

# Jay-Z, A Ballad For The Fallen Soldier

[Jay-Z]

This here's a ballad for all the fallen soldiers  
I'ma bout 'ta show you how a hustlers life (this is life man)  
and a soldier's life, parallel  
And the one thing they got in common is pain (forget about me for a second)  
Picture split screen  
On one side we got a hustler getting ready for the block (human beings)  
Other side you got the soldier getting ready for bootcamp (soldiers)  
They're both at war (this is life)  
Stay with us

[Chorus]

Did you ever notice, before you think, life goes fast  
So don't you worry, about what you see, it will pass

[Verse 1]

You lost him mama, the wars calling him  
Feel its his duty to fall in line with all of them  
He's a soldier  
Rose through the ranks as the head of your house hold  
Now its time to provide bank  
Like he's supposed tah  
Now just remember while he's going to November  
Theres part of him growing up  
His shirts soaks up your tears as he holds yah  
Your heart beatin so fast speeding his pulse up  
Yeah i know it sucks, Life aint a rose bud  
A couple of speed bumps  
You gotta take your lumps  
Off to Bootcamp, the worlds facing terror  
Bin Laden been happenin in Manhattan  
Crack was anthrax back then, back when  
Police was Al'Qaeda to black men  
While I was out there hustling sinning with no religion  
He was off the wall killing for a living

[Chorus]

[Verse 2]

Days turn to nights, nights turn to years  
Years turn to "how the fuck we make it in here?"  
My barracks average couple fights a day  
Get you locked in a hole wont see the light of day  
And I feel like I'm just writing my life away  
I never thought shit could end up quite this way  
There's a war going on outside no man is safe from  
I'm here for the good fight only the fakes run  
I'm here for the purple heart, if I cant take one  
For my team or my siblings whats my reason for living?  
I love my niggas more then anything else  
This war's about my family, me needin the wealth  
You dont understand how useless as men we felt  
Till you become a 5 star general  
Shout out to my niggas that's locked in jail  
P.O.W.'s thats still in the war for real

[Chorus]

Your baby boy is getting grown  
So your baby boy is moving on  
I've gotta chase (gotta chase it)  
If I'm gonna make it (gonna make it)  
Your baby boy is getting grown  
So your baby boy is moving on

I'm gonna make it  
Even if I gotta take it (gotta take it)

[Verse 3]

Mama said pray your sons becoming a man  
This wars taxin to 'em like Uncle Sam  
He ain't gonna always make the right choice, understand  
Every choice that he make he makes it for his fam  
It's death before dishonour  
And if hes gone you should honor his memory  
Dont cry we all gonna die eventually  
But if he's locked in the penitentiary send him some energy  
They all winners to me  
(What's up kid?)

[Chorus]