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## I Told You So

I was young,  
I said I would become a man.  
I was mommy's little boy.  
In my house now I'm the man,  
have a wife, have kids  
and watch them grow old.  
It sounds familiar  
like a story  
that was once told.  
Now I have priorities.  
See mom, I told you so.

## Why Do You Think?

Why do you think the youth are angry?

Let me explain it in a list,

It goes like this. . .

We hate to be taken for granted.

Second, we're not dumb.

Don't underhand us.

We're the leaders of the future.

Please start believing it,

Why do you think we're rebellious?

Why do you think we do things differently?

Because we were taught to think individually.

Why do you think?

## My Block

Scared to go outside.  
It's not safe outside.  
That's what you would say,  
but this is my block.  
Everyday I'm here.

My friends, my family, we all live here.  
Problems like 41 shots go on down here.  
Police brutality is normal around here.  
We wear jewelry, big clothes, and braids  
in our hair.

If you're scared to be amongst us  
go back to the suburbs.  
Live with rich people.  
Go through life being stubborn.

Yes, this is my block.  
This is my home,  
and like Dorothy once said,  
"There's no place like home!"

## Just Like You

Tell me the truth,  
because to me you never lie.  
If you lost me as a nephew,  
would it make you want to cry?

Pain is suffering,  
but love is torment.  
Someday I hope to be just like you,  
the greatest uncle, the greatest  
of all men.

## Tears

I cry for pain.  
I cry like falling rain.  
I cry for you.  
These tears have me insane.

Can someone please stop these tears?  
They have not stopped for years.  
My uncle is dead.  
My daddy disappeared.

Now you ask me,  
"Why do you have these tears?"  
For all the pain I've felt  
during all these years.

## Wanda

I fell for you hard.  
Love does those things.  
I would give life for you.  
I would even buy the ring.  
Ask you to marry me.  
To me you're everything.  
Spend my life with you till forever.  
Love, yours is special,  
I need no other.  
Because of your past,  
you said  
you had to let me go.  
Wanda please tell me,  
why can't I let you go?



## Imagine

Imagine a world  
where everything  
is innocent.

No one can do wrong.

Everything is perfect.

Tell me what will we do to be different?

Nothing, because innocence is like a mirror.

No mischief inside.

No feeling of being different.

You can't, can you?

Because this world  
is not innocent.

## Forever

You're my soul-mate, okay,  
but can we make it?  
You see the statistics  
of marriages that never lasted.

One hundred percent get married,  
Ninety nine percent give up.  
So why do you think it'll be  
different for the two of us?

Love is real, love is true  
and you taught me that.  
Now tell me  
why should I deal with love  
if it might not last?

## Forget It!

I tried. I tried,  
but I have to give up.  
Everyone is gone.  
No one's here but us.

Mike and I are working hard,  
trying to graduate.  
Teachers say working hard is good,  
but for you it is too late.

Teachers have no optimism.  
Their class, their rule.  
That's why I'm going to forget it  
when I get out of school.

Forget it, yet  
I can't because you deceive me.  
You did this to me,  
you destroyed my dream.

## Why Try?

I am a man and I love you.  
There are no lies in my words.  
You tell me you also love me.  
Ha! You've got some nerve.

We ended because of envy  
and you let me finish.  
Now my heart is feeling empty,  
even with Jordan I can't win this.

Understand these words  
for you I cry.  
I sit here and wonder.  
Why should I try?  
Why even try?

## To Mom

I'm a bad seed; I know it,  
but I'm glad you're here.  
Your love you always show it,  
even though you're not near.

## I Never Said Goodbye

A lot of people pass through our lives that we really don't pay attention to, like my little brother, the funniest little boy you'll ever meet; and like my sister with her diva attitude. Out of all the people that I have met, there are some that I never said good-bye to. So if I had a chance, I would like to tell my two uncles that things have been rough since they passed away.

I would like to tell them of the nights my grandma sat up crying. I would like to tell them that I was about to change my middle name because it hurts to hear the name Alex. All the nights grandma and I stayed up conversing about how much we miss them. I would love to have one conversation with my uncle Daniel. Say thanks for the home he bought for my grandma, and I thank him for buying my school clothes when my grandma was too broke to buy them herself. I would love to thank him for defending me when my uncle used to steal my clothes, and of course I would tell him that I miss and love him dearly.

With my uncle Alex, it would be a totally different conversation. See I never really knew my uncle. So that conversation would mostly be questions. I would ask him about his childhood. I would ask him how grandma used to be when she was younger? We would sit up for hours talking like two teenage girls. Just passing time that I know would be gone forever. I would also explain that although I never really knew him, that I still love and miss him to death.

## To Say Good-bye

To say good-bye I would give  
them both a hug and a kiss  
on the cheek,  
like my family always does.

I would shed a tear  
and tell them both  
they mean more to me  
than breathing.



## Who I Will Be Five Years from Now?\*

Ever since I can remember I always wanted a bright future. Every family member, every teacher and all my friends would ask, "What would you like to do in the future?" To be honest I haven't given thought to my future recently. Until today that is, when I was asked by my teacher, "Who am I in five years from now?"

Who am I five years from now? That's a good question because honestly I don't know. I mean there are so many opportunities and so many doors to open that I am confused. I'm going to be blunt with myself; I want to be an army general. I've always dreamed of being in the armed forces, my grandma's little soldier. That's what really inspired me. My grandma has always called me her little soldier; and when I hit sixteen she approached me about the army. She explained to me that nothing would make her prouder than to see her son in the army. Let me explain. Ever since I was born, my grandmother raised me. I've done almost all I could to make her proud, so for

me to go to the army and earn a high rank would be the icing on the cake.

My grandma is seventy years of age, so I know she won't be around for long. You ask who I will be five years from now? Well I'll tell you. I'll be a man of honor, respect, and affection because if there is anything I want in five years from now, it's to see my grandma proud.

## I Doubt Your Love

Sometimes I doubt your love  
through the hard times you gave it.  
Telling moms, "I hate you!"  
is something I've regretted.

I don't understand why you gave me up.  
Now because of you with grandma  
I'm stuck.  
Moms, I still love you, but . . .

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