



## Common feat Lauryn Hill – “Retrospect For Life”

Yo we gotta start respectin' life more y'all  
You look at your brother man you gotta see yourself  
Gotta see the God within him  
Brothers getting' changed real quick over nothin'  
We losin' too many of ours  
Gotta recreate y'all  
Yo, check it

Knowin' you the best part of life do I have the right to take yours  
Cause I created you irresponsibly  
Subconsciously knowin' the act I was a part of  
The start of somethin', I'm not ready to bring into the world  
Had myself believin' I was sterile  
I look into mother's stomach, wonder if you are a boy or a girl  
Turnin' this woman's womb into a tomb  
But she and I agree, a seed we don't need  
You would've been much more than a mouth to feed  
But someone, I would'a fed this information I read  
to someone, my life for you I would'a had to leave  
Instead I lead you to death  
I'm sorry for takin' your first breath, first step, and first cry  
But I wasn't prepared mentally nor financially  
Havin' a child shouldn't have to bring out the man in me  
Plus I wanted you to be raised within a family  
I don't wanna, go through the drama of havin a baby's momma  
Weekend visits and buyin J's ain't gon' make me a father  
For a while bearing a child is somethin' I never wanted to do  
For me to live forever I can only do that through you  
Nerve I got to talk about them n----- with a gun  
Must have really thought I was God to take the life of my son  
I could have sacrificed goin' out  
To think my homies who did it I used to joke about, from now on  
I'ma use self control instead of birth control  
Cause \$315 ain't worth your soul  
\$315 ain't worth your soul  
\$315 ain't worth it

[Lauryn Hill (two layers of vocals, same words)]

I, never dreamed you'd leave, in summer  
You said you would be here when it rained  
[Common] Yo  
Why didn't you stay

Seeing you as a present and a gift in itself  
You had our child in you, I probably never feel what you felt  
But you dealt with it like the strong black woman you are  
Through our trials and tribulations, child's elimination  
An integration of thoughts I feel about the situation  
Back and forth my feelings was pacin'  
Happy deep down but not joyed enough to have it  
But even that's a lie in less than two weeks, we was back at it  
Is this unprotected love or safe to say it's lust  
Bustin', more than the sweat in somebody you trust  
Or is it that we don't trust each other enough  
And believe, havin' this child'll make us have to stay together  
Girl I want you in my life cause you have made it better  
Thinkin' we all in love cause we can spend a day together  
We talkin' spendin' the rest of our lives  
It's too many black women that can say they mothers  
but can't say that they wives  
I wouldn't chose any other to mother my understanding  
But I want our parenthood to come from planning  
It's so much in my life that's undone  
We gotta see eye to eye, about family, before we can become one  
If you had decided to have it the situation I wouldn't run from  
But I'm walkin', findin' myself in my God  
So I can, discipline my son with my writin'  
Not have a judge tellin' me how and when to raise my seed  
Though his death was at our greed, with no one else to blame  
I had a book of Afrikan names, case our minds changed  
You say your period hasn't came, and lately I've been sleepy  
So quit smokin' the weed and the beadies and let's have this boy

[Lauryn Hill]