

Lost in isolation

by Aaron

Escaping through books
Like Harriett Tubbman
On the Underground railway through life
When everyone's on the roads
Cooking up fights
Bradley stays in
Full-filling his mind

At school Roald Dahl
Was his style
But unlike Danny
He wasn't the champion of his world
Love shared unequally at home
That's why when Bradley hits the road
He's always on his own

At home his voice is muted
Starting fires is his only source of communication
Bradley tries to reach out
But his mum can't see the wood from the trees
So Bradley lights urban bush fires
Sending s.o.s. signals for her to see
Mentally writing listen to me
In thick black smoke lost to the sky

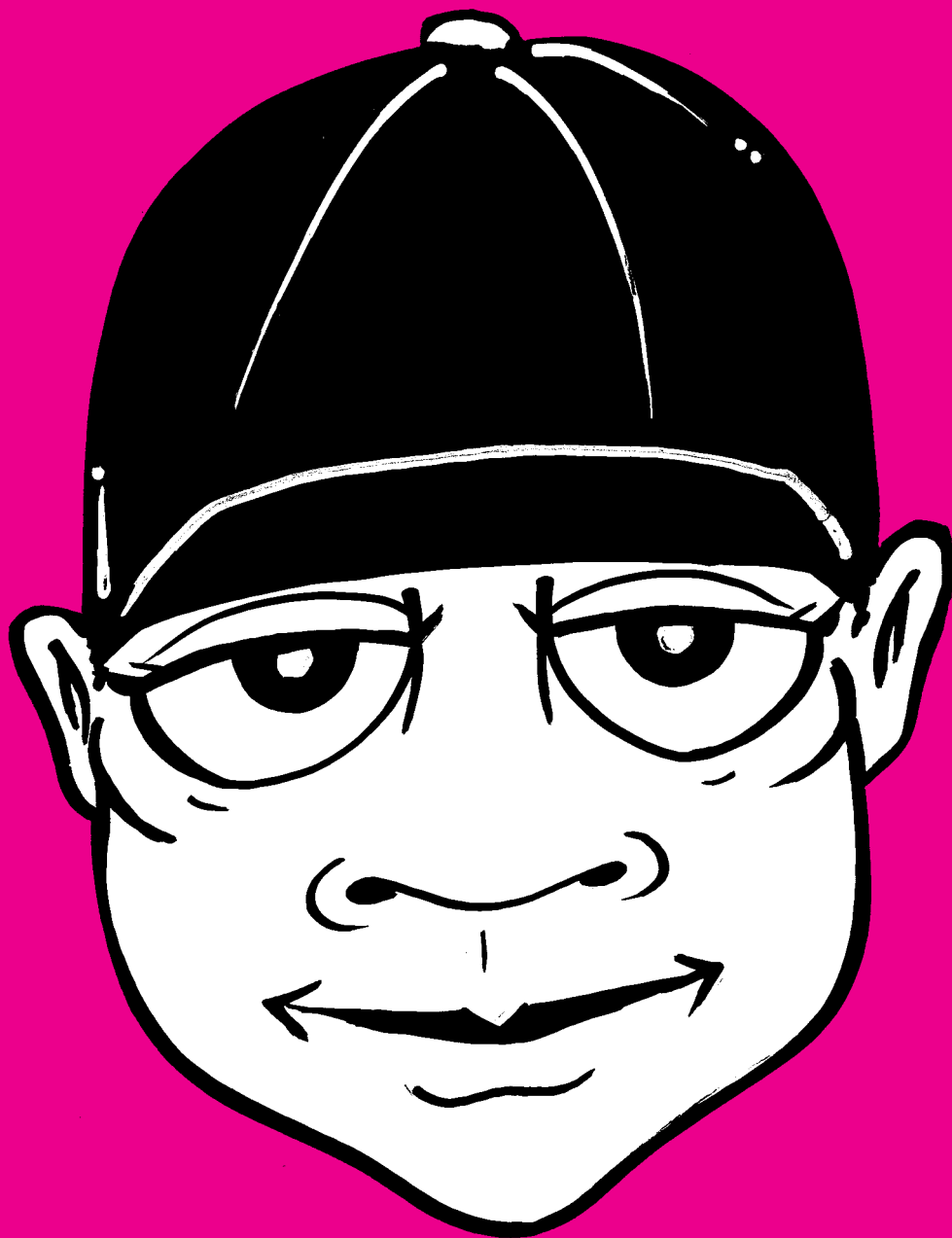
Lack of trust got Bradley
Depending on no man
Just himself
As a yout
His emotions locked away
Like a cookie jar on the top shelf

When dad was around everything was Bless!
Then mum's knight in dusty armour
Strides in on his horse of stress!

Through many conversations
It becomes clear
His heart's made of stone
Righteousness don't live here

Bob Marley's lyrics
Circulate in his head
'No man is an island'
So he searches for information
About his nation
In the books that he reads
Locked in a library cell
Planning the blueprint of life
Bradley Argos,
He's got a story to tell...

BENEATH
THE
HOOD



I just want to be 15 by Bilikis

In this jungle
I'm a lioness
Holding my ground
To let the predators know
I don't mess around

What ingredients do I bring
To this recipe?
Do I sometimes
Add fuel to the flame?
Who and what
Should carry the weight of the blame?

Being blessed with
A silver tongue
A gift from my mum
All beef gets beat down
Like the skin of a drum

When the boys throw
Verbal grenades
I diffuse them quickly
I never get phased

I like to reason
Mainly with the guys
More time
Girls can be full of red eyes
And twisted lies

I live by my motto
'Only the fittest will survive'
So my mind gets sharpened daily
So I'll remain the queen of this hive

Look beyond this hairstyle
Look beyond these Nike shoes
And you'll see a young woman

I don't want to hurt nobody,
Sometimes cruel words come out of my mouth
But deep inside
There's a child screaming to get out
Most girls want to be just like me
But when they're in the cage they wanna be free

I see no need
To bare my flesh
In the name of music, fashion or dress

I'm tired of carrying the weight of stress
Waking up everyday thinking who do I have
to impress?

I just want to be 15
Who doesn't know the truth of this world?
I now understand the words ma used to say
"Truth is Bitter and Lies are Sweet"
When you face your fears
Never accept defeat

BENEATH
THE
HOOD



Dear Father by Luke

Chorus

My Father
One of a kind
Without your leadership
I'll go blind

You left me with no explanation
Walked straight through the door
I was five years old
Mum couldn't take no more

They said I was too young
But I still knew the score
I used to see Mum lying down
Crying on the floor

Chorus

Families need their Fathers
Like flowers need water
You were the bricks
And we were the mortar

Sometimes when I laugh
Your voice occupies the space
Sometime when I look in the mirror
I see your face

Chorus

I try my best
To do the right thing
But sometimes the glitz and the glamour
Can be so overwhelming

A voice in my head says
You don't need no dad
Me and Mum's doing just fine
But then it changes
Without your guidance I'll go blind

I want to tell you
About the books I read
You see, one day I going to be a teacher
I want to ask you about
Girls and sex
Up to now the streets have been my preacher

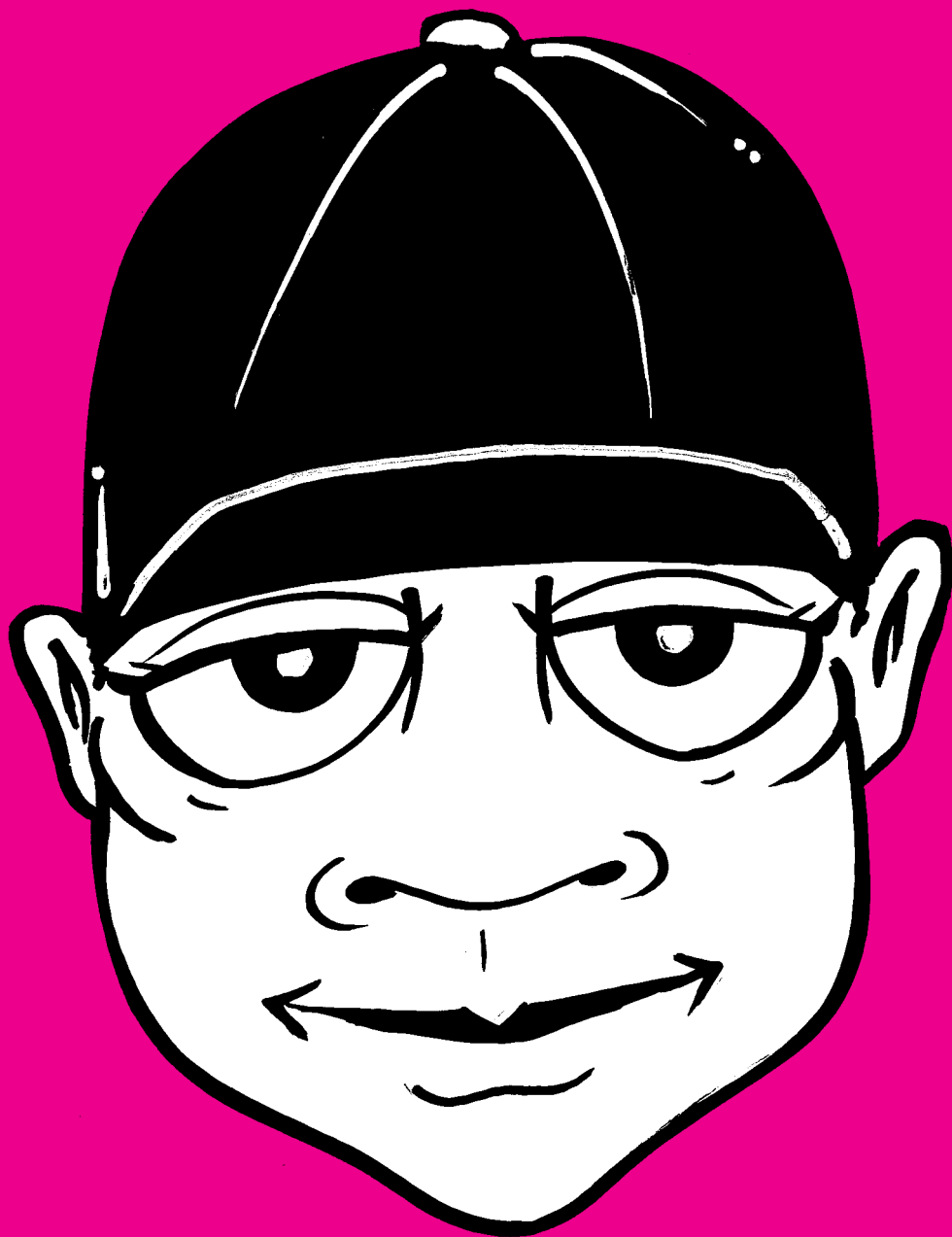
Chorus

"If you play with puppy
One day dawg gonna lick ya mout"
Those were the words you said
When the pack calls
I rewind your voice
Like a TDK tape in my head
I walk away from the drama
Cos I can see the end
When a dog calls your name
Don't be fooled for a friend

The storm is settling now
I can see my face
Your distant sunshine, lights my days
You're my dad no one can take your place

Your forever
Bradley Argos,
Your Son

BENEATH
THE
HOOD



Thrown in this place by Vanessa

Part one

Chorus

Thrown in this place
And it feels so wrong
But now I have to accept
Dis is where I belong

(Repeat)

Walked in the school for the very first day
The sight of my race nearly took my
breath away
The fact that most of the faces were black
Is this generation really being held back?

Gain my respect by my lyrical beat
Don't mess with me, cos you really will
get defeat
Speak my mind all the time
What comes out my mouth, it ain't
always kind

I'm not scared of being thrown
In this place
Dat's how life is
It slaps you in the face

Chorus x 2

Part two

One boy caught my eye
It wasn't his looks it was his inner side

So I step to him
'Why you so quiet?'
Shrugging his shoulder
He threw a glance of innocence at me
'What's wrong with you?'
'Can't you hear me?'

'Only when the river's still
You truly see my face'
He said,
Without lifting his eyes
Dam this boy's so wise
That speech took me by surprise

For the first time some one took
My words away
And there was nothing
I could really say

Chorus x 4

Part three

Weighed down by grey skies
Bradley came around

Who put out your fuse?
'Still waters run deep'
I said
Without lifting my head

Opened his mouth like he had something
to say
But just smiled and walked away

Part four

Burning desire to research
What he had said
I landed on the library
Like a hawk
Hungry for information
Eager to be fed

Only when the river's still
Rotatin' like a merry go round
In the back of my head

This place is so massive
I don't know where to look
Knowledge chokes me
Drowning in a sea of books

Where can I find...
A boy in a black hood turns around
Wait a minute
I recognise that frown
What brings you here?

He shuffles and looks down
You look kina cosy cotlin' in your chair
Wot's this? Black History everywhere!
Finally, he turns and looks me in the eye

'This is my place, home
The clear blue sky
These books are my pulse
These words are my blood
This is where you'll find me
If you want to understand me'

That boy sure surprised me
I learnt something that day
Never dismiss the quiet ones
Coz they can lead the way

**BENEATH
THE
HOOD**



Bat in a cave by Ryan

Because knowledge is the thing that we need
So the books that I read will help me to succeed
Compare to any of my friends
I'm in a real different league
In a complete different league

I read a book everyday as I'm jammin' in my yard
That's the point where my eyes get glued to the words
I never realised how many things occurred
But now it's time for the story to be heard

When I'm locked in my room I'm like a bat in a cave
And as I'm ready what happened yeah,
I'm building up my rage
So when I'm boppin' on street
Nobody can up stage
But I don't think I'm a mug
Just coz of my age

And if my boyz discovered this
Dat's my name off the street list
And oh boy, yeah them thugged out days would be missed
That's a real long life, black cloud of mist
So are you getting' my gist?
So are you getting' my gist?

Chorus

Somebody help me please
Somebody help me please

But I'll keep up reading, 'til I stop myself breathin'
Find out why our dark coloured people had to pay the price
They changed a lot YES that's why I still pray at night

When the war comes to me I'm prepared for the fight
Malcolm X fought for justice
And he didn't think twice
A many like him stood up
Like men and not mice
Because they enjoyed their life
And they didn't think twice
And they all stuck together like bees in the hive

So when I'm in the library
That's the time I have for myself
Coz from the age of twelve
I've been developing my inner wealth
Because knowledge ain't a thing you can just take off a shelf
And I'm still proud to say dat I'm still a bit stealth

So, when I'm in the library and my friend can't find me
So they're always trying to bell me

Telling me they could supply me
With the sticky purple haze
To blast their gaze
But they don't understand dat we're going through a phase

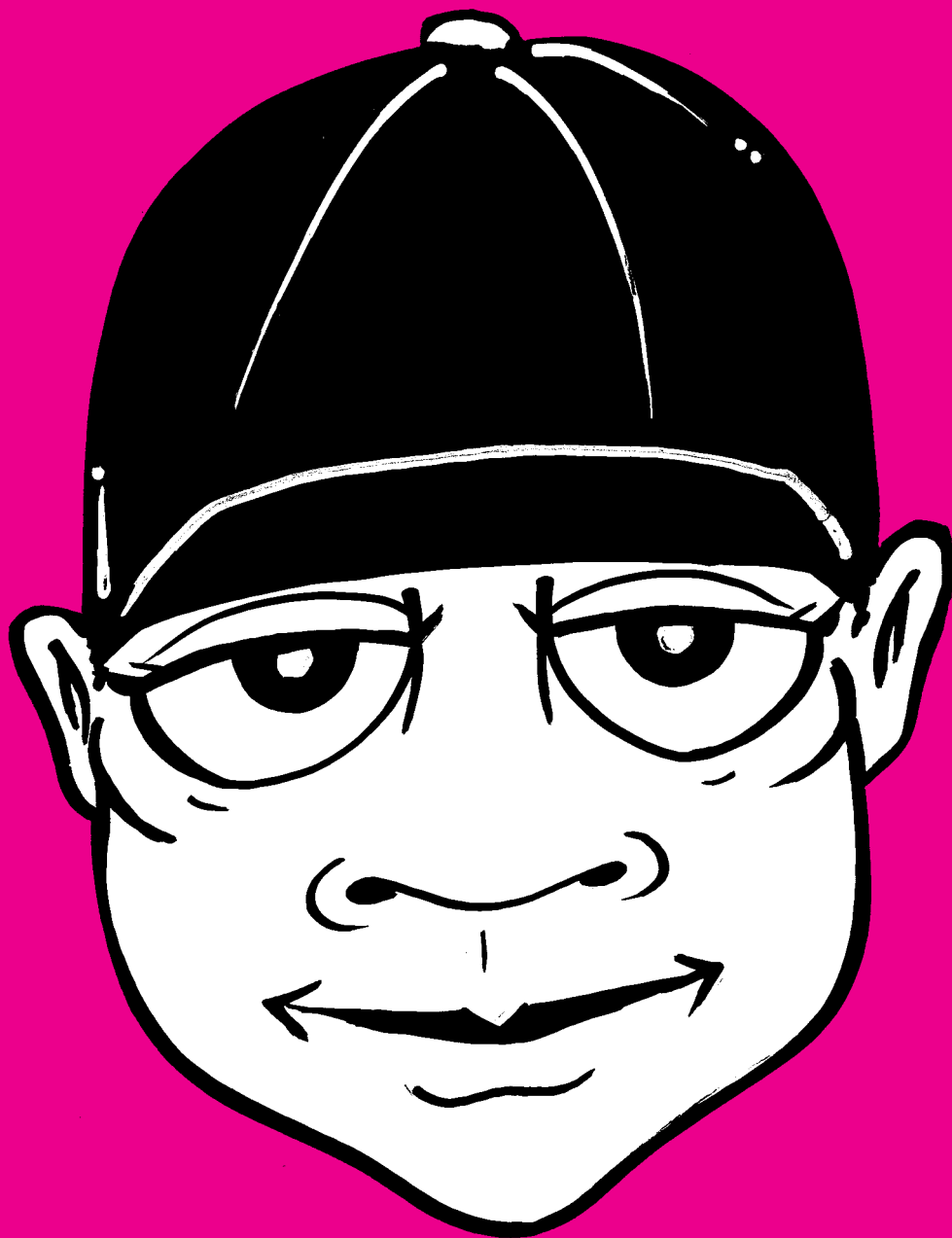
Chorus

In the middle of the maze
It's kinda like a riddle
And it ain't all that simple in the box jail cell
Judges turning down your bail
In the square box of hell
When you're curled in da corner
Like you was a shell
Your mum screaming for forgiveness
Police saying it's not their business

'R U claiming you're a "G"?'

Nah, Rude bwoy dat's not me
I'm Bradley Argos
Smart, keep my ideas in my brain
Coz I don't want my Mum'sy going trough that pain
That would be a shame
And too much stress to maintain
Being in trouble with the law,
No dat ain't no dam gain
Twenty-three hour bang-up
No dat ain't no dam gain
My hair on, cell don't shut
No dat ain't no dam gain
And plus, I don't need the palaver!
Me myself would love to rather
At home on my own, sippin' on my cider
Thinkin' of my father, see what I can remember

BENEATH
THE
HOOD



Wot you gonna do in da future? by Merlin

Chorus

Argos, wot you gonna do in da future
Set up a youth club or be a teacher
Argos, wot you gonna do in da future
Dunno, maybe a top rap star

(Repeat)

Kno me, Bradley Argos
Look in to da future, now look in to da past
Bad man dat will ever last
Sharp tongue dat will give you bad cuss
Who's dat, wot's dat girl Chantel?
Lonely house, and she rang da bell
Door answer, and she got dazed
Words shot out 'n' dat's my ways
True, say dat girl took me out of da cave
Hard words she used to persuade
In mainstream Argos got top grades
Street manz all face look dazed
Bad boy, now look I'm seckled
LRC Uni got me big P's
Skoolz 'n' clubs I own dese

Chorus

Listen, I got a brain like computer
Bradley Argos a top teacher
Helping youngsters to reach future
Anyhow, so I set up a youth centre
Listen, u bes recognise
If u get top grades u get top prize
I ain't gonna drop da mic
Keep teaching 'til you get it rite
The Bradley Argos skool
Bes new 'n' improved
Come in bronze and get turned gold
Get wise before u turn bold
Left da past, now live in da future
Took tings serious so I'm not a failure
Teacher, rap star, club owner
Done da best u could do better

Chorus

BENEATH
THE
HOOD

