

# Mary J. Blige, Where I've Been

(feat. Eve)

[Spoken]

(To all the youth in the world that thinks nobody understands...  
Well I understand that)

It's been hard for me  
Trying strugglin' in the streets  
But where I've been- Is no longer where I'm at  
And where I'm going- Is not where I'm stoppin' at

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I grew up as a 70's baby  
Brought up in poverty and sin  
Makin' jokes at the crazy lady  
Never cared how she was dealin' within  
I knew all the words to  
Micheal Jackson's album as a kid  
And when it came to the biggest crusher  
No he wasn't my man  
At the age of seven years old  
A strange thing happened to me  
Before I even saw  
My life had flashed before me  
And I've got the mark to show  
And it became a thang of beauty  
So I gotta let you know  
That my life, that my life

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Now mama's workin' hard all day  
And she said this before she left home  
Take care of your little brother  
Have the place cleaned when I get home  
All these priorities  
Me and Tanya had to learn to be grown  
But at the time for me  
Being grown had seemed so lone  
Woke up and I'm seventeen  
With nothing going for me  
Except the fact that I sing  
You know it hurts so much  
From all the sights that I've seen  
From abusin' the hole in trust  
You probably couldn't take some of things  
That I've lived in my life

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It's hard and the street's a jungle (I'm telling you, I'm telling you)  
Especially with your pretty colors (I'm telling you, I'm telling you)  
So stay low and keep it humble (I'm telling you, I'm telling you)  
Black women hold it down, keep your feet on the ground  
Black men keep searching and you'll be found

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[Rap by Eve]  
In this world of continuous bullshit and full clips  
Seems all we have to pass down is being useless  
Broken homes, babies all alone, parent's never there  
No food, no clothes to wear, anger everywhere  
Ain't no values being taught, no productive thoughts  
Jealousy rules the world, take shit at any cost  
Gotta change our state of life, keep it worth livin'  
God gave us voices to speak and that's our way of givin'  
It's so much bigger than the furs and the jewels  
What about encouragin' the youth to do well  
What about givin' back- what about unifying  
Shit we all black- get it together  
Everybody's got their trials and tribulations  
Learn to change the negative to positive situations  
Don't hold the lessons that you learn  
Pass it on and except the blessings that could earn

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