

UNCHAINED MELODIES



BENDING THE BARS TRACK 3 & 4: “Before I Leave This World of Mine” & “Dangerush”

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

- We will look at two songs from the album Bending the Bars
- First, we will explore the artists of the songs and the song lyrics
- Then, we will take a moment to understand the songs' meanings
- Finally, we will take a moment to pause and reflect on the songs

MEET THE ARTIST

POETIC PROPHET 4262

“POETIC PROPHET 4262 is a spoken word artist who describes himself as a “burning mic” who is “going to write and say what other people won’t.” Fascinated by rhymes from a very young age, POETIC PROPHET has been rhyming and writing poetry for over 50 years. For POETIC PROPHET, poetry “is just a part of me, it is like my arm.” He describes his writing as inspired by spiritual forces outside himself, and has written poems that “came true” decades later, a prophetic ability that his artist name references. Writing lyrics to speak to the people, not “the man,” POETIC PROPHET says that when he writes, he is actually listening. “I have a gift to hear,” he says. “I think I can hear better than I can see, and I can feel better than I can hear.” Ultimately, the best way to get to know him is through his poetry, where “I write what I feel. I write what’s real.”



THE SONG

BEFORE I LEAVE THIS WORLD OF MINE

Before I leave this world of mine I wanna count the grains of sand
I wanna make a stop above the mountaintop and hold the future in my hand
I wanna see with my eyes where destiny lies

Hell, I wanna give a try a try.

Before I leave this world of mine I want justice for all to apply
Before I leave this world of mine I want to cause anger and wrath to laugh
I wanna walk with hope, pull the freedom bell rope
And be a light at the end of a path

I will leave behind all boundary lines
I wanna be the source of joy for a day
Before I leave this world of mine I wanna hear what mercy and grace has to say
Before I leave this world of mine I wanna speak peace across the land
I wanna adopt the quote that Obama wrote and show that “YES WE CAN!”

I wanna break the chains that bind and define
Broaden my horizons and expand my mind
I wanna sing and dance
Give romance a chance
I wanna be the richest person alive yet have no finance
I wanna have a vision and pursue my dreams
Overcome hate and show what love really means
I wanna strike like lightning
I wanna roll like thunder
I wanna rise above the oppression that for so long I have been under
I wanna bridge the gap and make unity possible
I wanna start a movement that becomes unstoppable
I wanna extend my heart and uplift the fallen
I wanna be the solution to the problem when it’s the people that’s calling
I wanna spread my wings because I know that I can fly
And build a golden castle on the moon that’s far beyond the sky

I wanna open a new dimension and travel across time
And all the love that was lost, search through history and find
Then I wanna take my smile and share it with another
And I wanna watch my smile grow into a hundred million thousand others
I wanna live my life boldly from the beginning to the end
Erase all the mistakes and live my life over again
I mean Before I leave this world of mine I wanna direct the fallen snow
Before I leave this world of mine I wanna add the color success to the rainbow
Before I leave this world of mine I want us all to come face to face
And do what we can to devise a plan that will make this world a better place...please.
Before I leave this world of mine

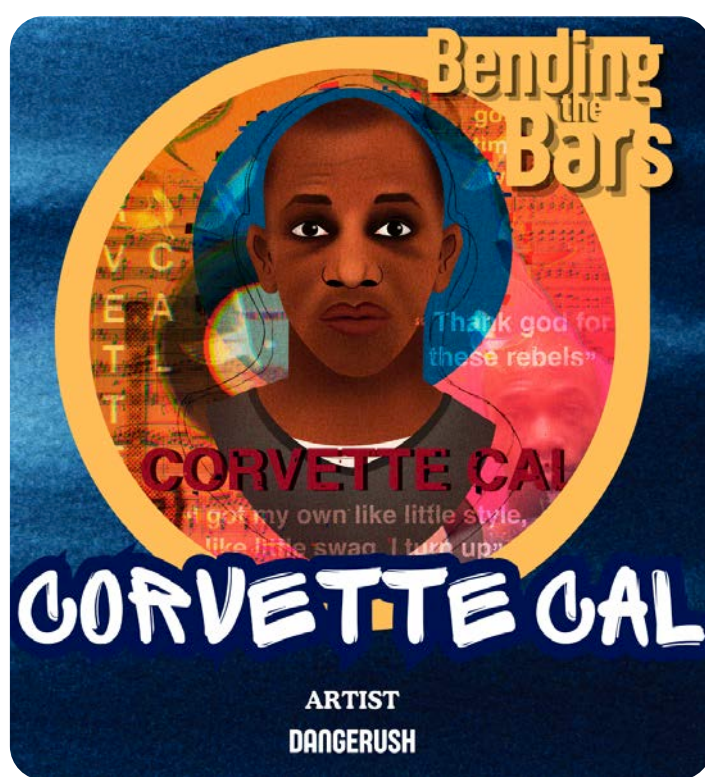
WHAT’S THE SONG ABOUT?

Coming from a deep love for the world and a conviction that we can make this world a better place, BEFORE I LEAVE THIS WORLD OF MINE pairs rhymed couplets with more complex internal rhymes through POETIC PROPHET’s deliberate, determined delivery. Expansively imagining world transformational possibilities, the track showcases the writer’s skill with words, a skill he attributes to powers outside of himself. “A lot of times,” POETIC PROPHET says, “my poems write themselves. It’s not me doing the writing, I’m just doing the listening. And what I hear spiritually, universally, all these things together, whatever I hear, that’s what I write.” Re-envisioning the limitations and oppressions of our current reality, BEFORE I LEAVE THIS WORLD OF MINE invites in listeners who want to build a better world.

MEET THE ARTIST

CORVETTE CAL

Corvette Cal has been making music since the age of twelve, and started to take his craft seriously in 2020, practicing in earnest. Whether in prison or on the streets, he says, people who care about him have been telling him to take music seriously “or they going to kick my ass.” Refusing to be defined by a single genre or style, Cal describes himself as both a singer and an “emo rapper,” exploring emotions through his lyrics. “I’m really not trying to promote violence,” he says. “I feel like there’s enough of that going on in the world already.” From club music to love songs and beyond, Cal sees his power in his versatility: “I got my own like little style, like little swag, I turn up.” Committed to using his art to support himself and his family, Cal is an outspoken, outgoing, self-motivated person who has faced a lot of obstacles in life and yet he perseveres. He’s optimistic about what’s to come, saying “I feel like it gotta be my time to start winning.”



THE SONG

DANGERUSH

dangeRUSH,
she love the feeling she get when she hang round wit us she can feel da RUUSH
life on da edge, she stand at da tip of da world and she just jump off the leeddgge!

Tell me the truth, could you live with a lie or just change with da mood
i f*** with a few, 'hey'
niggas aint s***, loyalty who?
and i give her the game
she soakin it up, i told her da top is a must the main attraction
life is a gamble thats why we live it wit passion
i see it in her eye/she feel da rush, when im between her thighs
i told her slow it down,she feel more pleasure when i stroke it right
gone and hit dis jay let it ease your mind
let it just take you away and im down for the count
im strokin your ego, i'll give you the time dat he wooodnnt!
girl you should've been on ebony, on the face of essence, yeah
your presence is a blessin
i swear dat this gotta be better than heaven
my girl is a beauty
this cannot be good for the stressin
she hotter than devil
i pitch her the fork or da shovel
she whip all my work in a kettle
she bought me her friend now dat be double da trouble
she say i deserve me a medal
thank god for these rebels, yeah
thank god for these rebels, yeah

dangeRUSH,
she love the feeling she get when she hang round wit us she can feel da RUUSH
life on da edge, she stand at da tip of da world and she just jump off the leeddgge!

she lovin the thrill
I'm high as these clouds poppin these pills
pushin' the rental clutchin' da steel
'Buffalo'!!, nigga get stamped for them bills
Bonnie & clyde she ready to ride
dead or alive for the prize, our life is the greatest
Diamonds & jewels foreign vacations
money is power, I'm dancin' with satan
i move like the black liberation
Dangerush
see how we came from nothin
jealousy just cuz i sleep wit da russian
loud after loud I'm deaf for the moment
I'm diggin her deep man I'm lovin' da moanin'
I feel like a tiger no tony
Thank god for my blessings i know I'm anointed, yea
my b***** like "B" man i know dat they 'flawless', yeah
minaj wit two and they barbies regardless,yeah
she lovin' the life cuz we livin' it lawless
'fatal attraction', 'fatal attraction'
Dangerush

dangeRUSH,
she love the feeling she get when she hang round wit us/she can feel da RUUSH
life on da edge, she stand at da tip of da world and she just jump off the leeddgge!

WHAT'S THE SONG ABOUT?

Inspired by women he's known and dedicated to anyone who sees themselves reflected in the track, Corette Cal's dangeRUSH describes the tension between danger and desire that can draw people into relationships that come with risk. Embracing female pleasure and agency, dangeRUSH tells the story of a woman who chooses to be with a man despite—or because of—the dangers of his lifestyle. Sexy and seductive, the track explores the adrenaline rush that accompanies dangerous liaisons and the rewards of these relationships. "She likes the lifestyle that we living," Cal says of the track's central character. "It's dangerous but at the same time it's worth it."

TAKE A MOMENT TO REFLECT

1. How do these songs show the artists' hopes or struggles?
2. How do rap and hip hop let artists express their hopes and dreams?

