

# 03' Adolescence

J. Cole

I grew up, a fuckin' screw up  
Tie my shoe up, wish they was newer  
Damn, need somethin' newer  
In love with the baddest girl in the city, I wish I knew her  
I wish I weren't so shy, I wish I was a bit more fly  
I wish that I, could tell her how I really feel inside  
That I'm the perfect nigga for her, but then maybe that's a lie  
She like a certain type of nigga, and it's clear I'm not that guy  
Ball player, star player, I'm just watchin' from the side  
On the bench, cause my lack of confidence won't let me fly  
I ain't grow up with my father, I ain't thinkin' bout that now  
Fast forward four years or so from now I'll probably cry...  
When I realize what I missed, but as of now my eyes are dry  
Cause I'm tryna stay alive  
In the city where too many niggas die, dream in quiet tryna dodge a suit and tie  
Who am I? Aye who am I?(Yeah) Things change, rearrange, or so do I  
It ain't always for the better dawg, I can't lie  
I get high cause the lows can be so cold  
I might bend a little bit but I don't fold  
One time for my mind and two for yours  
I got food for your thoughts to sooth your soul  
If you see my tears fall just let me be  
Move along, nothing to see  
I always did shit the hard way  
My niggas \*\*\*\*\* slangin' in the hallway  
Burnt CD's and trees like this was broadway  
Times Square, kept the dimes there in the locker  
Some Reggie Miller  
With more brown hairs than Chubacca  
Whispers that he got it for the low low  
Sell a  
Dime for a dub, them white boys ain't know no better  
Besides, what's twenty dollars to a nigga like that?  
He tell his pops he need some lunch and he gon' get it right back  
I peep game  
Got home snatched my mama keychain, took her whip  
The appeal, to ill to refrain  
I hit the boulevard pull up to my nigga front door  
His mama at home, she still let em' hit the blunt though  
I told her hello and sat with my nigga and laughed  
And talked about how we gon' smash all the bitches in class  
I complimented how I see him out here getting his cash, and just asked, "What a nigga gotta do

to get that?! Put me on"  
He just laughed when he seen I was sure  
17 years breathing his demeanor said more  
He told me, "Nigga you know how you sound right now?  
You won't my mans, I would think that you're a clown right now... listen"  
"You everything I wanna be that's why I fucks with you. So how you looking up to me, when I  
look up to you?"  
"You bout to go get a degree, I'm bout to be stuck with two choices: either graduate to weight  
or sell a number two. For what? A hundred bucks or two a week? Do you think that you would  
know what to do if you was me? I got, four brothers, one mother that don't love us - if they ain't  
never want us why the fuck they never wore rubbers?"  
I felt ashamed to have ever complained about my lack of gear  
And thought about how far we done came  
From trailer park to a front yard with trees in the sky  
Thank you mama dry your eyes, there ain't no reason to cry  
You made a genius and I, ain't gon' take it for granted  
I ain't gon' settle for lesser, I ain't gon' take what they handed  
Nah I'm gon' take what they owe me and show you that I can fly  
And show ol' girl what she missing  
The illest nigga alive...  
Aye who am I?  
Things change, rearrange, or so do I, (Aye who am I?)  
It ain't always for the better dawg, I can't lie. (Aye who am I?)  
I get high cause the lows can be so cold  
I might bend a little bit but I don't fold  
One time for my mind and two for yours  
I got food for your thoughts to sooth your soul  
If you see my tears fall just let me be.  
Move along, nothing to see  
Never felt better.

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