man’s life
That don’t make no sense
But neither does not making cents
I just blame it on what life put me through

"The Blues Interlude" (Hue-Man by Keion)

Verse (Keion):

Hmmm...

The Blues

The Blue

Black

Black...and Blue

Beaten Black and Blue

Black man beaten Black and Blue

I think they hate me because of my hue

But I'm just hue-man

We all the same, we just different hues man

I got the Blues

Feeling down, the opposite of sky Blue

Reciprocating a darker shade

Dark as the Blue, during the Harlem renaissance

Jazz is in my bones

Or should I say bones is filled with jazz

If I may ask

What's the anatomy of a Black man's soul?

I don't know, the details but I do know it's Blue

Not turquoise, not sky blue, not baby Blue

But baby, I just feel...Blue

Blue...and Black

Black and Blue

Beaten Black and Blue

Black man beaten Black and Blue

I think they hate me because of my hue

But I'm just hue-man...

We all the same, we just have different hues...man

I'm feeling Blue...

“Game of Cards” (Self-Worth) w/Keion feat. Myles

Jesse (Voiceover #2): Let’s keep the story going y’all. K.A about to hit y’all with a new hot one.
Big Jess...

Pre-Verse Intro (Myles): Life is a game of cards/Got you wonderin’ about your stars/And yet it is
very hard/The evidence is in your scars

Verse 1 (Guy):

Yeah, we need to make a pick up
So come and pick me up
I’m feeling down brah, I need a pick me up
It’s just the city brah
It’s so insidious
We empty inside, but they don’t pity us

Verse 2 (Roy):

I’m tryna get it right
I’m gonna get a bite
Just tryna make it through the city is the greatest plight
My demons out at night
They tryna stop my fight/But I won’t move without intent, so we don’t get indict

Verse 3 (Guy):

-ted
This life can be so frightening
Cloudy days, plus the rain come with lightening
No lacking
Good enemies, and bad friends
Get out of jail, just to go back in

Verse 4 (Roy):

Yeah, so now we back on the block
Been posted on these corners so we serving up the rock
We on the clock, just like a doc
This game on lock
And if they try to shoot the tool is in my sock

Verse 5 (Guy):

Yeah, driving for miles
Listening to Myles
Can’t even crack a smile
But if this cop crack the trunk, we gon’ get cracked down
Mr. Officer, can you please hear me out? Can you please hear me...out?

Verse 6 (Roy):

Riding in this civic, Myles is giving game on life

He got me contemplating 'bout the stresses of my trife
Through all the strife
We dawgs like Phife
I wanna be a man of steel but now I'm losing to this evil...knife

Verse 7 (Guy):
We been friends since kids
Now you gotta kid
I just gotta crib
You gotta crib with a crib
Man, something's gotta give
I said man, you gotta think about the kids

Verse 8 (Roy):
I got a kid
Can't do a bid
Ru told me I was finna be a pops and so I slid
I need a map
Just tryna rap
Can't see while moving forward so I'm going hard like...crack

Verse 9 (Guy):
Black men
Feeling like Men in Black
back-to-back
I promise I got your back
We don't need no crew
Yo, just me and you
Just a plan, so tell me what you wanna do?

Verse 10 (Roy):
I'm like the glue
We staying true
Although we in a zoo
Listen, here's what we gon' do
We taking turf
This ride a surf
Been lethal since my birth
These niggas softer than a...nerf

Verse 11 (Guy):
So yes I feel it, we'll make them feel it
Fulfilled my pockets is filling
I'm broke and I'm chillin
I swear to God
I'm plotting on a million

I'm taking the building
I'm tryna feed my children's children's children
Man, had them set up
But somehow, someway, we got set up
Somehow, someway, we got set up
Somehow, someway, it was a set up
Was it me, was it you? Was it us?

Myles (Outro): You gotta trust yourself and you can only build the trust...for your children's children's children...and...moral of the story is...self-worth...

“Don’t You Cry” (My Baby)

Steve (Voiceover #1): Here we go, come on!

Guy (Intro): This is a story about...a young man growing up in the hood...tried to do everything he could...just wanted to leave for good...

Roy (Adlibs): I just want my...Oh...

Chorus [2x]: I just want my daddy/Don’t know why I love you/Wonder why you had me/Every day’s a struggle!

Verse 1: Never knew my daddy so I never had a route/Never had a male to teach me what this life’s about/Never had a guarantee instead been filled with doubt/Pouring out potential now my rose just couldn’t sprout/Never had a furnace working well to heat the home/Only heater burning is when I pack the chrome/Now we sliding through the hood just to heat your home/Leave you leaking out the skull once we burn your dome/Crib feel like a freezer so I’m tucked beneath the sheets/Cold just like the winter in the car upon your seat/Can’t heat up my dinner when it’s time for me to eat/Now I’m out here praying for survival in the streets

Chorus [2x]: I just want my daddy/Don’t know why I love you/Wonder why you had me/Every day’s a struggle!/ I just want my daddy/Don’t know why I love you/Wonder why you had me, yeah!

Ad-Libs: Oohs & Hums

Pre-Verse: ...Every day’s a struggle! So I gotta hustle!

Verse 2: Hands behind my head just as if I’m with the cops/You can say I’m torn cause I’ve never met my pops/Planted seeds to harvest but he never met the crops/Reaper’s bout to cut me and with that my pulse could drop

Chorus [1x]]: I just want my daddy/Don’t know why I love you/Wonder why you had me/Every day’s a struggle!

Verse 3: Now I’m serving on the block/Gotta do my dirt/Keeping rocks up in my pocket/Gotta go to work/Administering the relief as if I was the clerk/Baby girl is now my world/I lead like Captain Kirk/All I ever really wanted was for me to fly/Dreaming in America is nothing but a lie/All this pain within me so I think I’m gonna cry/Phantom car rolls up on me I think I’m bout to die, oh my!

Bridge (Myles): Lift up my hands to the great big sky/Told the man upstairs that it’s been a while/Then I heard back a great reply/Don’t you cry my child, don’t you cry!

Guy (Outro): Another Black man lost to the violence of the streets...My brothers...let’s stop killing each other...please!

Female News Reporter: Earlier this evening in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, Richard Parks, a twenty-year old African American man was gunned down in what is projected to be a

retaliation of gun violence. Richard is survived by his daughter and mother, who has lost yet another child in the matter of eight months... [Voice Fades]

Myles (Outro): Don't you cry...don't you cry...don't you cry my baby...

“III. The Healing” (A Requiem by Myles)

Refrain [3x]: Lord God forgive him for the things that he has done/Though no longer here we know that victory is won/All the issues life had dealt/The stresses weighed a ton/Gone in peace with you as he is rightfully your son

DJ J.L. (PSA Outro):

As we approach the end of this beautiful record, I wanna just give a big shout out to the young brother, Myles. We need more of our young to spread the message of peace, hope and love. Because too many of us are dying in this country by senseless gun violence and it needs to stop. I mean from Philly, Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans, D.C., Newark, Trenton, Brooklyn, Hartford, New Haven, Compton, Oakland, South Central, Detroit and many other inner cities throughout this great nation of America. Too many mothers burying their children as opposed to them burying their mothers. And too many fathers gone missing to have never returned. So, let's rewrite the script. Change the narrative. We'll do it together. Let's find a way.

“Find A Way” (In My Life) feat. Keion & Myles

Chorus [2x]: Been going with the pain that’s in my life/Is it wrong, is it right?/Just tryna make it through a single day/Man I’m lost/I’ll find a way

Verse 1: I been going through problems/Wonderin’ who could solve em’/Tell me why I’m still breathing?/One day I’mma revolve em’/Feel like I’m losing my sanity/The wife was the one who brought em/Children no longer with me/Hope they don’t forget what I taught em

Chorus [1x]: Been going with the pain that’s in my life/Is it wrong, is it right?/Been tryna make it through a single day/Man I’m lost/I’ll find a way

Verse 2: I been going through problems/Wonderin’ who could solve em’/Why am I considered an outcast?/All in my feelings, absolve em’/Didn’t know which way to turn/Shipped myself off to the Navy/Dishonored made my way back home/Some love could have always been gravy

Chorus [2x]: Been going with the pain that’s in my life/Is it wrong, is it right?/Just tryna make it through a single day/Man I’m lost/I’ll find a way

Verse 3 (Kevin): Many things in life are just not what they seem/October 19th, thought it was all a dream/My dad had nothing to give, though he had reigned supreme/I watched a King descend his very own regime/The way I laughed off the pain/You’d thought it was a meme/I could have posted the block as if I was Hakeem/I had to get off my ass though I was just a teen/Cause in the end money talks/Hardened like Charlie Sheen/This independent and foreign as if I’m Silas Deane/I’m working hard like a Haitian as if my name was Jean/For all the mothers that hustle/You know just what I mean/I hope my words are so vivid they illustrate a scene/I find my mind within a bind/The grind’s a sign/That sometimes man I need to unwind/Behind these lines is wine/I’m drinking in the autumn/Lord, God please protect from my demons, know I fought ’em

Chorus [1x] Been going with the pain that’s in my life/Is it wrong, is it right?/Been tryna make it through a single day/Man I’m lost/I’ll find a way

Verse 4 (Keion): Everything you been through you probably feel like breaking down/And you praying now/Been thinking all night/Fighting your whole life/Hoping something goes right but it all went wrong/You try to stay strong but all along you know it’s a place that you don’t belong cause everybody’s the same/They judge you and call you names/And even when it’s sunny you feel like you in the rain/And even the lightest days you feel like you in the dark/Tryna follow your heart but your mind is telling you different/Wish that you could go missing or disappear from existence cause nobody ever listens/All they do is doubt you and act like they care about you but you really don’t know how to/Deal with pressure from others/Aunties, cousins and mothers/Cousins, uncles and brothers/Constantly putting you down/Knocking you on the ground/Keep your head above water/And pray that you don’t drown

Verse 5 (Myles): All the pain we’re going through/Will it ever cease?/When Black men’s fate are tied unto the hands of the police/Trapped within our mind just tryna find an inner

peace/Praying that it finds me 'fore the belly of the beast/Tryna stay alive but the pressure makes
you crease/I can't afford the space they tryna terminate my lease/Cause when I hit the streets it's
like the wolves come out to feast/Just one of many problems that we deal with on the least/Curry
seasoned and that's some the best they've ever had/Dribbled through the traffic cause they
always had their dad/Don't know how to feel/Can't tell 'em why you mad/The fact that you lack
range from deep is nothing short of sad/At times you gotta stick with it, even broken
plays/Especially if you caught a charge in the Oakland bay/The pain is real but know that you'll
bounce back as if you Klay/So don't lose hope/Keep pushing/Trust that you will find a way

Kevin Outro: Girl, I want you to know/I can't get you out of my head/Girl, I want you to know/I
don't truly know where we stand...

“Gonna Be” (A Brighter Day) feat. The Voices In Praise Choir

Refrain [3x]: When you’ve been through all the darker days/Trust you won’t forget those harder days/If there’s something on your heart to say/Get on your knees and pray/It’s gonna be a brighter day/A brighter day/It’s gonna be a brighter day/A brighter day/Get on your knees and pray

Gordon (Outro): And there you have it, folks. The story of Richard Parks, also known as Roy and his homeboy, Gary Johnson, also known as Guy. Just two young brothers from the neighborhood that were trying to make it. However, their environment got the final say on their story. This is a message to all brothers. Your story doesn’t have to end like theirs. Yes, life is a game of cards and it’s important to remember that you must play a wise hand throughout the course. Don’t you cry if your father wasn’t there. For your heavenly father is eternal. In a world where you may be constantly overthinking, know that there’s always a brighter day. Always put your best foot forward and believe you could find a way.

We’d like to thank our lovely cast this evening for a wonderful performance:

Kevin as Richard “Roy” Parks Jr.

Keion as “Guy” Gary Johnson

Refrain [1x]: When you’ve been through all the darker days/Trust you won’t forget those harder days/If there’s something on your heart to say/Get on your knees and pray/It’s gonna be a brighter day/A brighter day/It’s gonna be a brighter day/A brighter day/Get on your knees and pray

Gordon (Outro Continued): Myles as Myles

Henry as DJ J.L. of 94.5 Jams

Treasure as Ruth

Barbara as Syreeta Parks

Steve as Voiceover #1

Jesse as Voiceover #2

*Larry as Voiceover #3**

Jose as Police & Precinct Officer

The News Reporter (*Harley Dee*)**

Myself, Gordon as narrator

God bless and to all a good night!

Kevin: Thank you, Harley Dee! Again, thank you Harley Dee! Haha!

* = Larry is omitted and not mentioned in album version of track 14.

** = Harley Dee added as final vocal addition for album.

“Worth It” (Life by Myles)

DJ J.L. (Intro): What’s up everybody? It’s your boy J.L. and I’m closing out tonight’s program...with the final single from Myles’ “Soulfood”. It’s called “Life” so until next time, to all a good night! Because you’re now listening to “Life”, only on 94.5 Jams. Peace!

Refrain [3x]: Every single person from the rich all the way to the poor/Tell me who in this life doesn’t really want more/Been trapped in your mind/Surviving in the night ain’t perfect/Though a hand you were dealt and the pain that you’ve felt/You’re worth it

Roy [Bridge]: Never stop fighting brothers. Sometimes you’re dealt a hand that ain’t perfect. Just know that you’re always worth it. Aight? Peace!

Refrain [2x]: Every single person from the rich all the way to the poor/Tell me who in this life doesn’t really want more/Been trapped in your mind/Surviving in the night ain’t perfect/Though a hand you were dealt and the pain that you’ve felt/You’re worth it

Track/Production Credits

1. I. Emotions (Intro)
Written by Kevin Anglade
Co-written, Produced & Mixed by Anthony “Y-NOT?” Avery at Tone’s Studio
Recorded by Carmelo Anthony at Peanuttty’s Studio
Additional vocals by Treasure Murphy & Nasir Logan
2. Up (All Night)
Written, Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood’s Studio
Additional vocals by Larry Bowers
3. Trapped (In My Mind)
Written, Produced, Mixed and Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood’s Studio
“The Drop” skit recorded by Myles Petillo
Additional production by Carlos, “The Neighbor”
Additional vocals by Keion Staton
4. Constantly (Overthinking by Myles)
Written, Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood’s Studio
Also written by Myles Petillo, Henry Lewis & Jose D. Morales
“Pulled Over” skit recorded by Myles Petillo
Additional production by Carlos, “The Neighbor”
Main vocals by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Henry Lewis, Jose D. Morales & Keion Staton
Contains a sample of track 8, “Put Me Through” (Back To You) feat. Keion & Myles
5. Never End (The Cycle)
Written, Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood’s Studio
Background vocals by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Larry Bowers
6. If You Knew (In My Head)
Written, Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood’s Studio
Also written by Jose D. Morales
Track co-recorded and “Bailed Out” skit recorded by Myles Petillo
Background vocals by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Jose D. Morales & Barbara Veal

7. II. Hand That Was Dealt
Produced by Carlos, "The Neighbor"
Written by Kevin Anglade
Recorded by Myles Petillo at Castlewood's Studio
Additional vocals by Keion Staton
8. Put Me Through (Back To You) feat. Keion & Myles
Written, Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood's Studio
Also written by Keion Staton & Myles Petillo
Co-recorded by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Henry Lewis
9. The Blues Interlude (Hue-Man by Keion)
Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood's Studio
Written & Performed by Keion Staton
10. Game of Cards (Self-Worth) w/Keion feat. Myles
Written, Produced, Recorded & Mixed by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood's Studio
Co-written with Keion Staton
Also written by Myles Petillo
Co-recorded by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Jesse Henderson
11. Don't You Cry (My Baby)
Written, Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood's Studio
Background vocals by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Harley Dee, Keion Staton & Steven Scott
12. III. The Healing (A Requiem by Myles)
Written, Produced, Recorded & Mixed by Kevin Anglade
Vocal Performance by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Henry Lewis
Also written by Henry Lewis
13. Find A Way (In My Life) feat. Keion & Myles
Written, Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood's Studio
Also written by Keion Staton & Myles Petillo
14. Gonna Be (A Brighter Day) feat. The Voices In Praise Choir
Written, Produced, Mixed & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood's Studio
Vocals by Myles Petillo, Kevin Anglade, & Samantha Anglade (The V.I.P. Choir)

Four-part harmony vocal arrangement by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Gordon Lyde

15. Worth It (Life by Myles)

Written & Recorded by Kevin Anglade at Castlewood's Studio
Co-written, Produced & Mixed by Anthony "Y-NOT?" Avery at Tone's Studio
Main vocals by Myles Petillo
Additional vocals by Henry Lewis

Album Thank You's

First and foremost, I would like to thank God for giving me vision, insight, and execution for the creation of this album. Best Laundromat on New Park Avenue in Hartford, Connecticut. Thank you for allowing me to find time to sit and be inspired as I wrote the first few songs on the album. Secondly, I would like to thank my collaborators who went out of their way to help me build/shape the world of this project. My brother Myles for being my right-hand man throughout the two-day sessions. Keion, you are the NEXT BIG THING bro, seriously!! You are the best rapper out of New York City! Hands down! Keep pushing brother! Carlos, my neighbor from across the street for accidentally producing three tracks on the album (an insider between Myles, Keion, and myself lol), Anthony "Y-Not?" Avery. Nakia Innis, Shaborn Pearson and Jesse Williams. Thank you all for being willing to portray the characters of the album visually through the singles/music videos. My brother Mark, I would also like to thank you as you heard the first two songs I produced in "Find A Way" and "Never End" and told me that they were sonically amazing. Thank you for supporting me and for providing words of encouragement while I have been on this journey. I would also like to thank the spirits of Gil-Scott Heron, Curtis Mayfield, and Marvin Gaye for inspiring the initial creative juices for this project. Additionally, I would like to thank Donald Glover and Frank Ocean for their musical output. The both of you gave me incredible inspiration throughout this album's creation as well. Lastly, I would like to thank Castlewood Apartments and the non-profit, Community Partners in Action where I learned to create and produce music which allowed me to believe that I could bring such a project of this magnitude to life. I also would like to thank my CPA family that contributed vocals: Larry, Lewis, Steve, Jesse, Jose, Barbara, Gordon, and Treasure. Without you all, this work does not have the same feel or tell the story it does. I am proud to be a CPA alumni and call y'all my family. To everyone listening, enjoy the album. Talk it over amongst discussion with your kids, family, and friends. Black Men RISE UP! God Bless!

Cries Of A Rose Album Team

Album Producers: Kevin "K.A." Anglade, Anthony "Y-NOT?" Avery & Carlos "The Neighbor"

Production Mix by: K.A. & Y-NOT?

Album Mix by: Kevin "K.A." Anglade at Peanutty's Studio, Castlewood Studios, CPA's Van #1 Stereo, and Center For Teaching Excellence Lab at Goodwin University

Album Photography/Art Design: Kevin Anglade

Album Consultant: Henry Lewis

Album Visual Characters: Shaborn Pearson, Nakia Innis & Jesse "J-Will" Williams

Marketing & Promotion: Flowered Concrete Media

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