

Donald McKinley Glover Jr. (born September 25, 1983), also known by his stage name **Childish Gambino**, is an American actor, rapper, singer, writer, comedian, director, and producer. With *This Is America*, released in 2018, Glover had a No 1 hit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYOjWnS4cMY>

The song features a gospel-style choir and background contributions from various American rappers. Young Thug, Slim Jxmmi, BlocBoy JB, 21 Savage and Quavo each deliver an ad-lib. The lyrics primarily address black culture in the United States and gun violence in the country. It also touches on the subject of police brutality and misconduct.

In the song, Glover sometimes dances like Jim Crow, a racist theatre stereotype developed by the white actor [Thomas D. Rice](#) before the American Civil War. Rice wore "blackface" and gave a "minstrel" act. The term "[Jim Crow laws](#)" was later used to mean segregation laws in the US south, after defeat in the Civil War. (From Wikipedia)



Thomas Dartmouth Rice as "Jim Crow" (1836).

<p>Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah Yeah, yeah, yeah, go, go away...</p> <p>We just wanna party Party just for you We just want the money Money just for you I know you wanna party (yeah) Party just for free Girl, you got me dancin' (girl, you got me dancin') Dance and shake the frame We just wanna party (yeah) Party just for you (yeah) We just want the money (yeah) Money just for you (ooh) I know you wanna party (yeah) Party just for free (yeah) Girl, you got me dancin' (girl, you got me dancin') Dance and shake the frame (ooh)</p> <p>(Twice) This is America Don't catch you slippin' now [don't make a mistake] Look what I'm whippin' now [watch what I am doing]</p> <p>This is America (skrrt, skrrt, woo) Don't catch you slippin' now (ayy) Look at how I'm livin' now Police be trippin' now (woo) [making missteps, mistakes] Yeah, this is America (woo, ayy) Guns in my area (word, my area) I got the strap (ayy, ayy) [got a gun] I gotta carry 'em Yeah, yeah, I'ma go into this (ugh) Yeah, yeah, this is guerilla, woo Yeah, yeah, I'ma go get the bag [death, a body bag] Yeah, yeah, or I'ma get the pad [drugs] Yeah, yeah, I'm so cold like yeah (yeah) I'm so dope like yeah (woo) [drugs] We gon' blow like yeah (straight up, uh)</p> <p>Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody You go tell somebody Grandma told me Get your money, black man (get your money)... Black man</p>	<p>This is America (woo, ayy) Don't catch you slippin' now (woo, woo, don't catch you slippin', now) Don't catch you slippin' now (ayy, woah) Look what I'm whippin' now (Slime!) This is America (yeah, yeah) ... Look how I'm geekin' out (hey) [being a geek] I'm so fitted (I'm so fitted, woo) I'm on Gucci (I'm on Gucci) I'm so pretty (yeah, yeah) I'm gon' get it (ayy, I'm gon' get it) Watch me move (blaow) This a celly (ha) [cellphone, cellblock] That's a tool (yeah) [here a gun] On my Kodak (woo, Black) Ooh, know that (yeah, know that, hold on) Get it (get it, get it) Ooh, work it (21) (hunnid bands, a hundred x 100) Hunnid bands, hunnid bands, hunnid bands (hunnid bands) Contraband, contraband, contraband (contraband) I got the plug on Oaxaca (woah) They gonna find you like blocka (blaow) Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody (America, I just checked my following list and) You go tell somebody (You mothafuckas owe me) Grandma told me Get your money, black man (black man) ... Black man (one, two, three, get down) Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh, tell somebody You go tell somebody Grandma told me, "Get your money, " black man Get your money, black man (black man)... Black man You just a black man in this world You just a barcode, ayy You just a black man in this world Drivin' expensive foreigns, ayy [foreign cars] You just a big dawg, yeah [dog] I kenned him in the backyard [cage for dogs] No proper life to a dog For a big dog</p>
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For more information see: Ben Beaumont-Thomas, "[This is America: theories behind Childish Gambino's satirical masterpiece](#)", *The Guardian*, 9 May, 2018; and Quora, "[In Childish Gambino's 'This is America', what do these lines mean: 'I'ma go get the bag'](#)"...