

# The Streets

## R. Kelly & JAY-Z

Dear God. how can I explain myself?  
Oh God bless me indeed  
When I'm so confused  
Enlarge my territory  
Place your love and protection over me at all times  
Help me!  
Keep me away from evil  
Somebody answer me! Allow me not to cause pain  
Police in the background, screamin put the  
thing down  
That's how hard I was trying to put my thing down  
Si-rens ringin out, old ladies screamin out  
All this attention for me and I'm barely sixteen now  
. it's feelin like a dream now  
Handcuffed, roughed up, I'm tossed in the bing now  
I'm lyin next to fiends now, that's the end of the story  
Let me bring y'all niggaz back to the very first scene now  
December 4th, a child is born  
Before I knew it, had my pops trousers on  
That's how we do it when the man of the house is gone  
You either, stand or fall, I chose to stand  
The hawk outside, so I blow my hand  
It's a cold cold world but I overstand  
Tryin to stay focused but I feel hopeless damn  
Can't cope with bein broke, I'm a man - c'mon  
Son don't let these streets, get the best of you  
I will be right by your side, when you goin through  
Son just don't let it (just don't let it)  
Just don't let it (just don't let it)  
Just don't let it (just don't let it)  
. get the best of you  
Late one night I was, rollin the streets  
Just, thinkin about what's goin on with me and  
trapped in this thug life, tryin to break free but  
this thug life just keeps callin me  
I'm livin life way too dangerously  
I'm drownin in my misery  
Looked in the mirror, there's my enemy  
Cause poppa never was a part of me  
Take one step at a time, mama said  
Sweet memories still remain in my head  
All of my life been lied to, misled  
Voices be like, "Don't you wish you was dead?"  
No ground to place my feet

I feel the fire under me  
A way out is all I need  
Somebody, answer me!  
Now the only thing left is more spirit to roam free  
. cause ain't no goin home for me  
It's a cold cold world but I blew my hand  
A true first cause I knew that man  
I knew what he would do if I didn't draw first  
And I couldn't stand the thought of my momma steppin foot inside a church  
All I try to do is try to get up out the dirt  
Guess he's tryin to do the same, told me get up out his turf  
I wanted to talk to him, but that shit'd never work  
We was cut from the same cloth and what was under his shirt was his  
momma's rent, his young brother's clothes  
My nephew's food, and with that I suppose  
. and with that I froze  
Now my life is frozen in time behind these iron folds  
And this story is told, for young soldiers  
who never choose the life we chose Tears in my eyes as I look up, I'm tryin to  
hold back my pride but reality is screamin  
Gotta get a job cause mo-mma also screamin  
Streets are just like drugs, and it's like I'm out here fiendin  
Forget all the hits in the industry, cause  
ain't no exceptions in this game for me, look  
Neither God or my enemies, I  
choose God cause he understands, this  
young man with a thuggish heart  
Whole world in his hands but still torn apart  
Like I'm so close, but it's still so far  
Nightmares of me in a swervin car, ohhh  
No ground to place my feet (my feet)  
I feel the fire under me (heyyy)  
A way out is all I need (all I need)  
Somebody, answer me!

Lyrics provided by <https://www.songarea.com/>