

# Let Nas Down

J. Cole

Freedom or jail, clips inserted  
A baby's bein' born same time a man is murdered  
The beginning and end, so far as rap goes  
It's only natural, I explain my plateau  
And also what defines my name

Yeah, long live the idols, may they never be your rivals  
Pac was like Jesus, Nas wrote the Bible  
Now what you're 'bout to hear's a tale of glory and sin  
No I.D. my mentor now let the story begin

I used to print out Nas raps and tape 'em up on my wall  
My niggas thought they was words, but it was pictures I saw  
And since I wanted to draw, I used to read 'em in awe  
Then he dropped Stillmatic, rocked the cleanest velour  
Fast forward, who thought that I would meet him on tour?  
I'm earnin' stripes now nigga, got Adidas galore  
Backstage I shook his hand, let him know that he's the man  
When he said he was a fan it was too hard to understand  
No time to soak up the moment though, cause I was in a jam  
Hov askin' where's the record that the radio could play  
And I was strikin' out for months, 9th inning feeling fear  
Jeter under pressure, made the biggest hit of my career  
But at first, that wasn't clear, niggas had no idea  
Dion called me when it dropped, sounded sad but sincere  
Told me Nas heard your single and he hate that shit  
Said you the one, yo why you make that shit?  
I can't believe I let Nas down  
Damn, my heart sunk to my stomach  
I can't believe I let Nas down  
I got defensive on the phone  
Resentment was in my tone, fuck it

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I couldn't help but think that maybe I had made a mistake  
I mean, you made "You Owe Me" dog, I thought that you could relate  
But while I shot up the charts, you mean tellin' me  
That I was not up to par, when I followed my heart  
Granted, my heart was tainted by my mind, I kept on sayin'  
Where's the hits? You ain't got none  
You know Jay would never put your album out without none  
And dog, you know how come  
Labels are archaic, formulaic with their outcomes  
They don't know, they just study the charts  
Me, I study the shows, the fans, study their hearts  
I had a feelin' I was killin', and this music we were spillin' out  
Would change lives forever, fuck the label, put it out  
Friday Night Lights blew, that was classic number 2  
Now it seemed as if the Nas comparisons was comin' true  
Still no release date from the label, are they insane?  
Gucc told me play the game to change the game but on the way  
I let Nas down, I got no one to blame, I'm ashamed I let Nas down  
But this is God's plan, you could never understand, fuck it

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I always believed in the bigger picture  
If I could get them niggas to listen  
Outside my core then I can open a door  
Reintroduce 'em to honesty, show 'em that they need more  
The difference between the pretenders and the Kendrick Lamars  
And so, I took the fall like the son of the Lord  
On the cross, dyin' for that fake shit you niggas bought  
For the past decade  
If I should pass please let this be my last essay  
Therefore I write from the heart  
Apologies to OG's for sacrificin' my art  
But I'm here for a greater purpose  
I knew right from the start  
I'm just a man of the people, not above but equal  
And for the greater good I walk amongst the evil  
Don't cry mama, this the life I choose myself  
Just pray along the way that I don't lose myself  
This is for the nigga that said that hip-hop was dead  
I went to Hell to resurrect it  
How could you fail to respect it?  
Lettin' Nas down  
I got the phone call quietly I mourned dog, I let Nas down  
Yeah, and on this flight may I never lose sight, fuck it

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