

# December 4th

## JAY-Z

[Intro: Gloria Carter]

Shawn Carter was born December 4th  
Weighing in at ten pounds, eight ounces  
He was the last of my four children  
The only one who didn't give me any pain, when I gave birth to him  
And that's how I knew, that he was a special child"Hi baby, what's wrong? You look like,  
you've lost your best friend  
Tell me, is it something that I've done again?  
You look like, you've lost your best friend  
Tell me."

[Verse One: Jay-Z]

They say they never really miss you 'til you dead or you gone  
So on that note I'm leavin after this song  
See you ain't gotta feel no way about Jay so long  
At least let me tell you why I'm this way, hold on  
I was conceived by Gloria Carter and Adnus Reeves  
Who made love under the sycamore tree  
Which makes me, a more sicker MC and my momma would claim  
At ten pounds when I was born I didn't give her no pain  
Although through the years I gave her her fair share  
I gave her her first real scare, I made up for birth when I got here  
She knows my purpose was on purpose, I ain't perfect, I care  
But I feel worthless cause my shirts wasn't matchin my gear  
Now I'm just scratchin the surface cause what's buried under there  
Was a kid torn apart once his pop disappeared  
I went to school, got good grades, could behave when I wanted  
But I had demons deep inside that would raise when confronted  
Hold on

[Interlude: Gloria Carter]

Shawn was a very shy child growing up  
He was into sports, and a funny story is  
At four, he taught himself how to ride a bike  
A two-wheel at that, isn't that special?  
But, I noticed a change in him. when me and my husband, broke up[Verse Two: Jay-Z]  
Now all the teachers couldn't reach me and my momma couldn't beat me  
Hard enough to match the pain of my pop not seein me SO!  
With disdain in my membrane  
Got on my pimp game, fuck the world, my defense came  
Then the Haven introduced me to the game  
Spanish Jose introduced me to 'caine; I'm a hustler now  
My gear is in, and I'm in the in-crowd  
And all the wavy light-skinned girls is lovin me now

My self-esteem went through the roof, man I got my swag'  
Got a Volvo from this girl when her man got bagged  
Plus I hit my momma with cash from a show that I had  
supposedly - knowin nobody paid Jaz wack ass  
I'm gettin ahead of myself, by the way, I could rap  
That came second to me movin this crack  
Give me a second I swear, I would say about my rap career  
'til ninety-six came, niggaz I'm here - goodbye! [Interlude: Gloria Carter]  
Shawn used to be in the kitchen, beating on the table and rapping  
And umm, into the wee hours of the morning  
And then I brought him a boombox  
And his sisters and brothers said that he would drive them nuts  
But, that was my way to keep him close to me, and out of trouble [Verse Three: Jay-Z]  
Goodbye to the game all the spoils, the adrenaline rush  
Your blood boils, you in a spot, knowin cops could rush  
at you in the drop, you so easy to touch  
No two days are alike, except the 1st and 15th pretty much  
And trust, is a word you seldom hear from us  
Hustlers, we don't sleep, we rest one eye up  
And a drought could define a man when the well dries up  
You learn the worth of water  
Without work you thirst 'til you die - YUP!  
And niggaz get tied up for product  
And little brothers ring fingers get cut up  
to show mothers they really got 'em  
And this is the stress I lived with  
'til I decided to try this rap shit for a livin  
I pray I'm forgiven - for every bad decision I made  
Every sister I played - cause I'm still paranoid to this day  
And it's nobody fault, I made the decisions I've made  
This is the life I chose, or rather the life that chose me [Outro: Fades out]  
If you can't respect that, your whole perspective is whack  
Maybe you'll love me when I fade to black  
If you can't respect that, your whole perspective is whack  
Maybe you'll love me when I fade to black  
Now if you can't respect that, your whole perspective is whack  
Maybe you'll love me when I fade to black  
If you can't respect that, your whole perspective is whack  
Maybe you'll love me when I fade to black.

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