

Jay-Z, Dope Man

(feat. Serena Altschul)

[*sound of a camera taking a picture*]

[Jay]

Millenium flow

[MTV]

Serena Altschul's here live outside the criminal courthouse

[Jay]

This is {bullshit} y'all

[MTV]

in New York City for the first day in the trial of

[Jay]

I'm gone [*car speeds off*]

[MTV]

the State vs. Shawn Carter, a.k.a. Jay-Z

[Jay]

Uhh, uh-huh-uh, uhh, uh-huh-uh, uhh

[MTV]

Whatever the verdict in this trial may be
the effects will undoubtedly be felt worldwide

[Jay-Z]

Aiyyo, stand forward, 'fore you take notice

or witness to me killin the track

Testify 'til me spillin the smack

Now they got me for traffickin, racketeerin, audio crack

[Hook:]

They call me Dope Man, Dope Man

I try to tell em I'm where hope, floats man

Ghetto spokes-man

A broke man, approachin the bench with intent
to bury me under the cell, fingered me as the toast man

Evidence stemmin from ninety-six

They say the world ain't recovered from his fix

While they was usin cut I was on some other shit

Gave it to you raw and they just discovered it

Nowaday, the jury got they brow raised

Listenin to testimony about my foul ways

Exhibit A: "Reasonable Doubt"

They say this was the first thing that turned the peoples out

[MTV]

You can feel the tension building here

as an unprecedented number of people have turned out
for what may be the "Trial of the Century";

[Hook]

[Jay-Z]

How come, you label your brand of dope

"Volume 1" and spread it through the slums?

Fed it to the young with total disregard

Your honor, the State seeks the maximum charge

And how could you, turn right around

and release a lethal dosage called "Volume 2";

And is true you operate the criminal enterprise

known as Roc-a-Fella in charge of his meteoric rise?

And do you deny you're responsible for the demise

of record execs, and do you object?

Your distribution's Polygram, and through your connects

Def Jam, you pushed over five million SoundScan

And not to mention, your co-horts and henchmen

Dame, Biggs, Lyor, Kev' and Russell Simmons
And we ain't gon' talk about Murder, Inc.
That just establishes a darker deeper criminal link

[MTV]

The State is seeking the maximum penalty
and with the overwhelming amount of evidence
the D.A.'s presented, things aren't looking good

[Hook]

[MTV]

Despite the grim outlook at this point
the rapper has been known to emerge triumphant
in the face of adversity

[Hook]

[MTV]

Jay-Z is taking the stand

[Jay-Z]

Right hand on the Bible, left hand in the air
Before I spoke one word, made sure my throat was clear
A-hem, I'm a prisoner of circumstance
Frail nigga, I couldn't much work with my hands
But my mind was strong, I grew where you hold your blacks up
Trap us, expect us not to pick gats up
Where you drop your cracks off by the Mack trucks
Destroy our dreams of lawyers and actors
Keep us spiralin, goin backwards
At age nine, saw my first hate crime
Blindfolded, expected to walk a straight line
Mind molded, taught to love you and hate mine
Climbed over it, at a early age, Jay shined
Fuck the system at Lady Justice I blaze nine
Your Honor, I no longer kill my people, I raise mine
The soul of Mumia in this modern day time

[MTV]

While the jury is inside deliberating
outside the crowd is frozen with anticipation

[Hook]

[MTV]

Well the verdict has just been announced: NOT GUILTY!
It is complete pandemonium out here! [Hook; Serena keeps speaking]
People are cheering and hugging - there he is
Jay-Z is exiting the courtroom right now
There is a swarm of cameras surrounding him [*pop bulbs flashing*]
and people are just rushing up to him
Let's try and make our way over there, Jay-Z! Jay-Z!
[*sounds of cameras keep flashing*, *music fades*]