

# The Ways

Masta Ace

So you want to be in music business?

Listen

A life in rap's like a knife in the back  
This life attracts some of the trifest cats  
Niggaz getting deals with pipes and bats  
If that don't work then they strike with gats  
I know a few dudes got label deals  
'Cause they crew pack steel like Navy S.E.A.L.S  
And I ain't too smooth or too cool to mention  
I done ran up in the label with cruel intentions  
Listen, a label guy's like a bitch in disguise  
He just trying to stay alive, see the twitch in his eyes?  
A punch and a slap put his lunch in his lap  
And a kick to the gut'll put a hunch in his back  
No teeth and gummy and now he talk funny  
But he set to sign off on that tour support money (that's right)  
This nation's built on violent intimidations  
Turn cats to hospital patients they more gracious  
No promotion? Make 'em float in the ocean  
Your album about to flop and he ain't showing emotion  
He having a good time with a bunch of his friends  
Let him find his dog dead in the trunk of his Benz  
And he ignored your memo and the issues on it  
Give his ass a bullet with his initials on it  
You want a big advance? Don't tell him twice  
Hang his ass out the window like Vanilla Ice  
See cats get the message when they life on the line  
But when you call from the crib with they wife on the line  
This country of ours was built on violence  
If your ass got in the way you was killed in silence  
And these been the ways since back in the days  
Just ask the Indians or the African slaves  
So before you pick a logo, and choose a name  
First you gotta learn the ways of the music game  
Yup

"I need to talk to you right now about my royalties"...

... "My office hours are from 9 to 5"

"Fuck your office hours. I need to talk to you right now motherfucker!"...

... "What are you doing man?"

These are the ways, the ways, the ways, the ways  
This is how you got to get down these days  
You want to get paid just remember the phrase  
These are the ways, the ways, the ways, the ways

("The ways" scratched repeatedly)

These are the ways, the ways, the ways, the ways

Now if you think what I'm saying is a bunch of bull  
Run up to the label now and punch a fool  
And watch niggaz panic and start to run frantic  
This goes for Warner, Electra, and Atlantic  
And any other major on the map  
Or A&R cat who turned his back after he made you want to rap

See if you can find out a face and name  
So you know when you roll who to place the blame  
But Keith Murray ain't need investigators  
He fuck niggaz up, ask questions later  
And Diddy had a problem with Stevie Stout  
Got a Cristal bottle, knocked Stevie out  
Damn, he even whip a nigga ass in style  
When Suge hears this record man he has to smile  
And Def Jam reps wearing vests to work  
'Cause they don't want they ribs and they chests to hurt  
If I worked for them dudes man you won't see me  
When Rocafella fall out with O.D.B. (nope)  
That be a day that I'm a call out sick  
'Cause niggaz cool first then they fall out quick (that's right)  
Keep on thinking that it's only rap  
You'll be a broke-ass nigga and a lonely cat  
So before you get played out and lose your fame  
First you got to learn the ways of the music game  
Yes

"What the hell you talking about?"...  
... "I'm talking about the cars and the clothes  
and I got an even longer list of expenses:  
Studio time, promotions, your expense account..."  
"You trying to muscle me?"...