

Sample annotations for Genius.com



The Dream Shatterer
Big Pun

[Produced by Domingo]

Genius Annotation 1 contributor

Domingo samples multiple elements from Sugarcane Harris' "Funk and Wagner," as seen on [this video](#) uploaded on the producer's YouTube channel.

Domingo uses the "Funk and Wagner" musical quotation from Richard Wagner's "Ride of the Valkyries" on 0:50 as the song's main loop, and uses the violin riff at 3:49 to introduce the song, as well as alternating it between the main loop.

The track is flourished with a classic driving boom bap style drums to accompany Big Pun's energetic flow.



Stranger in Moscow

Michael Jackson

KGB was dogging me

Genius Annotation 1 contributor

The Komitet gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti (translated in English as “Committee for State Security”), or more commonly known by its initials KGB, was the Soviet Union’s main security agency from its formation in 1954 until 1991, when the Soviet Union was dissolved.

The agency became notorious for its suppression of internal dissent, hunting down dissidents and prominent personalities who spread anti-communist political and religious ideas as it guarded the leadership of the Communist Party of Soviet Union’s Central Committee, as well as the Soviet government.

Keeping in tune with the song’s Russian theme, Michael Jackson uses the KGB as a metaphor for the US media who, during the accusations of child sexual abuse against Jackson in 1993, painted Jackson as a guilty pedophile, despite a lack of evidence supporting the claim.



Rebel Without a Pause

Public Enemy

[Chorus]

Terminator X, Terminator X

Terminator X, Terminator

Genius Annotation 2 contributors

Inspired by DJ Jazzy Jeff, DJ Terminator X performs the Transformers scratch on the Chubb Rock record, "Rock 'N Roll Dude."

Terminator X narrates in an interview with WHO?MAG.net how the scratching came to place.

“ Hank Shocklee gave me the track to come up with some scratches if I remember correctly. I was going through a bunch of records looking for something good to scratch as you would look for a good sample. I got to the record "Rock and Roll Dude" by Chubb Rock and started playing around with it. I remember saying to myself, "yo, that sounds kinda like I'm playing a guitar!" I said, "This is it! This is it!" I went into the studio and started doing the scratch. Chuck D and Hank Shocklee had a puzzled look on their faces like... wtf is that? Chuck absolutely hated it. Hank said, I think I get it. Hank took the low-end frequencies out of it so you could just hear the guitar and then he loved it. Chuck still hated it. If Hank hadn't stuck up for me, it would have never seen the light of day. It ended up being my most famous moment on wax.



I Shot Ya (Remix)

LL Cool J

[Produced by Trackmasters]

Genius Annotation [1 contributor](#)

The remix uses the same sample as the original "I Shot Ya," with the Trackmasters sampling the opening part of Lyn Collins' "Put It On The Line."

The Trackmasters utilized a technique called "chopping," where, in this particular track, they cut the opening part of the original sample into two segments, with the first part playing the strings and piano part, while the second part plays the remainder of the strings.

From there, the Trackmasters constructed a beat that's approximately two bars long by playing the first sample, then filling the rest of the beat by looping the second segment of the sample, before playing the first segment again to reintroduce the two bar beat.

There are two versions of this remix. There's the album version, which has all the verses untouched, then there's the clean version, which cuts several bars from the verses of Keith Murray, Prodigy, and Fat Joe. The clean version is the one used for the track's music video.



Last Wordz

2Pac

Dan Quayle, don't you know you need your ass kicked?

Where was you when there was niggas in the caskets?

Genius Annotation [1 contributor](#)

These two lines are 2Pac's musical response to former U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, who criticized 2Pac's previous album, "*2Pacalypse Now*," after Ronald Ray Howard murdered Bill Davidson, a Texan state trooper, after the former was apprehended due to a broken headlight, with Howard's defense attorney claiming that Howard was influenced by "*2Pacalypse Now*"'s themes railing against police brutality.

This prompted a public statement from Quayle, saying that, "There's no reason for a record like this to be released. It has no place in our society," with the former vice president likening 2Pac's debut album to Ice-T's controversial song, "Cop Killer."

Responding to the criticism, 2Pac threatens Quayle with physical violence, as well as asking the latter about having the same enthusiastic response regarding crimes against Black people, as Quayle did when he criticized 2Pac's music after the murder of Texan state trooper Bill Davidson.



The APL Song

Black Eyed Peas

[Produced by will.i.am]

Genius Annotation [1 contributor](#)

The song's main harmonies, as well as the hook, features an interpolation of a song titled "Balita," a Filipino word for news, by the 70's era Filipino band Asin, a group known for its socially conscious lyrics that rose to fame during the Philippines' martial law era.

The original sample is a classic storytelling song which tells a tale of a war-ravaged community in Mindanao, an island in the Philippine archipelago, which has suffered from war stemming from a rebellion waged by Islamic separatists, a problem that persists to this day from the time the song was composed; a fitting sample for Apl.de.ap's storytelling track about his home country.



Professor Griff

Professor Griff

Genius Annotation 2 contributors

Professor Griff (real name Richard Griffin) is a rapper, producer, DJ, author, and spoken word artist known for being a member of the group Public Enemy. As the group's former "Minister of Information," he researched topics for Public Enemy frontman Chuck D to write about. He also served as the group's road manager.

Griff had a brush with infamy in 1989 when, in an interview with journalist David Mills of the Washington Post, he allegedly made the anti-Semitic statement, "Jews are responsible for the majority of the wickedness in the world." His statement caused "one of the massive shitstorms in rap, ever," and he was subsequently fired from Public Enemy.

Professor Griff eventually returned to Public Enemy in 1998, and has since provided the occasional guest verse and supervised the group's albums as an executive producer.



Hip Hop
LL Cool J

Dapper Dan,

Genius Annotation 1 contributor

Known as “Hip Hop’s fashion godfather,” Dapper Dan, whose real name is Daniel Day, is a haberdasher based in Harlem, New York, who is best known in the 1980’s for running a boutique shop on 125th Street that fashioned clothing and upholstery based on imported Korean prints of well-known brands such as Gucci, Fendi, and Louis Vuitton.

He made outfits for hip-hop artists such as Run-DMC, LL Cool J, Salt-n-Pepa, Fat Boys, Big Daddy Kane, KRS-One, Eric B. and Rakim, and even non-hip-hop personalities such as drug kingpin Alberto Martinez and star boxer Mike Tyson.

Dapper Dan maintains a blog and is on Twitter as @DapperDanHarlem



Truce Music

Paris (Rap)

Like the Crips and Bloods in nine deuce

Genius Annotation 2 contributors

Paris refers to the 1992 Watts truce that took effect between rival sets of the Bloods and Crips in the projects of Grape Street, PJ Watts, Bounty Hunter, and Hacienda Village.

Modeled after the 1949 ceasefire agreement between Israel and Egypt, the truce was brokered by activist Aqeela Sherrills and NFL star Jim Brown. Taking their cue from Watts, other Black and Latino gangs followed suit and forged their own truces.

According to Sherrills, gang homicides dropped 44 percent in the first two years of the truce, which caused the dismantling of the local C.R.A.S.H. (Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums) unit.

The truce held on for ten years before fading away.