

Part 1: The Rise

INTRODUCTION: A Troll Who Knows How to Rap

000: “His new album *TattleTales* debuted at number 4 on the Billboard 200 album chart”: Wikipedia, ‘TattleTales (album).’ “*TattleTales* debuted at number four on the US *Billboard* 200 with 53,000 album-equivalent units in its first week.”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TattleTales_\(album\)#Commercial_performance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TattleTales_(album)#Commercial_performance)

000: “‘I’m ten for ten on the Billboard’” was his tagline”: “6ix9ine Celebrates ‘Stoopid’ Going 10 For 10 On Billboard While Heading To Court,” by Aron A., Hot New Hip Hop, Oct. 16, 2018. “‘We 10 for 10 on the Billboard. All that “this ain’t it, chief” shit. Knock it off!’ he said.”

<https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/6ix9ine-celebrates-stoopid-going-10-for-10-on-billboard-while-heading-to-court-news.62336.html>

000: “his first ten singles all made the Hot 100 singles chart”: “6ix9ine Celebrates ‘Stoopid’ Going 10 For 10 On Billboard While Heading To Court,” by Aron A., Hot New Hip Hop, Oct. 16, 2018. “Tekashi 6ix9ine is officially 10 for 10 on the Billboard Hot 100.”

<https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/6ix9ine-celebrates-stoopid-going-10-for-10-on-billboard-while-heading-to-court-news.62336.html>

000: “He was adamant that his previous album *Dummy Boy*...insiders.” Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 593. “Q: You had an album come out after you were locked up on these charges, right? A. Correct. Q. That was Dummy Boy? A. Correct. Q. And that album hit No. 2, right, on the Billboard? A. Actually No. 1, but they cheated me.”

000: “selling far less than projected”: “Sales Projections For 6ix9ine’s ‘TattleTales’ Album Increase In Final Days Of Tracking Week,” by Yohance Kyles, AllHipHop, Sept. 10, 2020. “The projected sales numbers associated with Tekashi 6ix9ine’s sophomore album continue to fluctuate wildly. At first, industry insiders predicted TattleTales would move around 150,000 units in its first week of release. HitsDailyDouble later lessened the projection to 40,000-50,000 first-week units before eventually suggesting the project would only pull in 35,000-45,000 units.”

[https://allhiphop.com/news/sales-projections-for-6ix9ines-tattletales-album-increase-in-final-days-of-tracking-week/#:~:text=\(AllHipHop%20News\)%20The%20projected%20sales,its%20first%20week%20of%20release.&text=Now%20the%20music%20trade%20website,opening%20with%2055%2C000%2D65%2C000%20units.](https://allhiphop.com/news/sales-projections-for-6ix9ines-tattletales-album-increase-in-final-days-of-tracking-week/#:~:text=(AllHipHop%20News)%20The%20projected%20sales,its%20first%20week%20of%20release.&text=Now%20the%20music%20trade%20website,opening%20with%2055%2C000%2D65%2C000%20units.)

000: “In article after article, terms like ‘disappointing’ and ‘underwhelming’ were used”: Brandon Caldwell, “BILLBOARD REPORTS TEKASHI 6IX9INE’S ‘TATTLETALES’ BUNDLES WERE COUNTED IN DISAPPOINTING DEBUT,” HipHopDX, Sept. 13, 2020.

<https://hiphopdx.com/news/id.57864/title.billboard-reports-tekashi-6ix9ines-tattletales-bundles-were-counted-in-disappointing-debut> and Geoff Mayfield, “Despite the Noise, 6ix9ine’s ‘TattleTales’ Album Headed for Underwhelming Chart Debut,” *Variety*, Sept. 9, 2020. <https://variety.com/2020/music/news/6ix9ine-tattletales-album-chart-1234764417/>

000: “The artist videotaped himself in Williamsburg, Brooklyn glumly handing out burned CD copies of the project to anyone who would take it”: “Tekashi handing out his album TattleTales,” YouTube, posted Sept. 11, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8xLRACOr_U

000: “And, soundtracked by the Five Stairsteps’ “O-o-h Child” (“Ooh child, things are gonna get easier”), he walked up to a wall with his own wheatpasted posters and began tearing them down.” “TEKASHI 6IX9INE TEARS DOWN HIS POSTERS AND GIVES TATTLE TALES OUT FOR FREE,” YouTube, posted Sept. 11, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6E218sjxucA>

000: “his tens of millions of followers”: <https://www.instagram.com/6ix9ine/> has 23.4 million followers as of Apr. 17, 2021.

000: “Three years before that day”: Author interview with Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019. “It was September 10 we did it.” (w/r/t the “Gummo” video).

000: “just two and a half miles due south”: Distance between the site of the *TattleTales* Instagram Live video to the location of the “Gummo” house is 2.6 miles on foot: <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Bedford+Avenue+Station,+Freedom%238573311~!%23+New+York+US,+Brooklyn,+NY+11211/360+Madison+St,+Brooklyn,+NY+11221/@40.7015722,-73.9681358,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x89c2595dc428a4e5:0xe70780996065b18e!2m2!1d-73.9575171!2d40.7177978!1m5!1m1!1s0x89c25b8c2737ca6b:0x7421471c35607aa2!2m2!1d-73.9437317!2d40.6853493!3e2>

000: “‘I think I’m just a troll who knows how to rap,’ Hernandez once told the legendary New York radio personality Angie Martinez”: The Angie Martinez Show, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Opens Up About Getting Kidnapped And Robbed In His Most Personal Interview Yet,” July 27, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3TIOW_e1NM 1:20:47

Chapter 1: The Story of Danny

000: “It’s a one-block stretch...apartments”: Street view photo of Locust Street, Brooklyn, beginning at Tekashi’s old apartment: https://www.google.com/maps/place/18+Locust+St,+Brooklyn,+NY+11206/@40.6991644,-73.9376176,3a,75y,144.3h,90t/data=!3m7!1e1!3m5!1s9llijHBsUFcMHclOaeu9w!2e0!6shhttps:%2F%2Fstreetviewpixels-pa.googleapis.com%2Fv1%2Fthumbnail%3Fpanoid%3D9llijHBsUFcMHclOaeu9w%26cb_client%3Dsearch.gws-prod.gps%26w%3D86%26h%3D86%26yaw%3D144.29553%26pitch%3D0%26thumbfov%3D100!7i16384!8i8192!4m5!3m4!1s0x89c25bf78b3b24a1:0x919f6de083248417!8m2!3d40.6989975!4d-73.9374703

000: "was born in May 1996": Wikipedia, "6ix9ine." "Daniel Hernandez (born May 8, 1996), known professionally as Tekashi69 or 6ix9ine" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6ix9ine>

000: "just eight years after his mother Natividad moved to the U.S.": Letter from Natividad Perez-Hernandez to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 9, 2019 (Document 388-2). "I came to this country in 1988 seeking a better life and opportunity. Daniel was born in 1996."

000: "from Mexico": Wikipedia, "6ix9ine." "Daniel Hernandez was born...to a mother from Atlixco, Mexico." Wikipedia, "6ix9ine" <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/6ix9ine>

000: "She grabbed any job she could: factory work, cleaning houses." Letter from Natividad Perez-Hernandez to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 9, 2019 (Document 388-2). "I worked in factories, cleaning houses and anything I could"

000: "Danny's namesake father was Puerto Rican, from Pueblo": Tidal, "Coca Vision: 6IX9INE," Uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 13, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56hkwVk9I8w> 1:35, "My mom Mexican, my dad Puerto Rican."

000: "He was doting": ITS AGTV, "Tekashi69's Biological Father Speaks on Why He Wasn't Involved in His Son's Life," Uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 21, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAAZIABXYHQ> 5:12

000: "the latter of which he claims got him locked up for five years": ITS AGTV, "Tekashi69's Biological Father Speaks on Why He Wasn't Involved in His Son's Life," Uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 21, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAAZIABXYHQ> 7:22

000: "He abandoned the family when Danny was an infant, and came back nine years later only to get kicked out of the house for using heroin. That was the last time young Danny would see his father for nearly a decade and a half": Transcript of sentencing hearing for Daniel Hernandez, Dec. 18, 2019. p. 40-1 "Daniel never meets his biological father until he is nine years of age. And when he does come, his biological father, after a couple of months of being with the family, the mother catches him in the bathroom or somewhere in the apartment doing heroin, and she throws him out of the house. She basically says, you can't be doing this in front of your sons that you have not seen his whole life. That's the last time Daniel Hernandez ever sees his biological father."

000: "For a period, Natividad even told his sons that their father was dead": ITS AGTV, "Tekashi69's Biological Father Speaks on Why He Wasn't Involved in His Son's Life," Uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 21, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAAZIABXYHQ> 4:44

000: "Natividad got involved with Luis Nazario": Showtime, "Supervillain: The Making of Tekashi 6ix9ine" Episode 1, 10:00

000: "According to Daniel Sr.,...family": ITS AGTV, "Tekashi69's Biological Father Speaks on Why He Wasn't Involved in His Son's Life," Uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 21, 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAAZIABXYHQ> 6:31

0:00: "Luis coached Danny's baseball team": Showtime, "Supervillain: The Making of Tekashi 6ix9ine" Episode 1, 10:08

0:00: "Natividad later wrote, 'the backbone and biggest support to our family.'": Letter from Natividad Perez-Hernandez to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 9, 2019, (Document 388-2).

0:00: "One day in 2010, when Danny was in the eighth grade, Luis asked Danny to go to the store with him": Stephen Witt, Rolling Stone, "Tekashi 6ix9ine: The Rise and Fall of a Hip-Hop Supervillain," "In early 2010, when Danny was 13, his adoptive father was shot and killed outside their apartment, on a busy street, in the middle of the day. He'd taken a trip to the grocery store and invited Danny along, but Danny decided to stay home... Not long after [his father's murder], Danny began acting out, and was expelled from the eighth grade."

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/tekashi-69-rise-and-fall-feature-777971/>

000: "no one was ever convicted": Stephen Witt, *Rolling Stone*, "Tekashi 6ix9ine: The Rise and Fall of a Hip-Hop Supervillain," Jan. 16, 2019. "The crime was never solved."

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/tekashi-69-rise-and-fall-feature-777971/>

000: "Luis got into an argument with someone. He was struck, fell down, went into a coma, and ended up dying. Danny found him not long after the incident, laying on the sidewalk": Transcript of sentencing hearing for Daniel Hernandez, Dec. 18, 2019. p. 41-2. "It turns out he was murdered on the streets of Brooklyn. Somebody struck him over the head. He went into a coma for 30 days or 60 days, and he ends up dying."

000: "He spiraled into depression and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress": Transcript of Daniel Hernandez guilty plea, Jan. 23, 2019. p. 8. "THE COURT: And briefly, what was the nature of the ailment in question? THE DEFENDANT: It was depression and posttraumatic stress for the murder of my father -- stepfather."

000: "He stopped showering": Transcript of Daniel Hernandez guilty plea, Jan. 23, 2019. p. 9. "around 2011/2012, I started becoming just rebelling and not showering, like depression stuff."

000: "grew his hair long": Letter from Natividad Perez-Hernandez to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 9, 2019, (Document 388-2). "...grew his unkempt hair very long"

000: "ingested almost nothing except Mike and Ikes and water": The Angie Martinez Show, "Tekashi 6ix9ine Opens Up About Getting Kidnapped And Robbed In His Most Personal Interview Yet," July 27, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3TIOW_e1NM 4:53

000: “He stopped going to school”: Stephen Witt, *Rolling Stone*, “Tekashi 6ix9ine: The Rise and Fall of a Hip-Hop Supervillain,” Jan. 16, 2019. “Not long after [his father’s murder], Danny began acting out, and was expelled from the eighth grade.” <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/tekashi-69-rise-and-fall-feature-777971/>

000: “He was prescribed Zoloft but Natividad, intent on homemade remedies and healers, never made him take it”: Transcript of Daniel Hernandez guilty plea, Jan. 23, 2019. p. 9. “THE DEFENDANT: They gave me Zoloft, other medication, but I never took it. My mom used, like, Mexican remedies.”

000: ““My jobs were not enough to sustain us...another one”: Letter from Natividad Perez-Hernandez to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 9, 2019, (Document 388-2).

000: “helping the people around him...to be a villain” “6ix9ine - 2017 Interview with Mass Appeal - Reupload” accessed via YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoJu-KC3UF8> 7:06

000: “In 2011”: Michael Daly, *The Daily Beast*. “Tekashi69’s Ex-Girlfriend Sara Molina: He Beat Me So Badly ‘I Could Barely Open My Eyes’.” Feb. 6, 2019. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/tekashi69s-ex-girlfriend-sara-molina-i-gave-him-my-heart-he-gave-me-beatings> “They had met through mutual friends in 2011”

000: “in Bushwick...a couple”: Showtime, “Supervillain: The Making of Tekashi 6ix9ine” Episode 1, 4:14

000: “save for one horrific 2018 event in Dubai”: Michael Daly, *The Daily Beast*. “Tekashi69’s Ex-Girlfriend Sara Molina: He Beat Me So Badly ‘I Could Barely Open My Eyes’.” Feb. 6, 2019. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/tekashi69s-ex-girlfriend-sara-molina-i-gave-him-my-heart-he-gave-me-beatings>

000: “Danny committed domestic abuse from 2011 through 2018. We know this because, in the course of settling the punishment for his numerous other misdeeds, he had to admit his history to the federal government”: Hearing transcript in USA v. Anthony Ellison & Aljermiah Mack, Sept. 10, 2019, p. 38 (Document 310).

000: “In the aftermath of Luis’ murder, Danny went to work”: Transcript of Daniel Hernandez sentencing, Dec. 18, 2019. p. 42. “And he basically drops out of school during the ninth grade because now that they have lost the stepfather helping them out, he has now got to get a job. He takes odd jobs working as a busboy. But everything that he earns is given to his mother in order to pay to survive.”

000: “a ‘judge’ at the Greenpoint Youth Courts”: Aron A., Hot New Hip Hop, “Ebro Shares Theory That Tekashi 6ix9ine Has Been A Federal Informant All Along,” Sept. 26, 2019. <https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/ebro-shares-theory-that-tekashi-6ix9ine-has-been-a-federal->

[informant-all-along-news.91796.html](https://www.informant-all-along-news.91796.html) “6ix9ine worked for the Greenpoint Youth Court when he was younger”

000: “where the youth acts in like a band of judge, jury, youth advocate, community advocate, that type of thing”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 206

000: “Busing tables with his older brother”: Emily Saul, Larry Celona, and Tamar Lapin, “How the Bloods and Tekashi 6ix9ine used each other,” *Page Six*, Sept. 18, 2019. “He worked odd jobs, including as a delivery boy, at a grocery store working the register, as a busboy...”
<https://pagesix.com/2019/09/18/how-the-bloods-and-tekashi-6ix9ine-used-each-other/>

000: “a job at Stay Fresh Grill”: Shiva Bayat interview with David Percy, p. 5. “He worked across the street in Stay Fresh, which is the deli.”

000: “on Broadway, steps away from Locust Street.” Address of Stay Fresh Deli here:
<https://www.grubhub.com/restaurant/stay-fresh-grill--deli-889-broadway-brooklyn/262535>

000: “sometimes, past customers remember, with severely burnt bacon”: Shiva Bayat interview with David Percy, p.7. “He used to make my sandwiches, so I remember I asked him for a bacon, egg and cheese on a roll. That bacon was so burnt I could not eat it.”

000: “ The Long Island native bounced to Atlanta at 16, and moved to Brooklyn four years later.” No Jumper, “The ZillaKami & SosMula Interview,” July 8, 2018.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3LPT06_0Is 9:14-9:58

000: “ His younger half-brother Junius, who lived in Long Island, started to head out to Bushwick frequently to meet his brother.” No Jumper, “The ZillaKami & SosMula Interview,” July 8, 2018.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3LPT06_0Is 10:00

000: “...nearby tattoo shop”: No Jumper, “The ZillaKami & SosMula Interview,” July 8, 2018.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3LPT06_0Is 10:42 “I worked across the street, tattooing.”

000: “he would go into Stay Fresh to buy snacks—peanuts and tilapia, in particular.” Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019. p. 207. “at the store I was working in, Stay Fresh Grill, there was a guy by the name Peter Rogers always, always coming in there, buying things like tilapia, peanuts, stuff like that.”

000: “Peter recalls it as being in 2012”: No Jumper, “The ZillaKami & SosMula Interview,” July 8, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3LPT06_0Is 10:35 “This was six years ago, like, today.”

000: “Tekashi in 2014”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019. p. 207. “Q. And again, this is around 2014? A. Yes, sir, like late 2014.”

000: “He wanted to...unique too”: No Jumper, “The ZillaKami & SosMula Interview,” July 8, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3LPT06_0Is 10:44

000: “Early on, an image of him went viral”: Reddit, Apr. 3, 2014. “The ‘PUSSY NIGGA’ Trilogy, a benchmark of modern streetwear”
https://www.reddit.com/r/streetwear/comments/224yez/the_pussy_nigga_trilogy_a_benchmark_of_modern/

000: “He just had one question for the kid at the deli counter: Do you rap? The answer was no.” Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019. p. 207. “He asked me if I, if I made music, if I rap. I was like, No.”

000: “On Long Island, he had played bass in a punk band”: Republic Records—City Morgue, “About.” <https://www.republicrecords.com/artists/city-morgue> “‘I was in a Punk band called Scud Got Quayle,’ Zilla adds, starting with playing bass and moving over to vocals.”

000: “his beloved Slipknot”: John Hill, Revolver, “CITY MORGUE’S ZILLAKAMI: I LISTEN TO SLIPKNOT’S FIRST ALBUM ‘LITERALLY EVERY DAY’.” Jun. 26, 2019.
<https://www.revolvermag.com/music/city-morgues-zillakami-i-listen-slipknots-first-album-literally-every-day>

000: “Scumlife 69”: See the lyrics to 6ix9ine and ZillaKami’s song “ScumLife”—“Represent your gang, nigga, ScumLife” <https://genius.com/6ix9ine-scumlife-lyrics>

000: “‘Scumgang 69’—often shortened just to ‘Scumgang’”: Crew member “Scumbag” Chad Foster uses the “Scumgang69” hashtag on Twitter:
<https://twitter.com/SCUMBAGCH4D/status/625121022283542528>. Also, Scumbag Chad attempted to trademark “Scumgang69”: <https://trademarks.justia.com/owners/foster-relva-chad-3328059/>. For “Scumgang,” You can hear Tekashi shout “Scumgang!” at the beginning of plenty of his songs, including “Helsing Station” (0:22): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLbt5ofTVRE>

000: “(“She suck my dick until she choke” was the opening line of the trio’s very first collaboration)”: Tekashi69, “69 (Official Audio)” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ84wZlmmqI> 0:49

000: “Righteous P chose the beats and wrote the lyrics, sometimes assisted by his brother.” Author interview with Jordan Granados Mar. 28, 2019. “Righteous P was the one that picked the beats... Righteous P and Zillakami, they did the writing. That’s a fact.”

000: “‘His natural aesthetic is in the DNA of the whole shit,’ says one friend. ‘It’s just him, naturally.’”: Author interview with Justin Rose, 2019.

000: “On the crew’s first song, ‘69,’ he refers to himself as ‘Wallah Dan’”: “Wallah Dan from that ScumGang 69.” <https://genius.com/17355087>

000: “the ‘Tekashi’ was from...with that.”: Tekashi 6ix9ine interview on Noisey Radio. <https://music.apple.com/us/station/tekashi-6ix9ine/ra.1446174593>

000: “as Danny later derisively described it, ‘more of, like, a rock and roll rap.’”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019. p. 207.

000: “The clip opens...he says”: Official music video for “69” by Tekashi69. <https://www.trillhd.com/video/7541/tekashi69-69>. Audio is also available at <https://soundcloud.com/user-335077807/69-tekahi-69-music-video-audio>

000: “The neighborhood was excited...imports.”: Shiva Bayat interview with David Percy, p. 5

000: “It had to...part of it”: Shiva Bayat interview with David Percy, July 26, 2019, p. 15.

000: “He saw that a disproportionate number...Facebook”: Amos Barshad, *Vulture*, “The Making (and Unmaking) of Tekashi 6ix9ine: Inside the Slovak rap label that gave the polarizing rapper his career — then watched him kill it.” Sept. 18, 2019. <https://www.vulture.com/2019/09/the-making-and-unmaking-of-tekashi69.html>

000: (“New wave” was basically the region’s name for the SoundCloud rap explosion)” Amos Barshad, *Vulture*, “The Making (and Unmaking) of Tekashi 6ix9ine: Inside the Slovak rap label that gave the polarizing rapper his career — then watched him kill it.” Sept. 18, 2019. <https://www.vulture.com/2019/09/the-making-and-unmaking-of-tekashi69.html>

000: “a label called ‘I Love Party Productions’ (soon renamed into the edgier ‘Fck Them,’) run by a guy named Yaksha: Odd Creators, “Slovakian Label that Took Over the World (Tekashi 6ix9ine)” <http://oddcreators.com/fck-them/> “FCK THEM, previously known as I LOVE PARTY PRODUCTION, is a label based in Bratislava, Slovakia. This label is mostly known for Teksashi 6ix9ine videos on their Youtube channel.”

000: “His look was crazy...very amateur”: Yaksha interview with Complex for *Tekashi69 vs. The World*.

000: “His label’s flagship group recorded a track with Danny called Rollin Stones.’ It was released in December 2014”: SAMEY - ROLLIN STONES ft. 6IX9INE (prod. DALYB), Fck Them, uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 17, 2014. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9F3k3KHDorM>

000: “Danny and Yaksha talked and formed a plan: they would make Tekashi 69 famous in Europe first, and then piggyback off that to get him known in America”: Author interview with Yaksha and HaHa Crew, Feb. 21, 2019: “(07:03) PETRA [translator for Yaksha]: And that was

back in 2014, when they met and when they agreed that they will start to work together and that they will make Tekashi's music famous in Europe first and then bring it to America.”

000: “I remember when Danny had 8,000 followers, and 5,000 of them was from Czech”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “Back in 2008, a crew of friends, long inclined to pull pranks on each other, started referring to those hijinks as ‘scums’—a low-key way of insulting a former crew member, whose name sounded similar to the word ‘scum’”: Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, 7/17/19.
 “towards the end of 2007, you know what I mean? Some situation happened where it was some real life situation and we just made fun of the situation and it was like, ‘Don't scum me.’ You know what I mean? From that situation so that's how we ended up being Scum Gang... Scum Gang started like I said like a real situation like a scumming situation. My friend scummed me. A close friend that I had, some jealousy in the mix. Some disloyalty, betrayal in the mix. And the person's name rhymed with scum. So it was crazy because it just went, it rolled from don't gun me to then don't scum me. And then it just was from there, Scum Gang, you feel me?”

000: “it fell on a younger member...issues”:

000: “under one umbrella, but two different branches”: Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, Feb. 12, 2019.

000: “Righteous P...movies”: Author interview with Bizz-E Blaze, 2019.

000: “On February 21, 2015...arrested”: Rich Juzwiak, Jezebel, “Details in Child Sex Complaint Against Rapper 6ix9ine Contradict His Public Comments.” <https://jezebel.com/details-in-child-sex-complaint-against-rapper-6ix9ine-c-1821245294>

000: “She’d joined the NYPD in 1992”: CapStat, Maureen S. Sheehan.
<https://www.capstat.nyc/officer/p94024/>

000: “She was just three years from retirement”: CapStat, Maureen S. Sheehan.
<https://www.capstat.nyc/officer/p94024/>

000: “(as happened in one 2008 case that briefly got her name in the newspapers)”: Christine Hauser, *The New York Times*, Aug. 21, 2008. “Video Stirs a Memory, Leading to an Arrest”
<https://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/22/nyregion/22arrest.html>

000: “at a police building on...he exclaimed”: Rich Juzwiak, Jezebel, “Details in Child Sex Complaint Against Rapper 6ix9ine Contradict His Public Comments.” <https://jezebel.com/details-in-child-sex-complaint-against-rapper-6ix9ine-c-1821245294>

000: “Danny was sent to Rikers. His bail, those close to him remember, was set at \$100,000”: Stephen Witt, *Rolling Stone*, “Tekashi 6ix9ine: The Rise and Fall of a Hip-Hop Supervillain”
<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/tekashi-69-rise-and-fall-feature-777971/>

“Danny was arrested, and by his account, his bail was set at \$100,000...Rumors began to swirl that Zillakami, his friend from S.C.U.M. Gang, had paid a portion of his bail — up to the full \$100,000, though Andrew says it was more like two or three grand. A rift opened between the two. According to Wizard, Zillakami accused Danny of stealing the money, and Danny began taunting Zillakami in Instagram Stories and interviews.”

000: “Righteous P and Zilla hit up their friends to get the money. It wasn’t easy, but they managed to scrape it together. They had the distinct impression that Danny would pay them back”: No Jumper, “The ZillaKami & SosMula Interview,” July 8, 2018.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3LPT06_0Is 27:47

000: “he was going to be a father. Sara was pregnant”: “Molina said she [discovered she was pregnant](#) days before Hernandez was arrested. “He’s in Rikers, nobody knows I’m pregnant and I’m so stressed. I’m like, ‘what am I going to do?’”: Heavy.com, “Sara Molina, Tekashi’s Ex-Girlfriend: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know” <https://heavy.com/entertainment/2020/06/tekashi-ex-girlfriend-sara-molina/>

000: “So on October 20...in state prison”: Rich Juzwiak, Jezebel, “Details in Child Sex Complaint Against Rapper 6ix9ine Contradict His Public Comments.” <https://jezebel.com/details-in-child-sex-complaint-against-rapper-6ix9ine-c-1821245294>

000: “Danny was having doubts...that period”: Author interview with Justin Rose, 2019.

000: “once Danny’s daughter Saraiyah was born—just nine days after her father’s guilty plea”: Famous Birthdays, “Saraiyah Hernandez” <https://www.famousbirthdays.com/people/saraiyah-hernandez.html>

000: “When he had the kid, that’s when he turned into 6ix9ine”: Author interview with Justin Rose, 2019.

000: “‘I became the big bro and the one that he knows really knows about the streets,’ D!zzy says now about their early relationship. ‘He was a kid. He didn’t know the ramifications of being involved with a gang. So he just wanted to be that.’”: Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, Feb. 12, 2019.

000: “He tried explaining that...doing that”: Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, Feb. 12, 2019.

000: “Throughout 2015 and 2016 Danny was releasing videos at a slow but steady pace, averaging out to one every two or three months”: Before Famous, “6ix9ine Rap Videos From Before He Was Famous” <http://www.beforefamous.com/6ix9ine/videos/rap-videos/>

000: “written front-to-back solely by Zilla”: YouTube, “ZillaKami And 6ix9ine FULL BEEF EXPLAINED!” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8IBbNP7Dgw> 7:10 “I was writing songs where there should have been two people. I would write back-and-forths.”

000: “Danny and Schlosser met...ever had”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “It was March 8, 2017”: Most of the information about this evening comes from the No Jumper vlog “OH WHAT A NIGHT,” uploaded to YouTube on March 9, 2017.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVpi-_ZUgrc

000: “His hair was likely to be green, orange, and yellow; or pink and yellow, depending on the day you caught him”: You can see the former combination in “OH WHAT A NIGHT” and the latter here: <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/music-nightlife-news/tekashi69-tekashi-6ix9ine-manchester-age-14815933>

000: “Schlosser, site unseen, sent Adam a message on Twitter”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019. “So I just DM Adam regular. I think I said ‘wassup’ or some shit.”

000: Adam shared the photo on Twitter, saying, ‘This guy likes my podcast I must be doing something right’”: Posted to @adam22 on Feb. 20, 2017.

<https://twitter.com/adam22/status/833598134030721024>

000: “Schlosser, inspired by Tekashi’s outrageous homemade clothes, already had totebags made with the image on it”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019. “the same way with Danny, when he’s wearing the ‘hoe’ stuff and stuff like that, I just wanted something different. So I was on this website where you could create your own stuff, and I made myself a tote bag. And I was like, ‘You know what? Adam just shared me.’ And he said, ‘Yo this dude is cool, I can’t believe he follows me,’ blah, blah blah. I’m like, ‘You know what? I should send him this shit.’”

000: “Adam tweeted out a picture of himself holding the bag, captioning it, ‘TOTE BAG OF THE CENTURY’”: Posted to @adam22 on March 3, 2017:

<https://twitter.com/adam22/status/837872262128640000>

000: “In Schlosser’s telling, Adam hit him up: ‘He’s like, “Yo, I’m in New York. What’s your number? I know you got bitches”’: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “Adam, for his part, told an interviewer that Schlosser was the one to reach out first”: DJ Vlad, June 20, 2018. “Adam 22 on Tekashi 6ix9ine Bringing Him 2 Girls Before Their 1st Interview (Part 5)” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AweSeW7xvI4>

000: “‘Yo, the No Jumper nigga tryin’ to chill today,’ Schlosser said. ‘Let’s go chill with him. I’m gonna get these two girls that I know’”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “‘His videos were really good,’ Adam said, looking back. ‘On top of that, his voice sounded pretty good, and I was looking at him visually like, “Damn, there’s definitely something going on

here.” But I wasn't fully sold at all”: Author interview with Adam “Adam22” Grandmaisson, Feb. 13, 2019.

000: “It left Adam confused. Was this a joke? He wasn't sure. Either way, it was bad. Really, really bad” Author interview with Adam “Adam22” Grandmaisson, Feb. 13, 2019. “the song he was pushing at the time, the chorus of it was, ‘I only fuck with white bitches 'cause they suck dick.’ And the whole song basically just consisted of him repeating that over and over, and it was like really, really bad.”

000: “Adam tweeted a photo of the five of them the next day, girls facing backwards with Schlosser licking one of their crotches (albeit with underwear on), captioned, ‘What did I get myself into last night’”: Posted to @adam22 on March 9, 2017: <https://twitter.com/adam22/status/839927119434104833>

000: “‘Fuck it. We'll sleep on the beach,’ Schlosser remembers Danny saying. Schlosser found that attitude inspirational and motivating”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “a funny photo”: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BmjHUPFgyNr/>

000: “‘Yo, let's take a picture of us holding hands,’ Schlosser suggested. ‘It's gonna get mad likes, and we'll laugh about it’”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “Trippie and Chris...supergroup”: Author interview with Chris King, 3/29/19.

000: “Schlosser was down with the idea, mostly because he liked Trippie's music”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “The first meeting was at Trippie's manager's place. There was no recording yet. Just them talking, vibing, freestyling a little bit, and feeling each other out”: Author interview with Milo Stokes, 2019.

000: “The beat came from a pack of three the producer intended for Trippie”: Liam McCarthy, Elevator, Jan. 27, 2018. “Pi'erre Bourne claims to get 75% from ‘Gummo,’ offers advice to aspiring producers” <https://www.elevatormag.com/pierre-bourne-claims-to-get-75-from-gummo-offers-advice-to-aspiring-producers> “When Pi'erre Bourne sent three beats to Trippie Redd a year ago, he didn't know what he was getting himself into.”

000: “A second, finished in New York not long after, became ‘Oowee/Thots’”: Author interview with Philly Mula, April 15, 2019. “His second song that he did that made him pop was Uh Oh Thots and that was with Trippie Redd. Trippie Redd came out here we all met. I wrote his whole verse for that for Uh Oh Thots.”

000: “Trippie's manager pushed everyone to make a video for ‘Poles’ before Danny and the crew went home”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019. “We went to Trippie's manager, Trippie used to live with his manager at that time. So we used to go to Trippie's

manager crib, and we'd just be chilling. And he's like, 'Yo, we gonna video because we leave.' We shot that shit when we was leaving L.A., so we drove to the desert and shit like that and then they shot that shit that same day when we was leaving."

000: "The clip featured Danny, Trippie, and Chris King riding four-wheelers and setting off guns that, instead of bullets, shot out colorful plumes of smoke." TRIPPIE REDD ft. 6IX9INE - POLES1469 (official music video), uploaded to YouTube by Fck Them on April 27, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Abm2b07XFYM>

000: "His hair was fully rainbow for the first time. He ran out of colors, he explained, so he just decided to do every color at once": ThisIs50, "6IX9INE 's 1st Interview Speaks on Gummo ; Kooda ; Rainbow Hair ; Trippie Redd & Cardi B W Pvnch" Uploaded to YouTube Nov. 1, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3lWFQ1NZr0> 13:11

000: "unable to resist the lure of a car full of sexy girls...returned home": Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: "The resulting video came out on April 27, 2017": TRIPPIE REDD ft. 6IX9INE - POLES1469 (official music video), uploaded to YouTube by Fck Them on April 27, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Abm2b07XFYM>

000: " a profane Instagram rant in June, 2016": All quotes from the rant can be found here: "Archive Of Full Fight Of Zillakami and 6IX9INE (Tekashi69) On Instagram Stories (2016 Archive)" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6ugfvzcEzA> 0:47

000: "As a reality check, a producer who was around the crew at the time remembers early talks with the RCA-affiliated Polo Grounds label that petered out once 6ix9ine was arrested in 2015": Author interview with Jordan Granados 3/28/19.

000: "bodyslamming girls in their underwear": "Tekashi 69 Pedigrees Hood Chick While Twerking," YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CJ5bjKRbPY4>

000: "Even his relationship with his best friend Drew began over internet insults": Stephen Witt, Rolling Stone, "Tekashi 6ix9ine: The Rise and Fall of a Hip-Hop Supervillain" <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-features/tekashi-69-rise-and-fall-feature-777971/> "He and Danny met on Instagram in the early 2010s. Danny had trolled Andrew, leaving nasty comments on a mutual friend's feed. The two got into it, trading barbs online, which escalated quickly into threats. 'I actually pulled up on him, to see if he wanted to thump,' Andrew tells me. 'He didn't show.' Two weeks later, they reconnected and Danny made peace."

000: "Saying that Danny stole money from him, presumably referring to the bail money for the 2015 case, he asked, 'How we supposed to trust you in a contract? I'm writing your lyrics, bro. What are you gonna do?'"

000: “Zilla also said that Danny “snaked” the crew’s camera equipment and attempted to shoot other rappers’ videos, keeping the money for himself.” “Archive Of Full Fight Of Zillakami and 6IX9INE (Tekashi69) On Instagram Stories (2016 Archive)” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6ugfvzcEzA> 0:22

000: “a short tour of Eastern Europe”: Fck Them, “F*CK THEM weekend in BRATISLAVA with 6ix9ine * HAHA CREW.” Posted to YouTube by Fck Them on May 18, 2017. “Tekashi’s officially first live concert took place in Europe on 29th of April.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKIZ8fRXWWs>

000: “Elliot Grainge was born in the UK in November, 1993”: Wikipedia, “Lucian Grainge.” “In January 1993, Grainge married his first wife, attorney Samantha Berg. That November, she experienced complications while giving birth to their son Elliot, and fell into a coma from which she never recovered.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucian_Grainge#Personal_life

000: “by the time of his son’s Bar Mitzvah in 2006, was the chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group International—a position he flexed by having Take That (the most successful boy band in UK history) and Björk’s original group the Sugarcubes perform at Elliot’s 200-person celebration”: James Tapper and Eleanor Mayne, *The Daily Mail*, Dec. 2, 2006, “Take That in concert.... for 13-year-old’s birthday party” <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-420086/Take-That-concert---13-year-olds-birthday-party.html>

000: “was the chairman and CEO of Universal Music Group International...By 2011, Lucian was chairman and CEO of the entirety of Universal Music Group.”: Wikipedia, “Lucian Grainge.” “Grainge became the chairman of the UK division of the Universal Music Group, and then in 2005 of Universal Music Group International. He served in this position until 2010. On 1 January 2011 he became CEO of Universal Music Group, and then chairman on 9 March 2011, succeeding Doug Morris.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lucian_Grainge#Universal_Music_Group

000: “He started out by putting on concerts in Boston while he was in college at Northeastern University”: Molly Parr, *Jewish Boston*, May 6, 2013. “Four Questions with Elliot Grainge, Take Boston Nightlife Promoter” <https://www.jewishboston.com/read/four-questions-with-elliott-grainge-take-boston-nightlife-promoter/>

000: “A few years later, in 2016, he started his own record label called Strainge Entertainment”: Steve Vockrodt, *The Kansas City Star*, Oct. 6, 2017. “Strange vs. Strainge: Tech N9ne lawsuit aims to end confusion” Strainge Entertainment was formed in 2016 by 22-year-old Elliot Grainge, according to the lawsuit. <https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article177474281.html>

000: “under legal threat from a long-established record label called Strange Music, home to the rapper Tech N9ne”: Steve Vockrodt, *The Kansas City Star*, Oct. 6, 2017. “Strange vs. Strainge: Tech N9ne lawsuit aims to end confusion” <https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article177474281.html>

000: “first to Elliot Grainge Entertainment”: AllMusic, “Elliot Grainge Entertainment”
<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/elliott-grainge-entertainment-mn0003696683/credits>

000: “then to 10K Projects”: Roy Trakin, Variety, Dec. 4, 2019. “Elliot Grainge, Son of Music Industry Titan Lucian Grainge, Is Forging His Own Path”
<https://variety.com/2019/music/features/elliott-grainge-10k-projects-tekashi-6ix9ine-trippie-redd-1203423051/>

000: “Shortly after...label”: Author interview with Milo Stokes, 2019.

000: “In the summer of 2017, Trippie was performing in New York City for the first time. So it only made sense to have Danny come out to perform his verse from ‘Poles 1469’”: Author interview with Alphonse Pierre, 2019. “it was Trippie Redd’s first New York show and I missed it because I went on vacation with my family. But I remember some of my friends posting videos and when Trippie Redd was performing POLES1469, Tekashi69 came out. And I remember seeing in one of the videos, my friends sent me that the crowd was going crazy and that they were responding to his energy”

000: “Before the show, Danny met up with Grainge for pizza”: Author interview with Philly Mula, Apr. 15, 2019: “We had met with Trippie and them that night because they had a show there. Trippie was like, yo you want to perform Poles1469. That was the first song that they did together and we ended up meeting up with them. They was at a pizzeria. We walked to go meet up with them and Elliot is there. They get to start the talking and then he went outside by himself with him.”

000: “He wined and dined Danny out in L.A. as they negotiated a record deal”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019: “Yeah, I was there for the first contract negotiation. I ran that motherfucker up. I ran the bill up. When they did they first meeting, we met them, we met Elliot, and he took us to some restaurant. He was like, ‘Get whatever y’all want.’ ...And it was in the rich part of L.A., too. So that shit came out to mad bread.”

000: “And on July 28, 2017, just days after Danny finally appeared on No Jumper for real (and spent much of the time complaining about Zillakami), he signed to Strange Entertainment, LLC.”: For the record contract, see Sleiman et al v. Tekashi69 Publishing, Inc., New York Eastern District Court, Document 36-7, “Recording Agreement Deal Memorandum” p. 11. For “finally appeared on No Jumper,” see No Jumper, “The 6IX9INE Interview,” uploaded to YouTube on July 24, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlfXo2SbruU>

000: “In August 2017...wrote”: A screenshot of Zilla’s post is here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFtZDbSSSKU> 0:23.

000: “He followed it up...split”: A screenshot of Zilla’s post is here:
<https://puu.sh/x4l2F/52512ec7a0.png>

000: “He sarcastically claimed to be a ‘happy rapist’ through a filter that made his voice preternaturally high and gave him cat ears”: “TEKA\$HI69 R*PED A 13 YEARS OLD???? ZILLAKAMI CAME WITH PROOF?????” uploaded to YouTube Aug. 6, 2017. 0:16
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFtZDbSSSKU>

000: “‘I’m sorry brozay,’ he said. ‘1400 don’t promote pedophiles... If we give niggas clout, we give niggas clout. It was an accident’”: DomIsLive News, “Trippie Redd & ZillaKami EXPOSE TekaShi69 for SMASHING Teen Fans Allegedly” Uploaded to YouTube on Aug. 7, 2017 1:00
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=id8xnkShzQA>

000: “Trippie’s pal Chris King was there when Trippie recorded the clip. To him, it wasn’t a big deal. ‘We was just laughing about it,’ he says now”: Author interview with Chris King, Mar. 29, 2019.

000: “Trippie insulting Danny gave the aspiring rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine a storyline. It gave him an obstacle to fight against. Adversity to overcome”: Author interview with Chris Ehigiator, Feb. 21, 2019. “Danny was going through it like, ‘Damn, son. That shit is fucking crazy. He called me a rapist.’ He had to turn off his comments and shit on Instagram. And I’m like,...’Yo, this is great because we’re gonna be big, we need some adversity so nobody in the historically of successful people or whatever just smooth sailed their fucking way to the top.’ We were gonna hit this hump eventually, but I’m happy it is happening now because you feel like this shit is rock bottom, you feel like yo everything is over. And this is perfect. This is exactly how I need to feel.”

000: “He and Drew worked on the lyrics for weeks. The song was originally supposed to be a diss track” Author interview with Chris Ehigiator, Feb. 21, 2019. “It was supposed to be a diss track to...don’t even matter who, right? But it was supposed to be a diss track... Him and Trife-Drew worked on it for a while... They worked on it, the lyrics and stuff for weeks”

000: “Zillakami’s friend Sosmula was mentioned by name at first”: Golden Melodies, “[OG] 6ix9ine - Gummo (Best Version) (Sosmula Diss)” Uploaded to YouTube on May 4, 2020.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWakAioZ4zg> 1:22

000: “‘If you don’t have KB watching over you, you will lose somebody,’ is how Danny later explained it”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019 p. 223.

000: “Early that summer..from now on”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019 p. 600.

000: “Danny had taken home all of \$2,000 from his tour over there”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019 p. 207-8

000: “And Christian Ehigiator...dead-end jobs”: Author interview with Christian Ehigiator, Feb. 21, 2019.

000: “Seqo honed in on a different idea: if they could get this crazy-looking Mexican kid love from hood, they’d be unstoppable”: Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019. “we conjured up a plan, like, all right, we’ll get in you in tune with the urban community, more. Not make you a gang member or affiliate, get you in tune with the urban community, more. That was the plan when we met.”

Chapter 2: Treyway

000: “‘Seqo’ was a shortened version of his first name, Sequanne”: Sequanne McCargo is one of the registrants for “Tr3yway Entertainment”: <https://uspto.report/TM/88002037>

You can see Seqo’s MySpace page, photos inclusive, under the name “Sequanne McCargo” here: <https://myspace.com/elducesm/mixes/classic-me-381121/photo/109715451>

In addition, legal documents filed in the case of McCargo v. New York City Department of Corrections (case no. 13cv05372) list Sequanne McCargo’s address as being on Madison Street in Brooklyn, the same street as the “Gummo” house.

000: “‘Billy’ was short for ‘Billy Bad Ass.’ Attaching ‘Billy’ at the beginning or end of your nickname was a way of announcing that you were a member of the Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods street gang”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019 p. 2010. “Billy was Nine Trey”; WSOC, May 18, 2017, “United Blood Nation history, terminology, background.”

<https://www.wsoc.com/news/local/united-blood-nation-history-terminology-background/523960078/> “the Nine Trey Gangsters members use the terms... ‘Billy,’ ‘Billies,’ ‘Billy Bad Ass,’ ‘BBA,’”

000: “The Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods were formed on July 16, 1993 in New York City’s notorious Rikers Island prison. Back then, the Hispanic gang the Latin Kings were a powerful force in the jail, and would often gang up on Black prisoners. In self-defense, two prisoners, Omar ‘O.G. Mack’ Portee and Leonard ‘Deadeye’ McKenzie, banded together to form the United Blood Nation”: WSOC, May 18, 2017, “United Blood Nation history, terminology, background.”

<https://www.wsoc.com/news/local/united-blood-nation-history-terminology-background/523960078/>

000: “One of the UBN’s original subgroups, or ‘sets,’ was Nine Trey, named for the year of the UBN’s founding, 1993. Nine Trey were meant to be the UBN’s enforcers, the muscle”: Commonwealth of Virginia, Dept. of State Police, Virginia Fusion Center, Nov. 2008. “Bloods Street Gang Intelligence Report” p. 6

<https://info.publicintelligence.net/BloodsStreetGangIntelligenceReport.pdf> “Sets united under the UBN included Nine Trey Gangsters (NTG), 1-8-3, Sex Money Murder (SMM), and Gangster Killer Bloods (GKB). In its initial conception, the UBN sets had distinctive roles; for instance the NTG set were the enforcers”

For “named for the year of the UBN’s founding” see USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, “The Government’s Motions *In Limine*” (Document 240). Filed Aug. 2, 2019. P. 2

000: "In Rikers, Nine Trey's main purpose was to defend Black prisoners against the Latin Kings, as they began engaging in what the Village Voice described as a 'vicious turf war': Jennifer Gonnerman, The Village Voice, Dec. 12, 2000, "Roaming Rikers - Pt. II." "after the Bloods, an African American gang, began recruiting members here in 1993, a vicious turf war erupted between the Bloods and the long dominant Latino gangs, the Latin Kings and Ñetas."

000: "spread all up and down the East Coast": Scott Daugherty, The Virginian-Pilot, Sept. 28, 2016, "Who are the Nine Trey Gangsters? Here's how the Virginia-based gang works."
https://www.pilotonline.com/news/crime/article_9fe0de83-9062-5423-a77f-20f73ee448f1.html

000: "Their two main leaders, Pedro 'Magoo' Guitierrez and James 'Frank White' Braxton, had been taken down as part of a giant bust by the feds in North Carolina earlier in the year": U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Carolina, May 18, 2017. "83 "Bloods" Gang Members Indicted On Federal Charges" <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/83-bloods-gang-members-indicted-federal-charges>

000: "OG Mack and OG Deadeye originally wrote 31 rules to keep their organization together": WSOC, May 18, 2017, "United Blood Nation history, terminology, background."
<https://www.wsoc.tv/news/local/united-blood-nation-history-terminology-background/523960078/> "All sets of the UBN organization are governed by a common set of rules. The rules were originally written by the UBN founders, Omar Portee and Leonard McKenzie. There are 31 UBN rules known as 'The 31.'"

000: "As an initiation, you have to fight multiple members of the gang for 31 seconds, a practice known as 'shooting your 31'": Joe Coscarelli, The New York Times, Sept. 20, 2019, "6ix9ine's Testimony: The Rapper's Rise, Beefs and Crash, in His Own Words."
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/20/arts/music/tekashi-case-testimony.html>
 "Q. What does shoot your 31 mean? A. From my understanding, like fight for 31 seconds. Q. Fight whom? A. Another Nine Trey member or multiple."

000: "Monthly dues for the gang are often \$31 or multiples of that amount": Henry Culvyhouse, delmarvanow.com, May 18, 2016, "Who are the Nine Trey Gangsters?"
<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/maryland/2016/05/18/who-nine-trey-gangsters/84533278/> "the number 31 has special significance within the gang. Members must pay \$31 a month for dues for the gang; The United States Department of Justice, May 17, 2018, "Federal Jury Convicts Three High-Ranking Bloods Gang Members of Racketeering Conspiracy"
<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/federal-jury-convicts-three-high-ranking-bloods-gang-members-racketeering-conspiracy> "Members of the UBN are expected to conduct themselves and their illegal activity according to rules and regulations set by their leaders. Prominent among these is a requirement to pay monthly dues to the organization, often in the amounts of \$31 or \$93"

000: "Organizationally...one star": USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, "The Government's Motions *In Limine*" (Document 240). Filed Aug. 2, 2019. P. 2-3.

000: “The most inexperienced members, below even the 1 Star Generals, are sometimes referred to as ‘scraps’”: Scott Daugherty, *The Virginian-Pilot*, Feb. 21, 2018, “The Nine Trey Gangsters: Gays need not apply, but women are welcome in management”

https://www.pilotonline.com/news/crime/article_36db7ff7-3f8f-5c38-ac8b-99d2b57c359d.html

“According to Vann, the lowest-level members are called ‘scraps,’ after Scooby-Doo’s nephew, Scrappy-Doo.”

000: “In fact, at the height of Danny’s involvement with Nine Trey, his single Brooklyn crew splintered into *four* separate lineups, all running simultaneously”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 431. “the gang was broken up and divided into four pieces, like, we’re all part of the same gang, but we’re all attacking each other at the same time”; Also see *USA v. Aljermiah Mack*, Anthony Ellison aka Harv, US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, “Brief for Defendant-Appellant Aljermiah Mack” (Document 86), filed Feb. 4, 2021, p. 4-5. “Hernandez testified about the structure of the Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods which he explained had independent lineups with their own ranking systems, including the Prison lineups and several Street lineups including, inter alia, the Murda Line, the Smurf Line, the Madison Line and the Wavy Line, which were often at odds with one another.”

“Marijuana and cocaine were popular choices”: The United States Department of Justice, May 17, 2018, “Federal Jury Convicts Three High-Ranking Bloods Gang Members of Racketeering Conspiracy” <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/federal-jury-convicts-three-high-ranking-bloods-gang-members-racketeering-conspiracy>

000: “a mixture of heroin...process”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 859-862

000: “Untouchable Gorilla Stone Nation, colloquially known as the Apes, the group to which Brooklyn rapper Casanova claimed allegiance”: Indictment in *USA v. Dwight Reid, et. al.* (Case 7:20-cr-00626-PMH, Southern District of New York (Document 2), Filed Nov. 23, 2020 p. 2 “CASWELL SENIOR, a/k/a ‘Casanova’...were members and associates of the Untouchable Gorilla Stone Nation”; For “Apes” see Letter from Audrey Strauss to Judge Phillip M. Halpern, Jan. 6, 2021 in *USA v. Dwight Reid, et. al.* (Case 7:20-cr-00626-PMH, Southern District of New York (Document 2), filed Jan. 6, 2021 p. 8. “The defendant also admitted to being a member of Gorilla Stone during public interviews. For instance on November 26, 2019, during Nick Cannon’s Morning Show on Power 106 FM in Los Angeles, the defendant admitted: I’m still Ape though.”

000: “the Five-Nine Brims, with which Trippie Redd was affiliated”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 224. “Q. Did you have an understanding as to whether or not Trippie Redd was affiliated with a gang? A. Yes. Q. And what gang was that? A. He, he, I think he was saying he was part of like Five Nine Brim. Q. What’s Five Nine Brim? A. It’s another Blood set.”

000: “As early as 2015, there were already two separate street lineups, two hierarchies among Nine Trey members in the same neighborhood. One was led by Jamel ‘Mel Murda’ Jones, and

one by Aljermiah ‘Nuke’ Mack”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 865. “Q. And when you joined Nine Trey, do you know who was in leadership positions in the street lineup? Again, this would be in late 2015. A. Yes, it was Mel Murda. It was two different street lineups, though. Q. OK. A. Mel Murda had one street line number, and Nuke, Aljermiah Mack, had another street lineup.”

000: “Mel and Nuke hated each other because Mel Murda had once told Nine Trey head honcho Magoo to suck his dick”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019 p. 871. “Mel Murda told me that he was talking to Magoo, which is the godfather on the jail lineup, and he told him to suck his dick. And from there it escalated, and Aljermiah Mack stuck up for the godfather in jail, and that’s why the beef started between them.”

000: “Nuke first joined Nine Trey at the age of 11, and was a true believer”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Document 420-1, Letter to Judge Engelmayer, filed Feb. 10, 2020, p. 6. “At the age of 11, Aljermiah was given a special dispensation. Members were not normally allowed to join at such a young age. Aljermiah was ‘blessed in’ to Nine Trey, and provided with a red bandana to carry as he saw fit. He was in sixth grade.”

000: “Shootings, either by Mel or Nuke themselves or by proxies, were not uncommon”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019 p. 870-1.

000: “Sequo’s aunt was Mel Murda’s half-sister”: Author interview with Ms. Tr3yway, Aug. 21, 2019: “Shotti came around in 2009, he was my brother, Mel, well my half-brother or whatever, Mel Murda friend...Shawn: So Mel is your half-brother, you said? Ms. Tr3yway: Yeah.”

000: “Jim, the ‘capo’ of Harlem’s Diplomats rap crew”: Jiggy Jones, *The Source*, Oct. 13, 2020. <https://thesource.com/2020/10/13/jim-jones-reflects-after-mariah-carey-mentions-dipset-in-new-book/> “Jim, the ‘capo’ of Harlem’s Diplomats rap crew”

000: “started his career in the music business in the 1990s via his friend Cam’ron”: Shawn Setaro, Complex, Apr. 13, 2018, “‘They Take You For a Joke, ’Til They Find Out It’s Serious’: How Jim Jones Ended Up on Top.” <https://www.complex.com/music/2018/04/how-jim-jones-ended-up-on-top>

000: “Around 2009, he started bringing in gang members, including his close friend Mel Murda, to rap in his spinoff projects like the group Byrd Gang”: See Mel Matrix (aka Mel Murda) mixtape *Red Apples Falling*, released June 15, 2009. <https://damixhub.com/mixtape/mel-matrix-red-apples-falling>

000: “(‘We related,’ Jim once joked about his bond with Mel, punning on the fact that they share a last name, Jones. ‘We *blood* related.’)”: Author interview with Jim Jones, May 21, 2019.

000: “Jordan, known as ‘Shotti,’ kept to the background in his days with Jones”: Author interview with DJ Drewski, 2019. “A lot of the guys, when I first met Tekashi, were the same guys in the studio that were with Jim Jones. Like Shotti...Shotti, I'm not exactly sure what his position was.”

000: “You can see in one video of the crew that he has a hoodie pulled far up over his head, and he’s constantly ducking out of camera range”: “Jim Jones & Byrdgang BlamDVD in studio footage,” Uploaded to YouTube Oct. 25, 2010. Shotti visible at 5:00 mark.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVpZJQe8wgQ>

000: “He was born on April 14, 1982”: Mugshots.com, Essex County, NJ. “Kifano L Jordan - 2C:12-3BTHREAT TO KILL - New Jersey” <https://mugshots.com/US-States/New-Jersey/Essex-County-NJ/Kifano-L-Jordan.167578956.html>

000: “in Trinidad”: Letter from Jeffrey Lichtman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, filed Aug. 23, 2019 (Document 270), p. 3. “Mr. Jordan's mother immigrated to the United States from Trinidad with the defendant and his sister when they were young children.”

000: “His father, Fitroy Cambridge...to Brooklyn”: Letter from Jeffrey Lichtman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, filed Aug. 23, 2019 (Document 270), p. 3

000: “He was always full of life...stil there””: Letter from Wally-Emmanuel Cambridge to Judge Paul Engelmayer, filed Aug. 23, 2019 (Document 270, Exhibit H), p. 28

000: “ His junior high school was just across the street from the Albany Houses projects”: Letter from Jeffrey Lichtman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, filed Aug. 23, 2019 (Document 270), p. 3

000: “‘It was a scary situation because there were a lot of times we witness[ed] violence,’ remembers one longtime friend”: Letter from Jeffrey Lichtman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, filed Aug. 23, 2019 (Document 270), p. 3

000: “Kifano was a smart kid, and went to a middle school for gifted and talented children. Even by those standards, Sasha remembers, his grades were stellar”: Letter from Sasha Jordan to Judge Paul Engelmayer, filed Aug. 23, 2019 (Document 270, Exhibit G) p. 26

000: “He once said that he was accepted into Hunter College High School”: Rap Radar, “Cigar Talk: Tr3yway 1st interview!! How Tekashi 6ix9ine got on, trolling, beef with YG, & more,” uploaded to YouTube on Aug. 23, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WkdMWyMuZM>

000: “‘When I was coming up, it was either you roll or you get rolled over, bottom line,’ he said once during a rare interview. ‘I was never about getting rolled over. That shit’s about doing things that the other guy wasn’t doing’”: Rap Radar, “Cigar Talk: Tr3yway 1st interview!! How

Tekashi 6ix9ine got on, trolling, beef with YG, & more,” uploaded to YouTube on Aug. 23, 2018.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0WkdMWyMuZM>

000: “There was an incident involving a gun December 2003”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, (Document 139-1) “Direct - Kifano Jordan.”

000: “another five years later when Shotti...order of protection”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, “Affidavit in Response to the Court’s Curcio Inquiry Related to Representation of Daniel Hernandez” (Doc. 139), filed Mar. 20, 2019. P. 6-8.

000: “May 27, 2016”: All accounts of this day come from Clinton Township (NJ) arrest report, complaint no. 2016013962. Emailed to Shawn Setaro from Tracey Cox, Superior Court of NJ, Oct. 31, 2019

000: “October 15, 2016, Kifano Jordan was named Hunterdon County’s Fugitive of the Week”: Craig Turpin, NJ.com, Oct. 18, 2016.
https://www.nj.com/hunterdon/2016/10/trenton_man_named_hunterdons_fugitive_of_the_week.html#:~:text=Kifano%20L.,County's%20Fugitive%20of%20the%20Week.&text=Jordan%2C%20charged%20with%20narcotics%20crimes,warrant%20was%20issued%20on%20Sept.

000: “he remained a fugitive”: Email from Tracey Cox, Superior Court of NJ, to Shawn Setaro, Oct. 31, 2019.

000: “He also helped to run a cosmetics company started by his then-girlfriend”: Author interview with Esha J, 2019. “Shawn Setaro: 2016, so he was still involved at Dollhouse at that time? Esha J: Yeah, yeah. He was still involved with Dollhouse at that time. At that time, I also became his confidant because he was going through some things with Dollhouse. He didn’t know what to do. This gangster dude but now your feelings is hurt because a female finally got to you, so it was like okay, I don’t know what to do.”
 See also Author interview with Ms. Tr3yway, Aug. 21, 2019. “And he also had another business with his old girlfriend, Doll House... And she ventured off, now she has two shops and she’s doing real good.”

000: “Dollhouse Cosmetics was a small operation in Bed Stuy, with another location in New Jersey”: NJ and BK locations listed on <https://www.thedollhousecosmetics.com/pages/contact-us>

000: “(welching on what you owed came to be called a “Shotti move” among some members of the gang)”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 942. “Q. When Mr. Mack said to you, ‘this ain’t a Shotti move,’ did you understand what he was saying? A. Yes. Shotti owed me money, like, for 150 grams that he never paid me for, so he was, like, saying that as a reference to the time that Shotti ran off with the money that he’s supposed to pay me, he’s saying he wasn’t going to do that; he was going to do the opposite”

000: “Growing up all I wanted [was] to be a gangsta the right way,’ he texted Shotti once. ‘Neva look up to nothing else”’: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 800A, p. 15

000: “there was always a rivalry between the two over who was tougher”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 320. “There was a lot of animosity between Harv and Shotti, who was tougher. Me being there, me being part of it, who was closer to me. Who was I paying. Who was I giving more of the money to.”

000: “‘Red Stuy,’ as members sometimes referred to it”: Author interview with Sequo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019.

000: “His aunt’s grandfather owned a brownstone on Madison Street, and it stayed in the family. The house, which they called ‘Maddy’ after the street name”: Author interview with Ms. Tr3yway, Aug. 21, 2019.

000: “became a clubhouse and a meeting place for the crew”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 221. “Q. And members of Nine Trey would meet there? A. Members of the Nine Trey would have meetings there and meet up there.”

000: “Tyree was a Staten Island-based Nine Trey Godfather known as ‘S.I.’”: Zak Koeske, silive.com, Aug. 27, 2015, “Violent end for a complicated Island gangbanger: Part 2” https://www.silive.com/news/2015/08/violent_end_for_a_complicated.html

000: “He was convicted on a weapons charge in 2004 and sentenced to ten years in prison”: Katherine Creag and Jonathan Dienst, NBC New York, Aug. 14, 2015, “‘Today I Die’: Bloods Gang Member Who Shot Firefighter Is Dead After 6-Hour Standoff” <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/firefighter-shot-staten-island-mariners-harbor-new-york-city-police-marshals-fugitive/2100360/>

000: “During one...typing paper”.: Chedda Bang, “#DONTPANICTV - INTERVIEW - GARLAND “SI” TYREE / AUTHOR OF THE TREY WAY,” Uploaded to YouTube on Aug. 13, 2014. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iBWq_jSH7c

000: “It told the story of the 5-Trey Gangsters”: See <https://www.amazon.com/Trey-Way-Garland-Tyree/dp/0988820501>

000: “In August, 2015, a few years after self-publishing his book, Tyree violated the terms of his parole”: Zak Koeske, silive.com, Aug. 27, 2015, “Violent end for a complicated Island gangbanger: Part 1” https://www.silive.com/news/2015/08/a_tragic_end_for_a_complicated.html

000: “The U.S. Marshals pulled up to his door. Tyree went to Facebook and posted, ‘Today I die.’ He set off a smoke bomb and started shooting. He wounded a firefighter, and was shot and

killed”: Zak Koeske, silive.com, Aug. 27, 2015, “Violent end for a complicated Island gangbanger: Part 1” https://www.silive.com/news/2015/08/a_tragic_end_for_a_complicated.html

000: “In it, the hero, 5-Trey leader B-Right, is pursued relentlessly by a federal prosecutor and his ‘pack of cowardly informants.’ The title of the book? The Trey Way”: Ken Kurston, The Observer, Aug. 14, 2015, “Staten Island Author and Book Store Owner Sets House on Fire, Shoots First Responder” <https://observer.com/2015/08/staten-island-author-and-book-store-owner-sets-house-on-fire-shoots-first-responder/>

000: “Garland Tyree’s book...too”: Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019.

Chapter 3: Gummo

000: He wanted to, as he says, get Danny “in tune with the urban community more.” Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019. “we conjured up a plan, like, all right, we’ll get in you in tune with the urban community, more. Not make you a gang member or affiliate, get you in tune with the urban community, more. That was the plan when we met.”

000: “was teasingly called the “Gummo” grandma’ by some of her then-coworkers at the Department of Corrections.” Author interview with Ms. Tr3yway, Aug. 21, 2019.

000: “Seqo told everyone around to come to a video shoot—for him. They were going to shoot a clip, he said, for his own song ‘Billy Dat’”: Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019. “I had to convince everybody that we were shooting my shit. So, I told them that we were shooting Billy dat. Everybody came out. We played Pop Out Boys songs, a bunch of my songs, and 6ix9ine’s songs. And we were just shooting, catching a whole bunch of BTS footage. But in between time, we were shooting. We shot a performance scene for Gummo. But we did that, kind of, for everybody’s song.”

000: “And a number of Nine Trey guys showed up”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 210. “I asked him if we could get some Nine Trey members to be part of the video, because I wanted the aesthetic to be, you know, full with Nine Trey Blood members.” See also p. 213.

000: “Danny bought a whole bunch of red bandannas”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 212. “before the video shoot I went to go buy over 3,000 red bandannas and I showed them to...Madison.”

000: “Chris, nursing a hangover from the previous night, skipped the shoot”: Author interview with Christian Ehigiator, Feb. 21, 2019. “The day of the “Gummo” video shoot, I had just went out the night before and I had a bad hangover and I thought it was gonna be shot at night and I was with my kids, probably seven minutes away. But they shot it during the day...I was there but I came after everything wrapped up.”

000: “the gang’s big homie”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 213. “From my understanding, Shotti was a big-hom[i]e player. Shotti was -- everyone was under him.”

000: “What’s up, homie...the guys.”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 212-13.

000: “Danny bought two large bottles of Hennessy”: Author interview with Christian Ehigiator, Feb. 21, 2019. “So I remember Seqo calling me, ‘Boy, you’d be so proud of your boy, man.’ I’m like, ‘What?’ ‘Yo, man, he bought bandanas for the homies. He bought two bottles of Hennessy, the big joints, the big Hennessy’s”

000: “The video shoot got started in the mid-afternoon”: Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019. “they probably call, like, at 2 o’clock in the afternoon. And about 4 o’clock, that was it.”

000: “They played songs from Seqo, from Danny, and from the Pop Out Boyz”: Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019. “I had to convince everybody that we were shooting my shit. So, I told them that we were shooting ‘Billy Dat.’ Everybody came out. We played Pop Out Boys songs, a bunch of my songs, and 6ix9ine’s songs.”

000: “Members of the group and their affiliates had been arrested back in 2016 for credit card fraud—an incident that became national news because they rapped about that very practice on a song called ‘For a Scammer’”: James C McKinley Jr., The New York Times, “Rap Song on Credit Card Scheme Tells Broader Tale, Prosecutors Say,” June 1, 2016. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/06/02/nyregion/rappers-based-lyrics-on-their-credit-card-fraud-prosecutors-say.html>

000: “When the police...neighborhood”: Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019. “when the police came. Told them to pull the grill on, act like we grilling.”

000: “the crowd of about 40”: Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019. “it might’ve been, like, 40 people.”

000: “Shotti was posted up at the top of the stairs, and Danny said, ‘Yo bro, this shit is gonna be huge’”: ThisIs50, “6IX9INE 's 1st Interview Speaks on Gummo ; Kooda ; Rainbow Hair ; Trippie Redd & Cardi B W Pvnch,” posted to YouTube on Nov. 1, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3lWFQ1NZr0> 9:20 “Yo Shotti, you remember this thing when I told you? He was at the top of the stairs and I said, ‘Yo bro, this shit is gonna be huge.’”

000: “After it was all done, Seqo called Chris. ‘Yo, you’d be so proud of your boy,’ he said. ‘He brought bandannas for the homies. He bought two bottles of Hennessy—the big joints.’ Altogether, the video cost around \$150”: Author interview with Christian Ehigiator, Feb. 21, 2019.

000: “Less than a month after shooting, the video was ready to go”: The video was uploaded to YouTube on Oct. 8, 2017. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAs9HZC9c7Y>

000: “Danny gave it to Yaksha to release on Fck Them’s YouTube page”: See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gAs9HZC9c7Y>

000: “He wasn’t yet authorized to release the clip through his label”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 225. “I wasn’t authorized to release the video with the label, so I just put it out anyway.”

000: “I was there when he first ever heard the beat, and I was like, ‘This shit sucks’”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “Schlosser recalls hearing a car drive by, blasting just the few seconds of the song that was then available on a continuous loop”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019. “I heard a car playing the song because, you know, you could audio loop shit. The song was so hot before it even came out, I heard somebody in they car, playing an audio loop as they drove by. I’m like, ‘Oh, nah. It’s over. This shit crazy.’”

000: “Energy-wise...barrier”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “Some weird dude ran up to us and got on his knees like, ‘Oh, 6ix9ine,’ and was kissing his shoes and shit”: Author interview with Christopher Schlosser, 2019.

000: “In fewer than three months, the video garnered over 70 million views”: See Adam22 (@adam22 on Twitter), Jan. 2, 2018. “gummo has 73 million views on youtube.” <https://twitter.com/adam22/status/948067251097178112?lang=en>

000: “‘How the fuck is this doing so many numbers? This shit is gonna be huge,’” Tekashi recalls him saying”: ThisIs50, “6IX9INE 's 1st Interview Speaks on Gummo ; Kooda ; Rainbow Hair ; Trippie Redd & Cardi B W Pvnch,” posted to YouTube on Nov. 1, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3lWFQ1NZr0> 11:20 “The label called my manager and told him, like, yo, ‘How the fuck this shit is doing so many numbers?’ He’s like, yo, ‘This shit is gonna be huge.’”

000: “‘This little nigga knows what he’s doing,’ Shotti said. ‘I thought all that rainbow-hair shit, he was bugging for that, but he know what he’s doing. Tell him to stay in touch’”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019 p. 225. “Shotti actually called Sequo and said, quote: This little nigga knows what he’s doing. I thought all that rainbow hair shit was -- you know, he was bugging for that -- but he know what he’s doing. Tell him to stay in touch.”

000: “just a few weeks after ‘Gummo’ was released”: Author interview with Pvnch, 2019 p. 13. “Two weeks after Gummo was out, they’re back in the studio recording Kooda.”

000: “Shotti was in the studio with him, making sure to appear on camera in their very first interview”: See ThisIs50, “6IX9INE 's 1st Interview Speaks on Gummo ; Kooda ; Rainbow Hair ;

Trippie Redd & Cardi B W Pvnch,” posted to YouTube on Nov. 1, 2017.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3IWFQ1NZr0>

000: “First of all, I want to say to all my haters that, you know, I really appreciate y’all ‘cause two weeks ago, nobody was jacking Tekashi 6ix9ine, but y’all niggas made me relevant”: ThisIs50, “6IX9INE 's 1st Interview Speaks on Gummo ; Kooda ; Rainbow Hair ; Trippie Redd & Cardi B W Pvnch,” posted to YouTube on Nov. 1, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3IWFQ1NZr0> 0:22

000: “In the interview, he crowed over the fact that ‘Gummo’ was on the verge of gaining more YouTube views than Trippie’s most popular track, ‘Love Scars’”: ThisIs50, “6IX9INE 's 1st Interview Speaks on Gummo ; Kooda ; Rainbow Hair ; Trippie Redd & Cardi B W Pvnch,” posted to YouTube on Nov. 1, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3IWFQ1NZr0> 7:08-7:28

000: “It was named after one of his friends”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 226. “Kooda's actually another rapper. Before I changed my style to rap, I was into this kid named Kooda. I always thought he was a talented kid. I actually liked him a lot, so I named my song after him.”

000: “‘A lot of people didn’t understand it,’ Tekashi once explained. ‘They didn’t understand how a kid with rainbow hair could be affiliated with the Nine Trey Bloods, and it just didn’t mix’”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 231.

000: “‘on fifty,’ which was Nine Trey slang for ‘on point’ or being aware”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 231-2. “Q. In the third line, it reads, ‘all my N-word on fifty, so you know we hopped out.’ The phrase ‘on fifty,’ what does that mean? A. Fifty is to be on point, like to be aware. Q. Is that a term associated with Nine Trey or Bloods in general? A. Bloods in general.”

000: “‘After we shot ‘Gummo,’ I knew we had a formula,’ he explained. ‘The gang image... That’s what people like. It was just a formula, a blueprint that I found that worked’”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 225-6.

000: “It was colloquially known as ‘Smurf Village’ because of the buildings’ short stature—only two stories”: City Data Forum, “NYC neighborhood and street nicknames (Bedford, Medina: building, island, venue),” Jan. 22, 2010. <http://www.city-data.com/forum/new-york-city/872975-nyc-neighborhood-street-nicknames-3.html> “they call those small 2 story buildings at the corner of utica avenue and fulton street in brooklyn, ‘smurf village.’”

000: “He wore a red jumpsuit and an oversized red bandana. Next to him were Blood members wearing their telltale red beaded necklaces”: This and all descriptions of the “Kooda” video shoot come from making-of footage shot by Pvnch, provided to Complex. Excerpts can be seen here: “Outside Ep. 1 - 6ix9ine - Kooda (OFFICIAL BEHIND THE SCENES) W Pvnch” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J9HDXGkSM>

Additional making-of footage can be viewed at Got2EatTV, “6IX9INE - KOODA (BEHIND THE SCENES) FT. KOODA B X GS9 X PVNCH” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7o4BCY8twZw>

000: “What people don’t really...all friends”: Author interview with Pvnch, 2019 p. 17.

000: “He made appearances at strip clubs, like Angels NYC in Flushing, Queens, which he visited on November 13, 2017”: All descriptions of the Angels NYC date come from behind the scenes video provided by Pvnch to Complex.

000: “the club was having ‘Industry Sunday,’ with Pvnch as the DJ. The night promised a ‘surprise special guest,’ but the rainbow-colored diamond grill image on the flyer gave the surprise away: Photo is visible on Haus’ Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/hausnyc/photos/938183652999488>

000: “Pvnch played hits from Future, Drake, 21 Savage, and Lil Uzi Vert”: All descriptions of this event come from behind the scenes video provided by Pvnch to Complex.

Chapter 4: A Personal Hit Squad

000: “On November 11, 2017...did his job”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 283-287

000: “Chris King, who was there with Trippie, recalls what happened next this way: A bunch of guys were just hanging out in the lobby, claiming to be Bloods. One of them went to shake Trippie’s hand, and then punched him. Then a big rumble broke out, and the assailants ran away.”: Author interview with Chris King, Mar. 29, 2019.

000: “Trippie, enraged...faggot”: Hip Hop Central, “The History of 6ix9ine & Trippie Redds Beef (Friends To Enemies),” uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 13, 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPals5MdiH4> 4:32

000: ““I don’t know what’s going on...again”: Hip Hop Central, “The History of 6ix9ine & Trippie Redds Beef (Friends To Enemies),” uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 13, 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPals5MdiH4> 5:44

000: “what a federal judge would later call a ‘personal hit squad’”: Transcript of sentencing hearing for Daniel Hernandez, Dec. 18, 2019. p. 74

000: “One day, Ms. Tr3yway ran into Tekashi, and was surprised to find out that he was told he couldn’t go over to Maddy anymore. Ms. Tr3yway never said anything of the sort”: Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019, p. 16. “You know, people just starting telling stuff in his ears. He was, like, ‘Yes, I heard that we can’t go over there no more.’ So, I’m like, ‘How you heard that?’ So, now, I’m talking to him, clearing it up. I’m like, ‘You could come over.[.]’ But then, you got the old Shotti ass talking in his ear.”

000: “Sequo and his aunt didn’t like Tekashi’s constant trolling and antagonizing. Shotti, on the other hand, was all about it.”: Author interview with Sequo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019, p. 25. “We don’t sit here and just start trouble. You want to make money with these people, do a song or something. Don’t sit here and beef with them. But, like I said, you had his fake manager in the back, like, cheering him on, his cheerleader. Go ahead, do it. You could do it. So, he did it.”

000: Ms. Tr3yway had asked Shotti months prior to register the trademark for ‘Tr3yway Entertainment,’ but he’d never done so”: Author interview with Ms. Tr3yway, Aug. 21, 2019: “Shotti wanted that. He got mad also because we told him to, like you know LLC, the business? We left him in charge of all of that, he didn’t even do that, he did a DBA, that means nothing.”

000: “Some people even thought that Shotti’s name was ‘Treyway’ because of how frequently he and Tekashi used the term”: Charlamagne Tha God refers to Shotti as “Trey” in Tekashi’s first Breakfast Club interview. See Breakfast Club Power 105.1 FM, “Tekashi 6ix9ine On Why He Loves Being Hated, Rolling With Crips And Bloods & Why He’s The Hottest,” Uploaded to YouTube Mar. 23, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNjiBBCNkk0> 19:14

000: “After the incident with Trippie, Harv and Tekashi grew close, and Harv became the rising star’s bodyguard”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 287. “After that incident, me and Harv became super close, like really close. Q. How close? A. Like, I attended Thanksgiving at his house. Q. At this point in time, did Harv assume a role with your entourage? A. Yeah. Q. What was that role? A. It started -- I use him as an enforcer, like a bodyguard type of, type of guy.”

000: “when people were threatening him outside a T-Mobile store”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 290-2.

000: “when a rogue Nine Trey affiliate named Snow Billy seemed like he had nefarious aims”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 292-7.

000: “The video for ‘Kooda’ hit the internet on December 3, 2017”: WORLDSTARHIPHOP, “6IX9INE “Kooda” (WSHH Exclusive - Official Music Video)” Uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 3, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yz7Cn3pHibo>

000: “So right after...full-fledged member”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019 p. 236-7.

000: “So in mid-November, just before the release of “Kooda,” Tekashi sat down for an in-depth interview”: This and all descriptions of the Akademiks interview come from DJ Akademiks, “Tekashi69 Addresses his Sexual Misconduct Charges from 2014. He Reveals All.” uploaded to YouTube on Nov. 18, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xSt2G6AWgU>

000: “His lies were all tiny”: All of Tekashi’s fabrications in this interview are enumerated in author interview with Rich Juzwiak, 2019 and backed up in Rich Juzwiak, Jezebel, “Details in

Child Sex Complaint Against Rapper 6ix9ine Contradict His Public Comments.”

<https://jezebel.com/details-in-child-sex-complaint-against-rapper-6ix9ine-c-1821245294>

000: “Back in March, a pre-Nine Trey Tekashi put out a song called ‘On the Regular’”: Hef, “6IX9INE - ‘On The Regular,’” Elevator, Mar. 6, 2017.

<https://www.elevatormag.com/6ix9ine-on-the-regular>

000: “On the Billboard Hot 100 chart—the ultimate arbiter of a song’s status—for the week of December 2, “Gummo” entered at number 58”: Billboard, “Hot 100, the week of December 2, 2017” <https://www.billboard.com/charts/hot-100/2017-12-02>

000: “It stayed on the chart for 20 weeks, peaking at number 12”: Billboard, “Chart History - 6ix9ine” <https://www.billboard.com/music/6ix9ine/chart-history/HSI>

000: “December 20 to make a video for ‘Keke,’”: All descriptions of the “Keke” video shoot come from behind the scenes footage provided by Pvnch to Complex. Some of the footage is publicly visible at Earport, “Outside Ep. 3 : 6ix9ine x Pvnch x A Boogie x Fetty Wap - Keke Behind The Scenes In Bronx Video Shoot,” Uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 23, 2017.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGsnSW-_2xc

More footage can be seen on Got 2EatTV, “6IX9INE - KEKE (BEHIND THE SCENES) FT. FETTY WAP X A BOOGIE,” uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 27, 2017.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqxsUaCDf_U

000: “as he did with ‘Keke,’ releasing in-studio footage of him, A Boogie, and Fetty Wap dancing along to a part of the track”: “Tekashi 6ix9ine - Keke ft. A boogie,Fetty wap New Song snippet” Uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 17, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvY4ain75II>

000: “just three weeks after hitting the Billboard Hot 100 for the first time, Tekashi now had two songs on it: ‘Gummo’ was at number 13, and ‘Kooda’ debuted at number 61”: Billboard, “The Hot 100, Week of December 23, 2017” <https://www.billboard.com/charts/hot-100/2017-12-23>

000: “I came from nothing...now”: “6ix9ine - 2017 Interview with Mass Appeal - Reupload”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoJu-KC3UF8> 1:16

000: “On the set of the ‘Keke’ video, Tekashi wasn’t wearing Jordans. But on his feet were fancy, revered-in-Japan Reebok Instapump Fury sneakers”: All descriptions of the “Keke” video shoot come from behind the scenes footage provided by Pvnch to Complex.

Chapter 5: Where the Money At?

000: “In December, he made his first major, five-figure payment to the gang”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 270. “I know it started in December, when I first started seeing real money, like large amounts of cash.”

000: “So they could buy guns and stuff like that”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 241.

000: “He made payments to both Shotti and Harv”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 270. “Q. And whom did you pay? A. I paid Harv before. I paid Shotti.”

000: “around the top of 2018...Harv’s”: All accounts of this meeting come from trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 319-321

000: “He would frequently not bother to pay the people who accompanied him on club dates”: Author interview with Fluff Jonez, 2019. “I would have a lot of other people in my ear like, ‘Yo, I didn’t get paid. You know this situation? I didn’t get paid. You know this situation I did? I didn’t get paid.’ So I’m like, ‘Wait a minute. What you mean you didn’t get paid? This is in contract.’ He was like, ‘Yeah, the contract is directly to Daniel Hernandez, and we made sure he got all the money. He got all the money, but he never gave us not even \$1,000.’”

000: “He would also take deposits for performances and then not show up at all”: Author interview with Fluff Jonez, 2019. “On March 2nd, Shotti did a double booking where he robbed a little kid from Long Island. He told the little kid from Long Island to make the flier and everything, that he was going to have his artist pull up, which was 6ix 9ine... Shotti calls me. ‘Yo bro, the little kid just called me and told me that you just cursed him out. Yo bro, don’t worry about that. Let that date blow by, you heard?’”

000: “A few days before Christmas, he posted a video to Instagram that he shot in a hospital, where he went in the aftermath of an asthma flareup. In the clip, he’s laying on a gurney with a white sheet over him, letting the audience think he was dead until the very end, when he abruptly sits up”: “VIDEO OF 6IX9INE DEAD IN HOSPITAL !” uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 22, 2017. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_l4i6rEiEY

000: “a Nine Trey member had tried to rob him some time before, and the rapper mocked the failed attempt in his 2016 song ‘Don’t Run’”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, “The Government’s Motions *In Limine*” (Document 240). Filed Aug. 2, 2019. P. 28. “CW-2 is expected to testify that he understood the lyrics of ‘Don’t Run’ to reference a failed attempt by MACK to rob the rapper. CW-2 is expected to testify that other Nine Trey members, including JONES and JORAN [sic], told CW-2 that MACK attempted to rob the rival rapper of his watch but failed. In response, the rival rapper referenced the robbery in ‘DON’T RUN’ and mocked MACK’s failure to rob him.”

000: “But Tekashi’s DJ Pvnch...look bad”: Author interview with Pvnch, 2019, p. 36-7.

000: “At a late December...in the air”: Jessica Todd, “EXCLUSIVE: Tekashi 6ix9ine Disses Casanova During Performance in NYC,” Vlad TV, Jan. 2, 2018. <https://www.vladtv.com/article/238698/tekashi-6ix9ine-disses-casanova-during-performance-in-nyc> “the ‘GUMMO’ rapper made things public during his December 30 gig at Club FREQ in New

York. Tekashi was on stage with his crew and could be heard saying, ‘Shout out Casanova. We f***ed that n***a's b****.’”

000: “Days later, Casanova released a video for a new song called ‘Set Trippin’”:
WORLDSTARHIPHOP, “Casanova "Set Trippin" (WSHH Exclusive - Official Music Video)”
Uploaded to YouTube on Jan. 3, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiS24la44DQ>

000: “Pvnch is adamant to this day that it was not originally intended as a diss towards Tekashi, but was only taken as one because of the heightened context”: Author interview with Pvnch, 2019, p. 38.

000: “Regardless, the song was soon rocketing around YouTube with ‘(6ix9ine Diss)’ appended to the name”: For example, see “Casanova - Set Trippin (6ix9ine Diss) Official Audio”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tv3_Lkvo1gY

000: “In a group text...he replied”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 800, p. 2-5

000: “He approached a New Jersey entertainment lawyer with one question: ‘What can you do for Tr3yway?’”: Author interview with Navarro Gray, 2019. “So, the conversation quickly shifted from 6ix9ine to, ‘What can you do for TreWay?’ And I sat there, and I was like, ‘We have to brand Treyway.’”

000: “Ms. Tr3yway was the one who trademarked the term ‘Tr3yway’ and who registered ‘Tr3yway Entertainment Inc.’ as a business with New York State”: for trademark:
Trademark/Service Mark Application, Principal Register, Serial Number 87857637, Filing Date: 03/30/2018 for “Tr3yway” - signatory is “Chanelle Givens”

[https://tsdr.uspto.gov/documentviewer?](https://tsdr.uspto.gov/documentviewer?caselid=sn87857637&docid=RFA20180403080932#docIndex=12&page=1)

[caselid=sn87857637&docid=RFA20180403080932#docIndex=12&page=1](https://tsdr.uspto.gov/documentviewer?caselid=sn87857637&docid=RFA20180403080932#docIndex=12&page=1)

For business: TR3YWAY ENTERTAINMENT INC., DOS ID# 5261558, DOS Process is Chanelle Givens.

[https://appext20.dos.ny.gov/corp_public/CORPSEARCH.ENTITY_INFORMATION?](https://appext20.dos.ny.gov/corp_public/CORPSEARCH.ENTITY_INFORMATION?p_token=1FF9385F074981C625294E605A5B01709BD2C8495E683A6ECB0DF4399706C074428176B15C4296A218812AE2A05D1FC1&p_nameid=BC1887700D9BBA4E&p_corpid=17E7AFE85262E455&p_captcha=14347&p_captcha_check=1FF9385F074981C625294E605A5B01709BD2C8495E683A6ECB0DF4399706C074451A068BD685577A18F37C2266A80C4C&p_entity_name=%74%72%33%79%77%61%79&p_name_type=%25&p_search_type=%42%45%47%49%4E%53&p_srch_results_page=0)

[p_token=1FF9385F074981C625294E605A5B01709BD2C8495E683A6ECB0DF4399706C074428176B15C4296A218812AE2A05D1FC1&p_nameid=BC1887700D9BBA4E&p_corpid=17E7AFE85262E455&p_captcha=14347&p_captcha_check=1FF9385F074981C625294E605A5B01709BD2C8495E683A6ECB0DF4399706C074451A068BD685577A18F37C2266A80C4C&p_entity_name=%74%72%33%79%77%61%79&p_name_type=%25&p_search_type=%42%45%47%49%4E%53&p_srch_results_page=0](https://appext20.dos.ny.gov/corp_public/CORPSEARCH.ENTITY_INFORMATION?p_token=1FF9385F074981C625294E605A5B01709BD2C8495E683A6ECB0DF4399706C074428176B15C4296A218812AE2A05D1FC1&p_nameid=BC1887700D9BBA4E&p_corpid=17E7AFE85262E455&p_captcha=14347&p_captcha_check=1FF9385F074981C625294E605A5B01709BD2C8495E683A6ECB0DF4399706C074451A068BD685577A18F37C2266A80C4C&p_entity_name=%74%72%33%79%77%61%79&p_name_type=%25&p_search_type=%42%45%47%49%4E%53&p_srch_results_page=0)

“The entertainment lawyer...term”: Author interview with Navarro Gray, 2019. “And I sat there, and I was like, ‘We have to brand Treyway’... He came back two days later, with money in my office, like, ‘Let's go. Let's brand this.’ And that's what we did, we came up with the plan, I told him to set up an Instagram, he set up the Instagram, got the logos, and then he became a branded monster.”

000: “set up an account at @tr3yway_ent”: First post is Jan. 2, 2018:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bdb8s3MnALb/>

000: “the annual Yams Day concert on January 18, 2018 at the New York Expo Center in the Bronx. The concert was held to celebrate the memory of Steven “ASAP Yams” Rodriguez, the co-founder of Harlem’s influential ASAP collective”: Nerisha Penrose, *Billboard*, “A\$AP Mob Teams Up With Lil Yachty, Nav & More for 2018 Yams Day Celebration,” Jan. 11, 2018.

<https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/hip-hop/8093983/asap-mob-2018-yams-day-lineup>

“A\$AP Mob is back to take over the New York Expo Center for the 2018 Yams Day celebration honoring the late A\$AP Yams.”

000: “before dying in 2015 at just 26 years old”: August Brown, ASAP Yams’ death ruled accidental drug overdose,” Los Angeles Times, March 20, 2015. “Rodriguez was found unresponsive on Jan. 18 in his Brooklyn apartment and was taken to nearby Woodhull Medical Center, where he died. He was 26”. <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/music/posts/la-et-ms-asap-yams-death-ruled-accidental-drug-overdose-20150320-story.html>

000: “Shotti...fighting back”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019. p. 297-303. Additional footage provided by Pvnch to Complex.

000: “‘We retaliated because they were swinging first,’ a rapper named Flee Kevo who was on the scene remembers. ‘Fifty against fifty. It was wicked. Sticks flying, fire hydrants. It was crazy’”: Author interview with Fluff Jonez, Flee Kevo, and Jay Mula, 2019. “when we went to Yam’s Day. There was thousands of people there. They claimed that we started a fight, which was bull. They bumped into a couple of people we was with, Shotti, and stuff like that. We retaliated because they were swinging first. So I’ve seen some crazy shit. Fifty against fifty, it was wicked. Sticks flying. Fucking, excuse my language... fire hydrants. It was crazy. We was running through crowds, they was afraid of us.”

000: “One Nine Trey member was caught on tape stabbing a security guard. Harv got hit in the face with a stick, but then got control of the stick and started beating the guy with it”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019. p. 297-303. Additional video of the event provided by Pvnch to Complex.

000: “For Yams’ family...with me?”: “Tekashi 6ix9ine Talks ASAP YAMS DAY BRAWL,” Uploaded to YouTube on Jan. 19, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9QiUnodGlg>

000: “before his first trip to Los Angeles, he made sure to insult ‘D**K SUCKIN SCARY WEST COAST CLOUT CHASIN RAPPERS’ on social media”: Tone Are, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Claims the Venue Canceled His L.A. Show, Not Him,” VladTV, Feb. 15, 2018.

<https://www.vladtv.com/article/241093/tekashi-6ix9ine-claims-the-venue-canceled-his-la-show-not-him> “‘D**K SUCKIN SCARY WEST COAST CLOUT CHASIN RAPPERS WANNA CANCEL

SHOWS. IM STILL COMING NO SHOWS AND ALL !!!! IMA SHOW YA HOW GANGSTAS

MOVE!!,' 6ix9ine wrote in the caption of a video of him flanked by a dozen or so members of his crew... Tekashi was scheduled to perform at the Belasco Theatre on February 20, before the show was suddenly dropped.”

000: “an audience in Minnesota that threw bottles at him”: VladTV, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Gets Bottle Service Buckets Thrown at Him During Show,” Feb. 5, 2018. <https://www.vladtv.com/article/240513/tekashi-6ix9ine-gets-bottle-service-buckets-thrown-at-him-during-show> “However, things almost went left for the rapper during an appearance he made in Minnesota. In a video that surfaced from the rapper’s performance, fans in the crowd of the show began to throw bottles and bottle service buckets at Tekashi.”

000: “After ‘Keke,’ Tekashi and Drew buckled down and worked on recording enough songs for an actual project”: Author interview with Anthony Flammia and Solomon Sobande, Apr. 25, 2019. “Chris had them in Atlanta, think they were down to like, the wire. They were like, three weeks away, or four weeks away from where they had to hand in a project, and I think they only had like, ‘Gummo.’ Literally. Maybe one or two other songs. They weren’t sure what they were going to do, so Chris rolled the dice and he called me.”

000: “By late February 2018, Tekashi’s first project *Day69* was ready to go”: *Day69* was uploaded to 6ix9ine’s official SoundCloud page on Feb. 23, 2018 (hover your mouse over the text reading “[x] years ago” to see the date). <https://soundcloud.com/scumgang6ix9ine/sets/day69-2>

000: “One day after...changed”: Anak, “The Artist Behind 6ix9ine’s ‘Day69’ Cover Has Been Accused Of Stealing The Artwork,” *Genius*, Feb. 28, 2018. <https://genius.com/a/the-artist-behind-6ix9ines-day69-cover-has-been-accused-of-stealing-the-artwork>

000: “‘Gotti,’ also on *Day69*, originally belonged to a Miami artist named PAcKmaN”: Author interview with Fluff Jonez, Flee Kevo, and Jay Mula, 2019. p. 14-15. Also see PAcKmaN, “Got It, Got It (feat. 6ix9ine) (Audio),” uploaded to PAcKmaN’s official YouTube account on Jan. 26, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqD96WiMt94>. Also see No Jumper, “Billy Ado & Seqo Billy on 6ix9ine and the REAL Origins of Treway,” uploaded to YouTube on May 15, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLuJYBAF9Nw> 44:31-45:09.

000: “In February 2018, right around the release of *Day 69*, Tekashi was at a video shoot in Crown Heights, Brooklyn”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019. p. 718. “Q. Mr. Rivera, approximately when was this picture taken? A. At the end of February 2018. Q. And what happened on the day this picture was taken? A. He was recording a music video. Q. Who is the ‘he’? A. Daniel Hernandez. Q. Prior to this day, had you met Mr. Hernandez? A. No.”

000: “Jorge Rivera was in his early 30s, and was an undocumented immigrant in New York City”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019. p. 715. “Q. Mr. Rivera, how old are you? A. 33. Q. And

where are you from? A. Mexico. Q. When did you first come to the United States? A. In 2004. Q. How did you come to the United States? A. I crossed the border illegally.”

000: “He’d paid a coyote to smuggle him from Mexico in 2004 as a teenager to find a better life for his family”: “Jorge Luis Rivera Luna was born on July 29, 1986... In 2004, Mr. Rivera, along with his cousin, paid a ‘coyote’ to transport him across the Rio Grande into the United States.” United States of America v. Jorge Rivera, “Sentencing Memorandum for the Defendant Jorge Rivera” (Document 554), filed Oct. 2, 2020. p. 2-4. For “across the Rio Grande,” see author interview with Jorge Rivera, July 2020. “I crossed the border illegally. I crossed the river, the Rio Grande.”

000: “Fourteen years later, he was working at his uncle’s tire shop”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 716. “Q. And when you got to Brooklyn, did you find work? A. Yes. Q. Where? A. At my uncle's tire shop. Q. What did you do there, sir? A. We made repairs, and we sold tires. Q. How long did you work in the tire shop for in Brooklyn? A. For almost 14 years.”

000: “starting to drive for a car service in Brooklyn”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 716. “February of 2018? A. Yes. Q. What did you do after that? A. I started driving for a cab company. Q. Was that a yellow cab, or is it a car service company? A. A car service.”

000: “The service got a call from someone who said they needed a ride to a music video set”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 718. “Q. Prior to this day, had you met Mr. Hernandez? A. No. Q. Why were you at the music video shoot? A. Somebody had hired me to drive him around the whole day. Q. And did they hire you to drive him to the music video shoot? A. Yes.”

000: “Jorge was not...sticker”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, July 2020.

000: “A few weeks later, at around 1 AM on a Sunday morning, Jorge got a call from the Mexican rapper. That was odd, because he hadn’t given Tekashi his phone number”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, July 2020.

000: “Tekashi (who liked that Jorge was driving a new, \$60,000 Chevy Tahoe)”: Author conversation with Jorge Rivera, Mar. 4, 2020. “I mean he liked my truck, the truck what I have. And I was doing car service in a 2017 Chevy Tahoe, a brand-new truck, doing car service. Like somebody's ... you're paying \$7.00 and you're driving in a \$60,000 car? Of course you like my car.”

000: “had a request...first day”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, July 2020.

000: “As March turned to April, Jorge was becoming the regular driver for Tekashi”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, July 2020. “at what point did it kind of become a regular, everyday thing? Jorge Rivera: Like around April. Beginning of the month of April.”

000: “When Jorge turned in his hours at the end of the day, Shotti was the one who signed the receipts”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, July 2020. “Jorge Rivera: there always was this guy, everybody called him Shotti. So also he was the one who signed the receipts for me.” Also, author viewed a photograph of receipts for Family Car Service dated April 2018, all signed by Kifano Jordan.

000: “Shotti was a...near-constant”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, July 2020.

000: “After only a few...guns and drugs”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, July 2020. “I’ll take these guys to places like some different locations, different addresses. And I was waiting outside. I wait outside and go inside to do whatever they has to do. And then with just me waiting. I get tired. So I need to use the restroom. I have to eat, too. So at one point I was going inside those houses and I see like guns on the table, I see drugs on the table.”

000: “A Nine Trey member named Roland Martin, known as “Ro Murda,” was released from prison that February”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 323), Filed Oct. 4, 2019, p. 4. “The defendant attained a high position within the Prison Lineup while serving a nine-year sentence in New York State prison. Upon his release in February 2018, the defendant immediately returned to Nine Trey business in the Street Lineup—assuming a high rank...”

000: “A Nine Trey member since his teens”: USA v. Roland Martin, Transcript of sentencing hearing, Oct. 10, 2019, p. 16-17. “it was this neighborhood that contributed in no small way to Mr. Martin joining the gang to begin with. THE COURT: When did he join? MR. BRYER: A very long time ago, as a young man in his teens...”

000: “with a record of gun and drug busts dating back to 2002, he was coming off nine years in state prison for a drug conviction”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Letter from Geoffrey Berman to Michael Schachter, Esq., June 10, 2019. p. 3-4

000: “years during which he was still involved with the drug dealing end of Nine Trey, communicating via phone calls”: USA v. Roland Martin, Transcript of sentencing hearing, Oct. 10, 2019, p. 8. “The court heard several recorded conversations at trial, including recorded conversations in or about October 2016, in which one of the cooperating witnesses, Mr. Cruz, was complaining to Mr. Martin, who at that time was in the state prison system, about drug debts and who owes what money to whom, and Mr. Martin offering to facilitate the settling of drug debts by bringing it up to the leaders in the prison lineup.”

000: “By virtue of having earned his stripes behind the wall, Ro had Godfather status in the gang”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack, Anthony Ellison aka Harv, US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, “Brief for Defendant-Appellant Aljermiah Mack” (Document 86), filed Feb. 4, 2021 p.5. “Roland Martin, a/k/a Ro Murda, was also given godfather status when he was released from jail in March 2018 after serving nine years”

000: “So the lineup of Nine Trey that contained Shotti, Harv, Tekashi, and Mel Murda was ‘dubbed’—gotten rid of. And a new lineup, headed by Ro, was instituted. Mel remained a Godfather technically, but retreated from being involved in the gang’s day-to-day operations”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 353-355. “Q. And you testified earlier Ro got out of prison around February of 2018? A. Yes. Q. What happened when he got home or what happened when he got out of prison? A. He dubbed the old lineup. Dub meaning is like he -- what’s the word he used? Like didn’t. I don’t know what other words he used. Disqualify... what was Mel Murda’s position? A. I mean, he’s still the godfather, but he barely left the house.”

Chapter 6: Houston

000: “he took on everyone from the U.S. government”: “THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION: WERE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SWAYED BY POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS?” Dec. 6-7, 2000. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-106hhrg74430/html/CHRG-106hhrg74430.htm>

“This summer, we heard about an investigation of drug trafficking in Houston, TX. There was an investigation involving a man named James Prince. He owns a record company called Rap-A-Lot. He and his associates were believed to be large-scale drug dealers. This investigation produced more than 20 convictions. There were allegations that political pressure was brought to bear, and the Drug Enforcement Administration killed the investigation.”

000: “to championship boxers”: Mike Chiari, “Bob Arum Discusses 2003 Incident with Floyd Mayweather and James Prince,” *Bleacher Report*, Jan. 23, 2016. <https://bleacherreport.com/articles/2610435-bob-arum-discusses-2003-incident-with-floyd-mayweather-and-james-prince>

000: “to his own artists”: Former Rap-a-lot artist Brad “Scarface” Jordan writes extensively about his trials with Prince in his memoir *Diary of a Madman: The Geto Boys, Life, Death, and the Roots of Southern Rap* (with Benjamin Meadows Ingram).

000: “Jas, to maintain a stake in the career of the biggest hitmaker in all of music, Drake”: Ogden Payne, “How Jas Prince’s ‘God-Given Ear’ Brought Drake From Overlooked Rapper To Global Phenom,” *Forbes*, Feb. 27, 2017. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ogdenpayne/2017/02/27/meet-jas-prince-the-quiet-hand-responsible-for-discovering-drake/?sh=59ac394d7d03>

000: his 2018 song ‘Mob Ties’”: Drake, “Mob Ties” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzAlhxEemw>

000: “a catchphrase Prince and another of his sons, J. Prince Junior, frequently used”: See J Prince Instagram post on March 11, 2019: “Mob Ties Call To My Real Street Niggas Around The World.” https://www.instagram.com/p/Bu42S1HF-Kr/?utm_source=ig_embed For J. Prince Junior, see J Prince Jr. Instagram bio “Rap-A-Lot, MobTies & YEMG CEO, Houston is my city but the earth is my turf!!!! #MobTies” <https://www.instagram.com/jprincejr/?hl=en>

000: All accounts of the sneaker store run-in come from trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 335 and Breakfast Club Power 105.1 FM, "Tekashi 6ix9ine On Why He Loves Being Hated, Rolling With Crips And Bloods & Why He's The Hottest," uploaded to YouTube on Mar. 23, 2018 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNjiBBCNkk0> 4:45

000: "When Tekashi and Shotti got...MobTies": @jprincejr on Instagram, Mar. 14, 2018. <https://www.instagram.com/p/BgUzW2GntpL/>

000: "On Tekashi's group text...this dick": USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 800D and Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p.336-344

000: "'I made up my mind today,' he said. 'I want smoke. It's lit'": USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 800D1 and Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p.344-346

000: "Harv and another...texted": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 332-333, 347-348 and USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 800E.

000: "When he showed up at the Summit Rooftop Lounge": Opposition, "OPPOSITION @ SXSW 2018," Mar. 13, 2018. <https://www.weareopposition.com/post/news/opposition-at-sxsw-2018/> "The only place to be this Friday night is at the Opposition x WorldstarHipHop SXSW Rooftop Showcase. Once again we're teaming up with WorldstarHipHop to bring you a lineup of today's biggest hip hop artists. This year's headliners are 6IX9INE & Tee Grizzley along with performances by Rich the Kid, YBN Nahmir, YFN Lucci, Smokepurpp, with more artists to be announced soon."

000: "Tekashi was not surprised to see Harv was right up front, waiting for him": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 334.

000: "J. Prince Junior and about 50 of his closest friends were right there, barricading the stage": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 334 and Madalyn Mendoza, "6ix9ine didn't perform at his own SXSW show in Austin," San Antonio Express News, Mar. 19, 2018. <https://www.mysanantonio.com/entertainment/music-stage/article/6ix9ine-didn-t-perform-at-SXSW-show-in-Austin-12765229.php> "DJ Akademiks, a popular source for hip hop news, curated videos posted by Houston-based Rap-A-Lot Records CEO J Prince Jr., who showed up to Summit Rooftop Lounge with a group of 50 people and stood on the stage, calling 6ix9ine out."

000: "In the middle...want you here": Author interview with Christian Ehigiator, Feb. 21, 2019. "So basically, he's scared to go to perform at the Austin show. I pull up at the venue, I call him, I got Jay right next to me. I'm like, 'Jay, here's Danny on the phone, talk to him, whatever, whatever.' I always say stuff like, 'Look, it's your thing. You can fire whoever you want to fire. If you don't want this, we're not going to have this. Whatever, whatever.' So this day I'm like, 'Yo

bro, whoever you don't want to be here, just let me know, let Jay know. Even if you don't want me to be here, let Jay know. Whatever, whatever.' So he thought I was so ... I don't know. Actually, I don't know what he thought because I'm not in his head. But Jay gives me back the phone, he's like, 'Yeah, Danny said he don't even want you here.' I'm like, 'What?' I'm like, 'He don't want me where? He doesn't want me here at the show?' And at that point, I was like, 'Oh yeah.'”

000: “They decided to cut their losses, forfeit about \$10,000 that they were supposed to collect after the performance, and jet”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 334. “And I didn't receive any back end. Back end was the 10,000, 15,000 that was supposed to be paid to me after I did the show.”

000: ““Niggas talk...his show””: @djakademiks on Instagram, Mar. 17, 2018. <https://www.instagram.com/p/BgazuJhAhRC/?taken-by=akadmiks>

000” “Chris says...nature”: Author interview with Christian Ehigiator, Feb. 21, 2019, p. 22.

000: “Tekashi, after a meeting...theft”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18. 2019 p. 331-332.

000: “ “[Tekashi] got the best...mob, nigga!””: itsmrtaliaferro, “Tekashi's Manager TreyWay Goes At J Prince Jr & Goes Back & Forth With Game's Manager Wack100,” uploaded to YouTube on Mar. 20, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VeuK4m3KrY 0:35

000: “On March 20, 2018, Trippie was set to perform at Radio City Music Hall, opening for the Bay Area rapper G-Eazy”: Jambase, “G-Eazy - New York, NY” <https://www.jambase.com/show/g-eazy-radio-city-music-hall-20180320>

000: “Promoter Fluff...presence”: Author interview with Fluff Jonez, Flee Kevo, and Jay Mula, 2019. “The day we was at Radio City Music Hall. Like, we out there, about to fuck this nigga up. Police is out there. We still out there. Shotti like, ‘Yo, listen, we going fuck this nigga up, bro.’ I'm like, ‘All right, brother.’ I said to him, ‘Let's go fuck this nigga up, then.’... I said, ‘Nigga, we going beat this nigga up. We going fuck him up.’ I was like, ‘All right. We fucking him up. He talking about TREYWAY.’ Yeah. Yo, no, nothing ended up happening. Nothing ended up happening. We stood out there several hours, we bumped into like, two people from Trippie Redd's camp, and then they snitched on us, and told the police and everybody that we was out there.”

000: “The rapper Frenchie BSM...no one was hurt”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 356-359.

000: “Quad Studios in Manhattan—the same studio where 2pac infamously got shot in in 1994”: Courtney B, “TODAY IN HIP-HOP HISTORY: TUPAC SHAKUR SHOT 5 TIMES AT QUAD STUDIOS,” *The Source*, Nov. 30, 2019. <https://thesource.com/2019/11/30/today-in-hip-hop-history-tupac-shakur-shot-5-times-at-quad-studios/#:~:text=feature-,Today%20in%20Hip%20Hop%20History%3A%20Tupac%20Shakur%20Shot,5%20times%20At%20Quad>

[%20Studios&text=Today%20in%20Hip%20Hop%20History.two%20legends%20in%20hip%20hop.](#)

000: “recorded a diss song...S.C.U.M.G.A.N.G”: SCUMLordD!zzy, “6ix 9ine Diss [SCUMMO] - SCUM LORD D!ZZY,” uploaded to YouTube on Dec. 13, 2017.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFD4g_DJv_s

000: “That’s what he told Fat Joe in a February 2018 interview: Scumgang was ‘my shit’”: TIDAL, “Coca Vision: 6IX9INE,” uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 13, 2018.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56hkwVk9l8w> 12:40

000: “it quickly became their most popular interview ever”: Aron A., “Tekashi 6ix9ine Dethrones Birdman For Most Viewed Breakfast Club Interview,” Hot New Hip Hop, Jan. 17, 2019.

<https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/tekashi-6ix9ine-dethrones-birdman-for-most-viewed-breakfast-club-interview-news.69720.html#:~:text=The%20Breakfast%20Club's%20Instagram%20page,viewed%20clip%20on%20their%20channel>. See also

https://www.instagram.com/p/BswG2F-F694/?utm_source=ig_embed

https://www.instagram.com/p/BswG2F-F694/?utm_source=ig_embed

000: “In the middle of it, he dismissively referred to D!zzy and his friends as ‘some group’”: Breakfast Club Power 105.1 FM, “Tekashi 6ix9ine On Why He Loves Being Hated, Rolling With Crips And Bloods & Why He's The Hottest,” uploaded to YouTube on Mar. 23, 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNjiBBCNkk0> 23:20

000: “D!zzy’s friend KD...was ready”: Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, July 17, 2019. “I ran into that situation with some Rap-a-Lot peoples. And when he had disrespected J. Prince and his son so when they had reached out to me through somebody, my guy KD. KD. was helping me out shout out some content, LA content now. KD aka Studios. A guy named Alex, I forgot what ... they were like a branch off of Rap-a-Lot and I forgot the girl name ... what's her name? Star? Speaker 4: Skye. SCUM LORD DIZZY: She was a ... Skye. PR Skye and it was like a group of them that reached out. And they wanted Alex's family with J. Prince and they reached out with some ideas of what they wanted to do, have an interview, have J. Prince go to New York, do a press run.”

000: “with DJ Thoro”: Emily Kirkpatrick, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Is Headed Back to Court Over Botched Rap-A-Lot Robbery,” Vanity Fair, Dec. 23, 2020. “According to the documents obtained by Vanity Fair, Seketha Wonzer and Kevin Dozier claim they were attacked by Hernandez and four others in the vestibule of 264 West 40th Street on April 3, 2018, when they were mistaken for members of a rival record label. The publicists were there to record a podcast with DJ Thoro, “a confidant of rapper 50 Cent.” <https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2020/12/tekashi-6ix-9ine-rap-a-lot-robbery-lawsuit-assault-battery>

000: ““Rap-a-lot, what’s good...get wet”: “RAP-A-LOT ARTIST ROBBED? SCUMGANG SCUMLORD DIZZY THISIS50 INTERVIEW? TEKASHI 6IX9INE GOONS?” uploaded to YouTube on Apr. 5, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHpWkHEo1qk>

000: "In the interview, Junya Boy talked about how it was messed up for Tekashi to come to Houston and disrespect J. Prince. D!zzy talked about the true story of Scumgang. They wondered why real gang members like the Nine Trey guys were co-signing Tekashi": Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, July 17, 2019. "Speaker 1: What was the substance of that interview? **SCUM LORD DIZZY**: It was just basically why are some of these street dudes or proclaimed street dudes co-signing a kid that's diabolical like this? That's like self-destructive and you know, fucking up relationships and ...Yeah, so but yeah, that's what the basis was. You know what I mean? Bringing and shedding light to who he really is because I don't know people actually started believing that this kid has got all these plugs and that's really about this lifestyle you know what I mean? Speaker 1: What did Skye ... did Skye or Junior Boy talk during the interview?... **SCUM LORD DIZZY**: To be honest, they just was like you know, come into Houston, disrespecting Houston, Rap-a-Lot. Disrespecting what they worked on and they people and they always show love and how many people J. Prince helped throughout the game, it's like that's the wrong person that you want to disrespect. It's not going to get you nothing at the end, you know, things like that."

000: "someone in the office heard about it and called Tekashi's camp": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 361. "Shotti was on the couch on the phone with Crippy. Crippy tells Shotti: Yo, Rap-A-Lot -- jay Prince, Rap-A-Lot, they in the city. They got an interview at Thisis50 today."

000: "Tekashi's DJ Pvnch was an on-camera personality there": See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0alzdL1FnTA> among others.

000: "Faheem 'Crippy' Walter, who had been working his way into Tekashi's inner circle for a while and was now his day-to-day security, was the brother of 50's longtime security guard": Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019 p. 571. "Q. Crippy's older brother works for 50 Cent, right? A. Correct. Q. He's a bodyguard for him? A. Correct."

000: "Crippy got word...continued filming": All accounts of the robbery come from trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 361-368 and Jorge Rivera's testimony on Sept. 19, 2019 and Sept. 23, 2019.

000: "Skyy saw them...out of there": Author interview with Seketha "Skyy Lyfe" Wonzer, 2019.

000: "Her assistant got robbed of \$1,500 cash and a gold chain": Seketha Wonzer and Kevin Dozier against Daniel Hernandez a/k/a Tekashi 6ix9ine, Complaint (Document 1) filed Dec. 22, 2020 p. 4.

000: "'I'm from the hood,' he remembered later. 'This shit is regular, you know what I mean?': Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, July 17, 2019.

000: "had no idea D!zzy was going to be there, and Tekashi didn't either": Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 570. "Q. The plan that day was to rob a particular member of the Crips, right? A.

We didn't know he was going to be there. It was towards Rap-A-Lot. Q. But Scumlord Dizzy was there? A. Correct.”

000: “Once I felt like my life wasn't in danger, I really was upset that when they came in I was looking at the [gun] and he was able to snatch my bag out my hand”: Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, July 17, 2019.

000: “You can see this clearly on the surveillance video”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 600 (video).

000: “I don't got my bag. I got my ID and shit in it. That's what I'm thinking about. At first, I'm tight. My little shit that I need, I had a flight, no ID. How do I fucking get on my flight now?”: Author interview with Scumlord D!zzy, July 17, 2019.

000: “So he talked back...robbery”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 600 (video).

000: “After the robbery...Crippy's place”: All accounts of the robbery come from trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 361-370 and Jorge Rivera's testimony on Sept. 19, 2019 and Sept. 23, 2019. Tekashi's video of the robbery is USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 601 (video) and surveillance video is USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 600 (video).

000: “He sent the footage of the robbery to DJ Akademiks”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 573. “Q. And you weren't too famous to videotape the armed robbery? A. No. Q. Not too famous to sent that and to send that videotape to DJ Academics? A. No.”

000: “Allegedly...a lot”: Kollege Kidd, “DJ Akademiks' Social Media Is Being Used In The Federal Indictment Against Tekashi69,” Nov. 29, 2018. <https://kollegekidd.com/news/dj-akademiks-social-media-is-being-used-in-the-federal-indictment-against-tekashi69/> “Akademiks posted the footage on his IG page with a caption, reading, ‘Allegedly this footage of a ‘Rap A Lot’ artist being robbed today in New York while headed to a interview w/ thisis50. (In the video u can hear someone say “rap a lot”).’”

000: “I advise u to have your facts right before u try to tarnish my families name,’ he wrote. That was of course followed by a threat: ‘Your too accessible!’”: Relatable Oddball, “J Prince Jr WARNS Akademiks I Advise You Get Your Facts Right! After Saying They Artist Got Jacked!!” Uploaded to YouTube on Apr. 4, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mveAzgQJEwg> 2:14

000: “6ix9nine goons allegedly rob rap a lot affiliate”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl10ib1_3bl

000: “They took D!zzy's backpack and threw it in the closet of Tekashi's house”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 782. “Q. And what happened as you were moving Mr. Hernandez out of

that apartment? A. Daniel's mom was responsible for emptying all the closets, putting all the clothes in boxes, just to make sure that nothing got lost, so everything was put in the living room. So that late afternoon, night, when I got to Daniel's house, I realized that Shotti's knapsack, the one that had the gun in it, it turned up. The knapsack that they had taken in the robbery also had turned up." See also Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 370. "What happened to the backpack? A. It was placed in my place of residence during -- Q. Why? Why? A. I mean, I really have -- it was just placed there. We never disposed of it."

Chapter 7: Spinning Out of Control

"On April 13...side mirror": Accounts of the Ro Murda robbery come from 1. Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 373-4 (Tekashi); 2. Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019 p. 759-763 (Jorge); 3. Trial transcript, Sept. 26, 2019, p. 1542 (Gov't summary). 4. Video of Roland Martin showing off the car and watch is USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 501C.

000: "he even let Ro wear his AP chain on occasion": Trial transcript, Sept. 24, 2018 p. 1088. "When he pulled out the gun on Ro Murda, he asked him for the chain that he was wearing. Ro Murda was wearing my AP chain..."

000: "when Ro got out of prison, the dealer was right there to welcome him back with some money": Trial transcript, Sept. 24, 2019, p. 1061. "If I made that sale I would have gave -- if I got paid for that sale I would have gave -- I mean Ro Murda money.

Q. For what purpose?

A. Just because he was a higher-up and I was cool with him.

000: "Nuke's proposition: Ro should set the dealer up, and rob him": Trial transcript, Sept. 24, 2018 p. 1088. "this is Ro Murda told me, that Aljermiah Mack told him that he wanted Ro Murda to set me up. Ro Murda said no, I'm not setting him up..."

000: "if Ro wasn't down for that, how about setting up Tekashi or Shotti? 'Give me somebody,' he demanded": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 376. "Nuke was asking Ro, like, first, give me somebody, give me 6ix or give me Shotti, like, set them up for me. And Ro's like: Nah, I can't do that. I love the niggas."

000: "How da fukk the Jakkboyz getting Jakked out here?": USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 501B

000: "He DM'd a friend on Instagram that he 'booked' Ro. 'Took his truck,' Nuke wrote": USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 501EE

000: "'Sunstroke Ro. Yesterday,": USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 501GG, p. 1.

000: “laughing it up with a friend over a month later about how Ro had run out of his truck like he was Usain Bolt”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 501AA.

000: ““Helped Ro out so much n [he] went against me”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 501Z

000: “News of the incident made it all the way up to the gang’s top leader, Frank White, who sent word that Nuke should be kicked out of Nine Trey”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 501BB, “Ya man white said im out da whip.”

000: “In the beginning of March, Tekashi released the song ‘Billy’”: WORLDSTARHIPHOP, “6IX9INE "Billy" (WSHH Exclusive - Official Music Video),” uploaded to YouTube on Mar. 4, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJjSm6CVsG8>

000: “In ‘Set Trippin,’ Casanova rapped, ‘Y’all don’t bleed like I bleed.’ Tekashi, firing back, had Shotti do an intro on ‘Billy’ where he responded, ‘We don’t bleed. We *make* niggas bleed, Blood””: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 415. “Q. And the part about not bleeding and making others bleed? A. In set Trippin Casanova said: Y’all don’t bleed like I bleed. I’m gorilla.”

000: “Mike Tyson alone has been a muse for everyone from the Notorious B.I.G. and 2Pac to the famously PG-rated Will Smith, who once wrote a comical song called ‘I Think I Can Beat Mike Tyson’”: For B.I.G., see Diddy, “Victory” <https://genius.com/33930>. For 2Pac, see Showbiz Cheat Sheet, “Tupac Was Supposed To Make a Ring Walk Song For Mike Tyson’s Bruce Seldon Match,” Dec. 28, 2020. <https://www.cheatsheet.com/entertainment/tupac-was-supposed-to-make-a-ring-walk-song-for-mike-tysons-bruce-seldon-match.html/> For “I Think I Can Beat Mike Tyson,” see DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince - I Think I Can Beat Mike Tyson ft. Mike Tyson, Don King, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jam_t-gj7HM

000: “a catchweight fight against Jessie Vargas on April 21 at Brooklyn’s Barclays Center”: Kevin Mitchell, “‘Cincinnati Loudmouth’ Adrien Broner is an annoying contradiction,” *The Guardian*, Apr. 23, 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/blog/2018/apr/23/boxing-adrien-broner-jessie-vargas-catchweight-brooklyn> “It has always been an irritating paradox that Adrien Broner is so classy with gloves on and wilfully obnoxious anywhere near a microphone. Both sides of the Cincinnati Loudmouth, a former four-weight world champion, were seen when he toughed out a majority draw over 12 rounds at 144lbs catchweight against Jessie Vargas in Brooklyn on Saturday night.”

000: “‘Broner, you better have your fuckin’ bread up,’ he taunted. ‘He gonna get knocked out, man’”:

000: “orchestrating a multi-step beef with Broner”: Peter A. Berry, “Boxer Adrien Broner Threatens 6ix9ine for Calling Him a Clown on Instagram,” Apr. 16, 2018.

<https://www.xxlmag.com/adrien-broner-6ix9ine-threat-instagram-clown/>

000: “‘He gonna get knocked out, Blood,’ he taunted. ‘That’s why Mayweather don’t fuck with you, Blood’”: FightHype.com, “6IX9INE CLAPS BACK AT ADRIEN BRONER; BETS \$300K HE LOSES AND TELLS HIM ‘CHECK IN’,” Uploaded to YouTube on Apr. 16, 2018.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VB_1S-2MIHc 0:32

000: “Tekashi and the fighter would be arriving together, and Tekashi would perform a song for him”: C. Vernon Coleman II, “Boxer Adrien Broner Walks Out to 6ix9ine’s ‘Gummo’ at Match,” XXL, Apr. 22, 2018. https://www.xxlmag.com/boxer-adrien-broner-walks-out-to-6ix9ines-gummo/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral “6ix9ine was reportedly supposed to walk Broner into the ring rapping ‘Gummo’ last night.”

000: “The day of the big fight...Tekashi’s place”: Accounts of this shooting come from 1. Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 402-408. 2. USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 602 (video). 3. Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 763-765.

000: “Tekashi’s crew was only given 15 passes, and they brought a lot more people than that”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 765. “When we got to the arena, the Barclays Center, we realized that there were only passes for 15 people. There were more than 15 of us, many, many more.”

000: “They narrowed it down...parked nearby”: Accounts of the shooting come from these sources: 1. Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 765-766. 2. Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 416-421. 3. USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 603A (video). 4. USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 603B (video). 5. USA v. Fuguan Lovick, transcript of May 9, 2019 guilty plea hearing, p. 22.

000: “‘This how the fuck...was missed’”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 500A (video)

000: “TMZ published a story on it the next day”: TMZ, “TEKASHI69 CREW MEMBER ALLEGEDLY FIRED GUN During Adrien Broner Fight,” Apr. 22, 2018.

<https://www.tmz.com/2018/04/22/tekashi69-crew-member-fired-shot-gun-barclays-center-adrien-broner-fight/>

000: “he was briefly booked by Essex County, NJ police as a person of interest”: BeforeTheyWereFamous, “Shotti / Tr3way | AFTER They Were Famous | 15 Years In Prison,” Uploaded to YouTube on Nov. 20, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1G_w4YisVH4 8:19

000: “by early May, the cops gave up on that theory and were focusing on Fubanger instead”: TMZ, “Tekashi69’s Alleged Crew Member Arrested for Barclays Center Shooting,” May 7, 2018. <https://www.tmz.com/2018/05/07/tekashi69-crew-member-arrested-barclays-center-shooting/>

000: “‘Gummo’ went...in February”: See https://www.riaa.com/gold-platinum/?tab_active=default-award&se=6ix9ine#search_section (click the “more details” section for “Gummo”)

000: “Even the album, the last-minute hodgepodge *Day69*, reached number 4 on the Billboard album chart”: Keith Caufield, “Bon Jovi’s Back at No. 1 on Billboard 200 Albums Chart,” Mar. 4, 2018. <https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/chart-beat/8230391/bon-jovis-back-at-no-1-on-billboard-200-albums-chart> “Rapper 6ix9ine arrives at No. 4 with his debut effort, *Day69*, earning 55,000 units.”

000: “a young woman from Dallas”: The Famous People, “Cuban Doll Bio.” <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/cuban-doll-40694.php>

000: “started her career in 2012 as a model and social media personality”: m2ns, “Cuban Doll,” <https://mn2s.com/booking-agency/live-roster/cuban-doll/> “Cuban Doll exploded onto social media platform in 2012, posting modelling and lifestyle pictures under the name Cuban da Savage.”

000: “Four years later, she made the natural progression into music”: Lakin Starling, “A quick guide to rap’s reigning dolls,” Dec. 7, 2017. <https://www.thefader.com/2017/12/07/guide-rap-dolls-asian-doll-kash-doll/cuban-doll> “And then in 2016, she dropped her first mixtape, *Cuban Link*”

000: “In April 2018...the studio”: Author interview with Cuban Doll, Apr. 16, 2019.

000: “on May 5, after a long Instagram Live spat with Trippie Redd, Tekashi got on Live with Cuban for a debrief”: Corey Copeland, “ICYMI: 6IX9NINE & TADOE START BEEF BUT CUBAN DOLL GETS HIT,” *The Source*, May 7, 2018. <https://thesource.com/2018/05/07/icymi-6ix9nine-tadoe-start-beef-but-cuban-doll-gets-hit/> “Initially, 6ix9ine and Trippie Redd were trading shots back and forth before 6ix9ine welcomed Cuban Doll to join him on Instagram live. (May 5th).”

000: “It was a lighthearted, friendly conversation where Cuban half-seriously interviewed Tekashi about his history with Trippie”: See @djakademiks on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/BiauY5LD9Yn/?utm_source=ig_embed

000: “The rapper Tadoe is Chief Keef’s cousin”: Hip Hop Wiki, “Tadoe” <https://hip-hop-music.fandom.com/wiki/Tadoe> “Tadoe is also Chief Keef’s cousin”

000: “though a tight-lipped Cuban denies it now”: Author interview with Cuban Doll, Apr. 16, 2019. “**SHAWN**: How would you describe your relationship with him, was there ever a point at

which you'd say you were dating? **CUBAN DOLL**: No, we were just friends. Yeah. He posted that we was just friends. Everybody know that we're just friends, when the whole I killed people stuff happened, like he said, everybody know we friends and all this. Because people did think we was dating”

000: “Tadoe was reportedly dating her at the time”: Devin Ch, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Selfies With Cuban Doll In Response To Tadoe's Threats,” Hot New Hip Hop, May 6, 2018. <https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/tekashi-6ix9ine-selfies-with-cuban-doll-in-response-to-tadoes-threats-news.49520.html#:~:text=Tadoe%20and%20Cuban%20Doll%20have,feel%20like%20anything%20of%20consequence>. “Tadoe and Cuban Doll have been dating for months...”

000: “Tekashi got Tadoe’s phone number from a rapper Shotti was working with. The rapper only gave it up with the promise that Tekashi wouldn’t record the call”: Author interview with Alshawn Martin, Mar. 29, 2019. “ I talked to Tato, like man let me talk to him. Make sure he don't record my conversation. Guess what? I give 6ix9ine Tato's number. 6ix9ine called Tato and guess what happened? He told me he wasn't going to record the conversation. And what he do? He records the conversation, bro. It made me look bad... I literally got off the phone with Tato. Gave 6ix9ine Tato number. Five minutes later, it went viral. No lie.”

000: “‘Lose this number!’ Tadoe yelled. ‘I kill people.’ ‘You do not kill nobody, nigga,’ Tekashi responded”: All Urban Central, “Tadoe Screaming At 6ix9ine For Flirting With Cuban Doll On FaceTime,” Uploaded to YouTube on May 5, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bHPcdmZq5k>

000: “Tadoe’s cousin’s most famous song, ‘I Don’t Like’”: Wikipedia, “I Don’t Like,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Don%27t_Like “‘I Don’t Like’ is the debut single by Chief Keef featuring Lil Reese and produced by Young Chop. It was released on March 11, 2012. It peaked at #73 on the Billboard Hot 100, #20 on the Hot R&B/Hip-Hop Songs chart, and #15 on the Rap Songs chart.”

000: “‘Niggas like this I don’t like,’ he wrote. ‘@cubandasavage keep your head up I got love for you’”: C. Vernon Coleman, “Cuban Doll Shows Video of Bruised Face Following Allegations that Rumored Boyfriend Tadoe Assaulted Her,” XXL, May 6, 2018. <https://www.xxlmag.com/cuban-doll-tadoe-rumor-assault/> “‘Everybody know Cuban is little me,’ 6ix captioned the since-deleted video. ‘Niggas like this I don't like. [Cuban Doll] keep your head up. I got love for you.’”

000: “rumors that Tadoe beat up Cuban as a result of her friendship with Tekashi”: Devin Ch, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Selfies With Cuban Doll In Response To Tadoe's Threats,” Hot New Hip Hop, May 6, 2018. <https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/tekashi-6ix9ine-selfies-with-cuban-doll-in-response-to-tadoes-threats-news.49520.html#:~:text=Tadoe%20and%20Cuban%20Doll%20have,feel%20like%20anything%20of%20consequence>. “Tadoe felt otherwise, getting involved in a skirmish with his lover, which resulted in Cuban leaving the hospital with a bruised and battered face.”

000: “This nigga...is broke”: Corey Copeland, “ICYMI: 6IX9NINE & TADOE START BEEF BUT CUBAN DOLL GETS HIT,” *The Source*, May 7, 2018. <https://thesource.com/2018/05/07/icymi-6ix9nine-tadoe-start-beef-but-cuban-doll-gets-hit/> “This nigga talk to all the bitches, but be mad when I talk to anybody,” she explained. For the initiated, it was obvious what she was implying. “Look where I’m at,” she continued, moving the camera around to make it clear. “The hospital. My hip is broke.”

000: “Cuban headed out to Hawaii with Tekashi”: Author interview with Cuban Doll, Apr. 16, 2019. “Hawaii, me and my friends went and him and his friends went. I stayed for like two days, they stayed for the whole week...”

000: “Footage made its way around the internet of them playfully celebrating his birthday”: Tone Are, “Cuban Doll Kicks It in Hawaii with Tekashi 6ix9ine After Tadoe Incident,” VladTV, May 8, 2018. <https://www.vladtv.com/article/244688/cuban-doll-kicks-it-in-hawaii-with-tekashi-6ix9ine-after-tadoe-incident>

000: “Tadoe leaned into his newfound infamy, recruiting Trippie Redd and Chief Keef for a song inspired by the experience called ‘I Kill People’”: Trippie Redd, “I Kill People! ft Tadoe & Chief Keef [Produced by: Ozmusiqe] RR,” Uploaded to SoundCloud on June 1, 2018. <https://soundcloud.com/trippie-hippie-2/i-kill-people>

000: “‘Fuck Chief Keef, fuck Lil Reese, fuck all them niggas,’ he said”: XMG HipHop, “6ixNine says fuck Chief Keef and Lil Reese,” Uploaded to YouTube on May 31, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmpVVSZ8K5k>

000: “Keef was the rapper who first popularized Chicago’s drill music movement”: Kyann Sian-Williams, “Move over, Chicago: how the UK made drill its own – and then sold it back to the world,” Feb. 25, 2020. <https://www.nme.com/blogs/nme-blogs/uk-drill-chicago-chief-keef-am-skengdo-67-pitbulls-terms-and-conditions-2611268> “Yes, Chicago’s Chief Keef is still the king of drill. After all, he created the genre in the early 2010s.”

000: “the genre was named after a slang word for murder”: Author interview with DJ L, 2020. “So doing a drill meant killing somebody, you know what I’m saying?”

000: “a launch party on June 1 for an issue of the magazine High Snobiety”: Kyle Hodge, “HERE’S WHAT WENT DOWN AT THE HIGHSNOBIETY X DC SHOES X FTP ISSUE LAUNCH PARTY,” High Snobiety. <https://www.highsnobiety.com/p/highsnobiety-ftp-issue-launch-party/> “Together with DC Shoes and [FTP](#) (FUCKTHEPOPULATION), we celebrated the launch of our [Spring/Summer 2018 magazine](#) on June 1. Located at NYC’s China Chalet, those who attended enjoyed a night of food, drinks, and tons of music... The greatest moment, however, was a surprise performance from Chief Keef, who happens to be Fredo’s cousin.”

000: “Tekashi was in California...building”: All info about the Chief Keef shooting comes from: 1. Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 428-429. 2. Letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul

Engelmayer, Feb. 11, 2019 (Document 117). 3. Thomas Tracy, “Rapper Chief Keef nearly shot outside Times Square hotel,” The New York Daily News, Jun. 2, 2018.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-metro-chief-keef-shot-w-hotel-20180602-story.html>

“Keef posted an Instagram picture of himself standing outside a Manhattan papaya-juice-and-hot-dog joint about 4:15 a.m. — roughly a half-hour before shots were fired.” 4. USA v. Kintea McKenzie, transcript of hearing on Feb. 12, 2019

000” “We don’t play with guns...Chief Keef”: TMZ, “Tekashi69 Says His Crew Did Not Fire a Shot at Chief Keef | TMZ,” Jun. 3, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAbifX1bgkl>

000: ““I guess Chief Keef...a fan”: TMZ, “Tekashi69 Blames Chief Keef’s Music for Shooting, Takes Jab at J. Cole,” Jun. 6, 2018. <https://www.tmz.com/2018/06/06/tekashi69-6ix9ine-chief-keef-guns-beef-violence-j-cole/>

000: “He met up with...counted out \$10,000”: Letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Feb. 11, 2019 (Document 117)

000: ““That’s enough,’ he said. ‘Take that’”: USA v. Kintea McKenzie, transcript of hearing on Feb. 12, 2019, p.28.

000: “he filmed himself giving out food to people on the street because ‘These other Chicago rappers don’t give back’”: Joshua Espinoza, “6ix9ine Takes a Dig at Chief Keef While Feeding the Homeless in Chicago,” Complex, Jun. 12, 2018.

<https://www.complex.com/music/2018/06/6ix9ine-feeds-chicago-homeless-chief-keef-responds>

“‘We’re in fucking Chicago, you know what I’m saying, we’re going to feed the homeless or whatever,’ he said in an Instagram video. ‘I got 15 burgers here. Giving back to the community, because other Chicago rappers don’t give back.’”

000: “He also recorded himself going to Keef’s neighborhood, the notoriously rough area known as ‘O Block.’ ‘I should call this shit No Block,’ he trolled. ‘It’s ten o’clock. Where the fuck are y’all niggas at?’: Kevin Goddard, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Continues To Troll Chicago & Pulls Up To Englewood,” Hot New Hip Hop, Jun. 13, 2018. <https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/tekashi-6ix9ine-continues-to-troll-chicago-and-pulls-up-to-englewood-news.52501.html>

000: “Tekashi posted a photo of himself standing outside a gate in O Block, throwing up a Nine Trey sign. ‘Hi CHICAGO. I’m here on O Block but it has a gate,’ he wrote, adding a broken heart emoji. ‘How do I get in? There’s a police in the booth’”: <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/Dfmkc-YWAAAL4j7.jpg>

000: “Keef conducted his own public, and unsuccessful, search for Tekashi in their neighborhood, documenting it on social media”: Karlton Jahmal, “Tekashi 6ix9ine & Chief Keef: A Timeline Of Their Beef,” Hot New Hip Hop, Nov. 24, 2018.

<https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/tekashi-6ix9ine-and-chief-keef-a-timeline-of-their-beef-news.65256.html#:~:text=Tekashi%20VS%20Sosa.&text=The%20beef%20between%20the>

[%20now,the%20top%20of%20the%20year.&text=Doll%20alleged%20that%20Tadoe%20beat,arguing%20over%20FaceTime%20appeared%20online](#). “The month of June continues to heat up. Chief Keef and Lil Reese go searching for the ‘Gummo’ rapper. They appear to give up after Reese asserts that people spotted Tekashi with police.”

000: “Aareon ‘Slim Danger’ Clark...kid”: Karlton Jahmal, “Tekashi 6ix9ine & Chief Keef: A Timeline Of Their Beef,” Hot New Hip Hop, Nov. 24, 2018. <https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/tekashi-6ix9ine-and-chief-keef-a-timeline-of-their-beef-news.65256.html#:~:text=Tekashi%20VS%20Sosa.&text=The%20beef%20between%20the%20now,the%20top%20of%20the%20year.&text=Doll%20alleged%20that%20Tadoe%20beat,arguing%20over%20FaceTime%20appeared%20online>. For “\$75,000 worth of product,” see Peter A. Berry, “6ix9ine Flies Chief Keef’s Rumored Baby’s Mother to NYC for Gucci Shopping Spree,” XXL, June 13, 2018. <https://www.xxlmag.com/6ix9ine-chief-keef-baby-mama-shopping-spree/> “TMZ reports that 6ix9ine ended up buying her a fanny pack, sunglasses, wallet and a dress which totaled to more than \$75,000.”

Chapter 8: The Dam Springs a Leak

000: “One day...as Harv’s”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 435-437.

000: “a European tour that kept him out of the country for a good chunk of June and July”: MTA Booking, “Tekashi 6ix9ine - World Domination Tour” <https://mtabooking.com/tekashi-6ix9ine-world-domination-tour/>

000: “the driver had been picked up by ICE agents at the end of May”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 767. “Q. Did there come a time when you were arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE? A. Yes, at the end of May. Q. And when you were arrested, were you detained? A. Yes.”

000: “Jorge’s arrest...him out”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Aug. 31, 2020. Account begins at 14:56.

000: “a drug dealer for the gang was caught with fentanyl, heroin, and guns”: USA v. Kristian Cruz a/k/a “Audi,” complaint, (Document 1), filed Jan. 23, 2018.

000: “In May, 2018...a confidential informant”: Trial transcript, Sept. 24, 2019, p. 1216. “Q. You didn’t start cooperating with the government until May 2018, right...? A. Yes.”

000: “So on July 2, Jorge Rivera’s life as a confidential informant began”: “5K1” letter from Audrey Strauss to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Sept. 17, 2020 (Document 551), p. 2. “Rivera was subsequently released from ICE custody in July 2018, and resumed his role as Hernandez’s regular driver (but was working as a confidential informant for the Government).”

000: “He had a special program installed on his phone so it was recording all the time”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Mar. 19, 2020 pt. 2. “these guys went through my phone, my phone

was recording 24/7. I don't have to do anything. I can be using my phone, I can do video calls. I can use my phone regular, like a regular phone, but they installed an app for my phone. I don't know how they do it, but they installed an app, and that app was recording 24/7.”

000: “His truck already contained two cameras with audio and video”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 769. “Q. Mr. Rivera, was there a camera installed in that Chevrolet Tahoe? A. Yes, there were two cameras... Q. And Mr. Rivera, were those your own, personal cameras? A. Yes. I've always had cameras in my cars. Every car I've ever had since 2008 has had a camera in it.”

000: “about \$36,000, by his estimate”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Mar. 5, 2020. “SS: What's the range of money he owes you? Is it tens of thousands of dollars, thousands of dollars, more? JR: \$36,000. \$35,628.”

000: “Things got bad enough that he actually attempted to kill himself by driving into a wall, reasoning that the life insurance money would help his family”: USA vs. Jorge Rivera, “Sentencing Memorandum for the Defendant Jorge Rivera,” (Document 554), filed Oct. 2, 2020. p. 4. “Mr. Rivera has also reported that he contemplated suicide on multiple occasions in 2018 as a result of the stress he experienced because of the breakup of his marriage and his involvement in this case. On one occasion, he crashed his vehicle into a wall.” Also see author interview with Jorge Rivera, Oct. 2, 2020, 11:50.

000: “countless historic hip-hop moments from artists like Jay-Z”: BETNetworks, “Jay Z Creates History At Summer Jam 2001 By Bringing Out Michael Jackson | Hip Hop Awards 20,” Uploaded to YouTube on Oct. 21, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NfC5BbAKLU

000: “the Notorious B.I.G., and Kanye West”: Shawn Setaro, *Complex*, “10 Unforgettable Summer Jam Moments,” Jun. 8, 2017. <https://www.complex.com/music/2017/06/unforgettable-summer-jam-moments/>

000: “One DJ who was an early supporter tried to raise the idea early on and had been shut down”: Author interview with DJ Drewski, 2019. “I'm like, ‘Yo, you got so much potential, and this low key is kinda fucking it up by the things you're doing. I can't help you get on Summer Jam, because they think you're a liability, and you're not helping it by every week beefing with someone else and talking crazy’... I would say to Ebro, ‘Yo, why can't we get 6ix9ine.’ He's like, ‘Bro, do you see the type of energy he brings? We're not gonna ruin a whole concert just to have this one kid.’”

000: “when the station bigwigs met with stadium personnel and the state police to plan the show, they explicitly said no Tekashi”: Author interview with Ebro Darden, 2019. “when we meet with the stadium and the state police and all of those individuals, they always ask us about problem artists, and if we plan on having them at the event. They explicitly said that they did not want to have him at the event.”

000: “You know I’m coming out on Summer Jam regardless, right?”: @djakademiks on Instagram, Apr. 9, 2018. https://www.instagram.com/p/BhXC8jag7YI/?utm_source=ig_embed&utm_campaign=embed_video_watch_again

000: “which meant covering up his face tattoos hastily with makeup”: Capital Xtra, “What happened to Tekashi 6ix9ine at Hot 97’s Summer Jam in 2018?” <https://www.capitalxtra.com/features/lists/facts-about-tekashi-6ix9ine/summer-jam-2018/> “Tekashi 6ix9ine was denied entrance to Hot 97’s 2018 Summer Jam in New York, despite covering his face tattoos with makeup to make himself less recognisable.”

000: “When they arrived, they reached out to the DJ they were friendly with, who turned them down flat”: Author interview with DJ Drewski, p. 13. “I get to Summer Jam early during the festival, so I’m there already, and then I start getting all the texts from his crew. ‘Yo, can you get us in?’ In my head I’m like, I already got in trouble. Not in trouble, but I already got, they reached out for an Instagram video, which is a joke. You really think I’m gonna get him in? They don’t even want him here.”

000: “While heading towards...security”: “TEKASHI69 RUNS DOWN ON LOCCIE SHMULA AT SUMMER JAM 100 DEEP,” Uploaded to YouTube June 11, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDYVKjZfByk> and Author interview with Loccie Shmula, 2019, p. 5. “When I seen him, I’m like, ‘Yo, Six, what’s cracking?’ And so, when I said that, they all looked. Well, one nigga looked. And he looked, he must of peeped me, and that’s when he started tapping everybody. And it was like a domino effect, you just see a bunch of niggas, ‘Yo, yo, yo, I see Locci, nigga.’ Niggas was going crazy.”

000: “who he’d met in early 2018 at a club in Connecticut”: Author interview with Blue Diamond, 2019. “I pulled up to one of their Connecticut shows and he’s seen how I was dressed and he said, ‘Oh, I really like the way you’re dressed. I think it’ll be a nice fit for 6ix9ine’s team.’ They didn’t really want to hire two DJs for the tour so they said, ‘Hey if we’re going to have one DJ for this guy, let’s just have it for both of you guys,’ and I ended up being 6ix9ine’s DJ for that tour...beginning of the year, 2018.”

000: “He was trying...remembers”: Author interview with Blue Diamond, 2019.

000: “The connection came through X’s manager Solomon Sobande”: Author interview with Solomon Sobande and Anthony Flammia, Apr. 25, 2019. “I wanted to kind of be very strategic on how they kind of met, so it would be a love situation.”

000: “Solomon was at the original SoHo coffeeshop meeting between Chris and Tekashi”:
“SHAWN: What do you remember about that very first meeting with Drew and Tekashi, and the now infamous coffee shop meeting that we’ve heard from like, two or three people? **SOLOMON SOUNDS:** I remember, I was just like, ‘Yeah, this kid got rainbow hair for a ‘fro, it was kind of startling, but in that space, I don’t think anything would have surprised me, at that space, so I was just like, ‘Okay. All right this is what it is.’”

000: "At first...independent": Author interview with Solomon Sobande and Anthony Flammia, Apr. 25, 2019.

000: "a number of outrageous publicity stunts": Shawn Setaro, "XXXTentacion Posts Video Appearing to Hang Himself on Instagram, Outrages Basically Everyone," *Complex*, Aug. 24, 2017.

000: "he was dogged by reports alleging he abused women": Corrina Buford, "The Complete History of XXXTentacion's Controversial Career," *Vulture*, Jun. 19, 2018.
<https://www.vulture.com/2018/06/a-complete-timeline-xxxtentacions-controversial-career.html>

000: "XXXTentacion was murdered on June 18, 2018": Wikipedia, "Murder of XXXTentacion" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murder_of_XXXTentacion "During the afternoon of June 18, 2018, American rapper Jahseh Dwayne Ricardo Onfroy, known professionally as XXXTentacion, was shot and killed in an apparent robbery just outside RIVA Motorsports..."

000: "he thought somebody might come for him, too": Author interview with Blue Diamond, 2019.

000: "Just two days prior to his murder, X sent Tekashi a DM reading, 'Be safe, okay? Never let your guard down'": Capital Xtra, "The 'YAYA' rapper shared the last direct message he received from the late XXXTentacion before his death," <https://www.capitalxtra.com/artists/tekashi-6ix9ine/news/last-message-xxxtentacion-sent-him-death/> "Yo, be safe, OK? Never let your guard down," says 6ix9ine, 24, as he reads XXX's messages from his phone. The other reads, "When you get out, move smarter, more patient and more relaxed."

000: "Sometimes...he said": "6ix9ine Apologizes For All His Trolling After Xxxtentacion Passes," Uploaded to YouTube on Jun. 18, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQP4BvawNvQ>

000: "a skit poking fun at the Chicago rapper Juice WRLD, who had led a chant of 'Fuck 6ix9ine!' at a recent concert": Bryan Hahn, "TEKASHI 6IX9INE TROLLS JUICE WRLD WITH COMEDY SKETCH FOLLOWING 'FUCK 6IX9INE' CHANT," HipHopDX, Jun. 29, 2018.
<https://hiphopdx.com/news/id.47468/title.tekashi-6ix9ine-trolls-juice-wrld-with-comedy-sketch-following-fuck-6ix9ine-chant> . See also Author interview with Blue Diamond, 2019.

000: "He didn't want...all day": Author interview with Blue Diamond, 2019.

000: "He sent the song to Nicki Minaj, and they hopped on the phone to talk about it. Five minutes after the conversation, she sent him a voice memo with a large chunk of what would become her verse": Michael Saponara, "Nicki Minaj Says She Wrote Her Verse For 'FEFE' With 6ix9ine in Fifteen Minutes," *Billboard*, Aug. 7, 2018. "Minaj admits that she had the first half of her initial verse within five minutes of hearing Murda Beatz's craftsmanship. '6ix9ine sent me this song & we got on the phone to discuss. 5 mins after the call I sent him this voice note. True

story. He sent me a voice note back making fun of my voice. I was literally in bed half sleep! Smh,' she wrote."

000: "Tekashi went out to Los Angeles with Jorge to film the video": Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Mar. 5, 2020. "I believe when Danny really get more close to Elliott was when they make the FEFE video with Nicki Minaj. I was there for that meeting too...All the locations where they make the video in LA, they made it in not even 24 hours. In like 18 hours, they set up the whole place. It was a lot of work. It was, I don't want to sound too crazy, but 100 people working. Maybe a little more than 100 people working, setting everything. Yeah, nobody sleep. Even me."

000: "A Nine Trey member from a rival faction was livestreaming from Smurf Village, Harv's territory. He was planning to shoot a music video. That was unacceptable. A message needed to be sent to this member, and to Harv": "5K1" letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019 p. 6. For "Harv's territory," see Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 430-431.

000: "Shotti reassured Tekashi: he would 'Make it hot'": "5K1" letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019 p. 6.

000: "'I got Crippy heading over there right now,' he said": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 430.

000: "He hopped on the phone with Crippy. Crippy was waiting for 'equipment,' he euphemistically explained": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 430-431.

000: "he managed to sneak a quick call to his handler to inform him about the impending shooting": "5K1" letter from Audrey Strauss to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Sept. 17, 2020 (Document 551), p.4. "Rivera overheard the others talking about doing something to the rival Nine Trey member. Rivera immediately notified the case agents about what he heard. While law enforcement was unable to respond in time to prevent a shooting, they arrived in large numbers at Smurf Village and possibly prevented further violence."

000: "A woman got shot in the foot. The shooting sent her to physical therapy for months, and it also, she says, cost her a shot at attending the police academy": USA v. Daniel Hernandez, Sentencing Hearing, Dec. 18, 2019, p. 34-5.

000: "The evening before...shut down": "5K1" letter from Audrey Strauss to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Sept. 17, 2020 (Document 551), p.4 and Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Oct. 2, 2020 and Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 438.

000: "Jorge drove Tekashi to a strip club where they met up with some members of the gang. At the end of most nights, everyone would pile into Jorge's Chevy Tahoe, and they would all head back to Tekashi's place. But this night, everyone went their separate ways": Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Feb. 25, 2020, pt. 2.

000: "Sara Molina and Saraiyah were there": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 438. "Q. Who was in [address] when you were editing the video? A. Me, Jorge, Sara, my daughter and Sara's aunt, Happy."

000: "Tekashi, as usual, took off his jewelry and the nightly ritual began. Jorge wrapped it in a paper towel, and placed it in a diaper bag": Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019 p. 440-441.

000: "about \$365,000 worth": Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019 p. 495-6. "Q. What was the total value of the property that was -- approximately, what was the total value of the property that was taken from you on July 22nd? A. Around \$365,000."

000: "Tekashi sat down...police precinct": Accounts of the kidnapping come from these sources: 1. Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 438-461; 2. Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 768-780; 3. USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 604 (video) and 604-T (transcript); 4. Djvlad, "Sara Molina Details Tekashi's Kidnapping, Giving 6ix9ine's Jewelry to Kidnappers (Part 7)," uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 23, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxZ2O9KsFnA> ; 5. Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 825-832.

000: "Officer Moses Lebron...again and again": Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 695-709.

000: "While on his way...walked out": 1. Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 438-461; 2. Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 768-780; 3. USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a "Nuke" and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 604 (video) and 604-T (transcript); 4. Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 695-709.

000: "They went about 30 miles away to a hospital in Nassau County": Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 816-822.

000: "Shotti took a picture of Tekashi in the hospital bed": Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 513. "Q. Now, Mr. Hernandez, the picture there, do you know where that picture was taken? A. In the Nassau hospital. Q. Who took that photograph? A. Shotti. Q. Was that photograph published? Was it sent to the media? A. Yes."

000: "At 10:41 AM Eastern, the photo was up, attached to a story headlined, 'Tekashi69 Pistol Whipped, Kidnapped, Robbed and Hospitalized'": TMZ, "Tekashi69 Pistol Whipped, Kidnapped, Robbed and Hospitalized (Update)," published at 7:41 AM PT on July 22, 2018. <https://www.tMZ.com/2018/07/22/tekashi69-robbed-pistol-whipped-hospitalized-gunmen/>

000: "It also contained a souped-up, exaggerated version of Tekashi's escape": TMZ, "Tekashi69 Pistol Whipped, Kidnapped, Robbed and Hospitalized (Update)," published at 7:41 AM PT on July 22, 2018. <https://www.tMZ.com/2018/07/22/tekashi69-robbed-pistol-whipped->

[hospitalized-gunmen/](#) “We're told the gunmen then drove away with Tekashi still in the back seat. At some point 6ix9ine was able to open the back door and jumped out.”

000: “At the new hospital...headache”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 816-822.

000: “Jorge took the rest of Tekashi’s family, and his own family, to a house in upstate New York, where they stayed for the next four days”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 781. “Q. Mr. Rivera, where did you go that same day after the robbery? A. I took my family and his family to a safe house in upstate New York. Q. And Mr. Rivera, approximately how long did you stay there? A. About four days.”

000: “Tekashi went to New Jersey, to stay with one of Shotti’s friends for a few hours”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 466-7. “Q. After you left the hospital in Long Island, did you go Home? A. No. Q. Where did you go? A. Sha [sic. - it’s “Shotti”] took me to New Jersey to stay at his friend's house. Q. Did there come a point that day where you went home? A. Yes. Q. Approximately when in the day? A. Towards the night.”

000” “At Tekashi’s house...found him”: Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p. 467-9.

000: “Tekashi told Shotti that he’d give \$50,000 to anyone who ‘got’ Harv”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, p. 545. For “got,” see “5K1” letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019 p. 6. “After the robbery, Hernandez also told Jordan that Hernandez would be willing to give a ‘50 pack,’ i.e., \$50,000, to anyone who ‘got’ Ellison.”

000: “He was texting...a third”: See trial exhibits 800G1, 800G2, 800G3 for the memes. See trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019 p. 511-514 for context. For texts, see trial exhibit 800M.

000: “Two days after the kidnapping...stay away”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 516-518. For text message, see trial exhibit 800M. For videos, see trial exhibits 800M5, 800M6, 800M7.

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000: “‘Fefe’ entered the charts the week of July 28 at no. 4”: Gary Trust, “Drake Tops Hot 100 For Third Week With 'In My Feelings,' Passes Rihanna For Most Weeks at No. 1 This Decade,” *Billboard*, July 30, 2018. <https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/chart-beat/8467628/drake-in-my-feelings-number-one-third-week>

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000: “It was Tekashi’s highest-charting single ever up to that point”: *Billboard*, “Chart History - 6ix9ine” <https://www.billboard.com/music/6ix9ine/chart-history/HSI>

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000: “Jorge, for example...push him out”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Mar. 19, 2020 (pt. 2). “I never liked Shadow.” and author interview with Pvnch, Aug. 13, 2020. “there was a point where [Shadow 00:30:02] was managing him, because at that point, no matter what happened, someone has to become the adult.”

000: “Even Shotti...Rap-a-lot”: ThisIs50, “6ix9ine & Tr3yWay Speak On Kidnapping / Robbery + Nicki Minaj Relationship + XXXTentacion's Death,” Uploaded to YouTube on July 24, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zj2WwCQJKg>

000: “After the interview...show it”: Video by Pvnch of July 23, 2018, provided to Complex.

Chapter 9: ‘You Could Get Us Touched’

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000: “On July 27th...was worth”: The Angie Martinez Show, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Opens Up About Getting Kidnapped And Robbed In His Most Personal Interview Yet,” July 27, 2018. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3TIOW_e1NM

000: “The day before...right now”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, Trial exhibit 300 (audio) and 300T (transcript)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zM0gbHN6AXE>

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000: "'I love my brother...Bond Street": TMZ, "Tekashi69's Pop-Up Shop in NYC Gets Kanye West Shout Out," Sept. 3, 2018. <https://www.tMZ.com/2018/09/03/tekashi69-pop-up-shop-nyc-kanye-west-tr3way/>

000: "'I love my brother Joe and his new store. Invitation by Donda,' Kanye tweeted": Brandon Richard, "Closer Look at the Unreleased Yeezy Boost 700 VX," *Sole Collector*, Sept. 6, 2018. <https://solecollector.com/news/2018/09/tekashi-6ix-9ine-adidas-yeezy-boost-700-vx-yellow-black-unreleased-sample>

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000: "Joe put Kanye and Tekashi on a group chat, and the duo quickly began Facetiming. By the second week of September, they'd be together in the recording studio in Columbia": Author interview with DJ Relentt, 2019. "After that pop-up event, they exchanged information. I think the owner of the store put them on a group chat and gave them ... I don't know what happened exactly. I'm pretty sure that he just gave them 6ix's number and then after the Treyway pop-up went well, he called him. Then he FaceTimed 6ix9ine and they were talking, and they became friendly. I remember I think 6ix told me he was FaceTiming him then he brought it over to his ex-girlfriend that was there and showed her. She was like, "Oh, shit." He was smiling. It was good. It was a good conversation I heard. Then they went to Columbia and they started making music and that was it." For "second week of September," see Jiggy Jones, "KANYE WEST AND TEKASHI 6IX9INE TRAVEL TO COLUMBIA TO WORK ON MUSIC," *The Source*, Sept. 12, 2018. <https://thesource.com/2018/09/12/kanye-west-and-tekashi-6ix9ine-travel-to-columbia-to-work-on-music/>

000: “Tekashi and his crew went to Dubai, where he’d been invited to perform a few shows”: Dubai Night, “TEKASHI 6IX9INE AT 1 OAK DUBAI!”

<https://www.dubainight.com/dubai/mag/events/tekashi-6ix9ine-at-1-oak-dubai,28,29180.html>

And @BaseDubai on Instagram, https://www.instagram.com/basedubai/?utm_source=ig_embed

000: “He claims that he saw flirty texts between the two of them on Shotti’s phone”: The Shade Room, “6ix9ine Tell All Part 2: WHY I SNITCHED,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwT63p9D5vQ> 38:24.

000: “As a twisted way...with Shotti”: Michael Daly, “Tekashi69’s Ex-Girlfriend Sara Molina: He Beat Me So Badly ‘I Could Barely Open My Eyes’,” *The Daily Beast*, Feb. 6, 2019.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/tekashi69s-ex-girlfriend-sara-molina-i-gave-him-my-heart-he-gave-me-beatings>

000: “Tekashi confirmed...of Sara”: The Shade Room, “6ix9ine Tell All Part 2: WHY I SNITCHED,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwT63p9D5vQ> 28:37

000: “Sara would tell...her daughter”: Michael Daly, “Tekashi69’s Ex-Girlfriend Sara Molina: He Beat Me So Badly ‘I Could Barely Open My Eyes’,” *The Daily Beast*, Feb. 6, 2019.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/tekashi69s-ex-girlfriend-sara-molina-i-gave-him-my-heart-he-gave-me-beatings>

000: “Jorge was put in charge...of Shotti’s”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 782. “Q. And what happened as you were moving Mr. Hernandez out of that apartment? A. Daniel’s mom was responsible for emptying all the closets, putting all the clothes in boxes, just to make sure that nothing got lost, so everything was put in the living room. So that late afternoon, night, when I got to Daniel’s house, I realized that Shotti’s knapsack, the one that had the gun in it, it turned up. The knapsack that they had taken in the robbery also had turned up.” See also author interview with Jorge Rivera, Mar. 5, 2020. “JR:

I moved everybody to the Long Island house. I moved everybody. I was the one who was in charge for the moving...That’s when we find out about the backpack and the robbery. I cleaned the closet. I make sure that we don’t left anything behind. And then that was what I find.”

000: “Jorge told his handlers”: “5K1” letter from Audrey Strauss to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Sept. 17, 2020 (Document 551), p. 3. “The backpack was recovered after a search warrant was executed at Hernandez’s residence in September 2018. The probable cause for the search warrant was based on information provided by Rivera. Specifically, Rivera had seen the backpack, as well as what appeared to be an assault rifle, in a closet in the days prior to execution of the search warrant.”

000: “on Friday, September 28, with Tekashi in Dubai, federal agents and the NYPD raided the house”: TMZ, “TEKASHI69 FEDS FIND GUN IN BROOKLYN HOME DURING RAID,” Sept. 28, 2018. <https://www.tmz.com/2018/09/28/tekashi69-brooklyn-home-raided-federal-agents-gun/>

000: “with Tekashi in Dubai”: Author interview with Pvnch, p. 32. “we were in Dubai and then we in Dubai for like two days, three days maybe. And then that's when we got the call at the house got raided.”

000: “They found the assault rifle...backpack”: “5K1” letter from Audrey Strauss to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Sept. 17, 2020 (Document 551), p. 3.

000: “As the raid happened...call TMZ”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Feb. 25, 2020 (pt. 2). JR: “The last time I talked to Danny was over the phone. He was in Dubai. Right? And I told him, “Listen, the cops are here, they want to go inside your house. They want to raid the house. What do you want me to do?” And he said, ‘Call Navarro.’ Right? And that's exactly what I did, I Call Navarro. So I call Navarro. [inaudible 00:22:58]. And you know what Navarro did in front of me? SS: What's that? JR: He call TMZ.”

000: “Pvnch, who was...fine”: Author interview with Pvnch, p. 33-34. “No, he didn't take it that seriously. Well, he fake did. Like, it's very weird. Me, I'm thinking what you just said like yo bro somebody going to jail. He was like maybe go to jail. Maybe not. No, I'm probably over thinking it. Nothing going to happen, you know. You get what I'm saying? Like you're assuming that everybody was like, holy shit, which everybody but him-...He's Bozo boy and thinks that nothing's going to happen. Well a little bit because it's like he's not bipolar, but like a bipolar esque behavior to where nah we good. To an hour later where he's like bro, you think we'll go to jail? Hour later, Fuck that. Nah, we good. You know that kind of shit. I think the paranoia, him fighting Danny versus Tekashi.”

000: “hanging with rich kids and shooting a video for his song “Stoopid.””: Mo Vlogs, “6IX9INE - STOOPID (BEHIND THE SCENES)”, uploaded to YouTube on Oct. 5, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uvQ-EnOn8AE>. Finished music video visible at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDa5iGiPgGs>

000: “Tekashi has in a 2020 interview...Europe”: The Shade Room, “6ix9ine Tell All Part 2: WHY I SNITCHED,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwT63p9D5vQ> 23:29.

000: “There was the...Mack”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack, Anthony Ellison aka Harv, US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, “Brief for Defendant-Appellant Aljermiah Mack” (Document 86), filed Feb. 4, 2021, p. 4-5. “Hernandez testified about the structure of the Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods which he explained had independent lineups with their own ranking systems, including the Prison lineups and several Street lineups including, inter alia, the Murda Line, the Smurf Line, the Madison Line and the Wavy Line, which were often at odds with one another.”

000: “He was put in charge of Smurf Village...out there”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 544-545.

000: “He sent two Nine Trey members to Smurf Village, lending them his black Mercedes Benz for the mission”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 542. “Q. What did Gunz tell you next? A. He then -- the sequence of events, I don't know how it was organized, but he was stating -- he told me next that Harv cut the fat kid's face. Then him and Pablo wasn't Shotti -- Shotti had gave Gunz the keys to the black Benz, Shotti's black Benz.”

000: “The mission was...in the face”: Accounts of the events of October 24, 2018 come from: 1. Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 534-545 (Tekashi's testimony); 2. Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2018, p. 135-158 ([redacted]'s testimony); 3. Trial exhibits 606, 800I, 800I1, 800J, 800J1, 80J2. 3. 4. Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 64-104 (Detective Robert Deck testimony). 5. Trial transcript, Sept. 25, 2019, p. 1402-1427 (Reginald Donaldson testimony).

000: “He was finally going to be sentenced...invincible”: Details of the sentencing hearing taken from Rich Juzwiak, “Inside 6ix9ine's Outrageous Sentencing Hearing,” *Jezebel*, Oct. 26, 2018. <https://jezebel.com/inside-6ix9ines-outrageous-sentencing-hearing-1830037826>

000: “He grabbed Crippy and a boxer friend for muscle”: Thomas Tracy, “Cops nab two in Tekashi 6ix 9ine entourage shooting in Midtown,” *The New York Daily News*, Oct. 27, 2018. <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-metro-cops-arrest-shooting-tekashi-20181027-story.html> For “boxer,” see BoxRec, “Zachary Bunce,” <https://boxrec.com/en/proboxer/645805>

000: “So he made sure he was surrounded by two private security guards”: TMZ, “Tekashi69's Crew Was Allegedly Packing Heat, Making Deadly Threats Before Shooting,” Oct. 28, 2018. <https://www.tMZ.com/2018/10/28/tekashi69-crew-gun-violence-threat-shooting-restaurant/> “Elliot was waiting for Tekashi at the restaurant with his two bodyguards, retired NYPD detective Efrain Vasquez and Maurice Fernandez.”

000: “Shotti followed Tekashi to the restaurant”: VladTV, “Sara Molina Details Tekashi Restaurant Shooting, Doesn't Believe Shotti Stole from Him (Part 10),” uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 26, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2MJ1dNB7ao>

000: “Shotti's crew began throwing chairs and flashing guns”: “Cops nab two in Tekashi 6ix 9ine entourage shooting in Midtown,” *The New York Daily News*, Oct. 27, 2018. <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-metro-cops-arrest-shooting-tekashi-20181027-story.html> “one of the crew grabbed a chair and slammed it over the head of one of the manager's security guards — and flashed a gun, the sources said.”

000: “The guard pulled out his gun and fired, hitting Crippy in the chest. Crippy was arrested, and then taken to the hospital”: TMZ, “Shooting at Tekashi69's Post-Sentencing Celebration, Bodyguard Hit” Oct. 26, 2018. <https://www.tmz.com/2018/10/26/tekashi69-shooting-bodyguard-hit-court-party-probation/> . For “arrested,” see “Cops nab two in Tekashi 6ix 9ine entourage shooting in Midtown,” *The New York Daily News*, Oct. 27, 2018. <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-metro-cops-arrest-shooting-tekashi-20181027-story.html>

000: “He’d end up with a colostomy bag due to his injuries”: USA v. Faheem Walter, Sentencing hearing, Aug. 14, 2019, p. 12. “THE COURT: Let’s turn to the injury that the defendant Mr. Walter suffered. My understanding as of earlier submissions is that Mr. Walter still required a colostomy bag. Do you understand that still to be the case? MR. LONGYEAR: I believe so. I have not been informed otherwise.”

000: “make his already-bad prison experience horrifically worse”: USA v. Faheem Walter, Sentencing hearing, Aug. 14, 2019, p. 21-2.

000: “Crippy, Shotti, and the boxer were all arrested”: Stephanie Pagones and Max Jaeger, “Tekashi 6ix9ine’s manager charged in security guard shooting,” *Page Six*, Nov. 7, 2018. https://pagesix.com/2018/11/07/tekashi-6ix9ines-manager-charged-in-security-guard-shooting/?_ga=2.251765385.1245955475.1563114884-1770180634.1522097572

000: “In early November...bedroom window”: TMZ, “Shooting at Tekashi 6ix9ine Music Video Featuring Nicki Minaj & Kanye West,” Nov. 9, 2018. <https://www.tmz.com/2018/11/09/shooting-tekashi-6ix9ine-music-video-kanye-west-nicki-minaj/>

000: “A week to the day...no longer around”: @6ix9ine on Instagram, Nov. 15, 2018. https://www.instagram.com/p/BqNrGLCnaDK/?utm_source=ig_embed&utm_campaign=embed_video_watch_again

000: “The next day...he said”: Breakfast Club Power 105.1 FM, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Explains Why He Fired His Team, Recent Shooting & New Album,” Uploaded to YouTube on Nov. 16, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ8NoQTT1fQ>

000: “A day later...feed him, though”: USA vs. Aljermiah Mack and Anthony Ellison, Trial exhibit 319-T.

000: “That was, the federal government would soon after contend, barely-hidden code for shooting”: Marisa Mendez, “Audio Leaks of 6ix9ine’s Former Manager Shotti Allegedly Saying He’ll Shoot Rapper,” *XXL*, Sept. 24, 2019. <https://www.xxlmag.com/6ix9ine-manager-shotti-wiretapped-phone-call-shooting/> “In the clip, Shotti and Mel Murda make it clear they’re displeased with 6ix9ine, and Shotti can be heard saying he plans to ‘feed’ Tekashi. According to court documents, U.S. prosecutors believe the phrase means to shoot someone.”

000: “He got on the phone...on some bullshit”: USA vs. Aljermiah Mack and Anthony Ellison, Trial exhibit 320-T.

000: “Mel’s phone was tapped, a consequence of the investigation into Nine Trey that was kick-started six months before”: Trial transcript, Sept. 25, 2019, p. 1307. “Q. By the way, you made recordings related to drug activities with Mel Murda, right? A. Yes. Q. With Ro Murda you made these recordings, right? A. I believe the phone was already recording with Mel Murda. I think it’s called a T3. I am not too sure what it’s called. But the phone was -- they already had the phone tapped.”

000: “Law enforcement ran...some members”: The Shade Room, “6ix9ine Tell All Part 2: WHY I SNITCHED,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwT63p9D5vQ> 54:09 and Transcript of sentencing hearing for Daniel Hernandez, Dec. 18, 2019, p. 38. “On November 17, we were alerted by law enforcement that it was a serious threat against his life. Although Daniel refused the offer of protection that night, he did give information about Nine Trey and the members of Nine Trey and what they were about.”

000: “The next day, after a meeting with a booking agent to try and figure out his chaotic finances”: The Shade Room, “6ix9ine Tell All Part 2: WHY I SNITCHED,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwT63p9D5vQ> 55:33

000: “He decided to go to Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut”: USA against Daniel Hernandez, et. al., PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE HENRY PITMAN, Nov. 19, 2018, p. 356. “law enforcement got information that the defendant was planning to go to Foxwoods Casino, a venue that they could not control, and the determination was made that we should take the case down and start to arrest several of our targets including the defendant.”

000: “The singer Anuel AA, who he had recently collaborated with, was performing there”: Connecticut Magazine, “Anuel AA at Foxwoods Resort Casino” https://www.connecticutmag.com/calendar/at-the-casinos/anel-aa-at-foxwoods-resort-casino/event_3db90dc0-d15c-11e8-b05b-17687bf3ef89.html . For “recently collaborated with, see Tekashi 6ix9ine, “BEBE - 6ix9ine Ft. Anuel AA (Prod. By Ronny J) (Official Music Video),” Uploaded to YouTube on Aug. 31, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycV6cnK3SIs>

000: “Law enforcement...rounded everyone up”: USA against Daniel Hernandez, et. al., PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE HENRY PITMAN, Nov. 19, 2018, p. 356. “law enforcement got information that the defendant was planning to go to Foxwoods Casino, a venue that they could not control, and the determination was made that we should take the case down and start to arrest several of our targets including the defendant.”

Part 2: The Feds

Chapter 10: The Aftermath

000: "TMZ broke...the headline": TMZ, "TEKASHI69 Busted By Feds For Racketeering ...FACING LIFE IN PRISON," Nov. 19, 2018.

<https://www.t TMZ.com/2018/11/19/tekashi-6ix9ine-ex-manager-arrested-racketeering-charges/>

000: "ATF agents took Hernandez into custody, along with five other people including Shotti, Mel Murda, and Crippy": TMZ, "TEKASHI69 Busted By Feds For Racketeering ...FACING LIFE IN PRISON," Nov. 19, 2018. <https://www.t TMZ.com/2018/11/19/tekashi-6ix9ine-ex-manager-arrested-racketeering-charges/> : "6ix9ine was arrested Sunday night by ATF agents in NYC, and the agents also hauled in his ex-manager, Shotti, at the same time. You'll recall Tekashi had just fired Shottie and much of his management team last week. One of the other suspects arrested is Faheem Walter." For Mel Murda, see Wikipedia, "Trial of the Nine Trey Gangsters," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trial_of_the_Nine_Trey_Gangsters#Arrest_and_guilty_plea "On the night of November 18, 2018, six men were arrested by ATF agents in New York City: 6ix9ine, Shotti, Jamel "Mel Murda" Jones, Fuguan "Fu Banga" Lovick, Jesnel "Ish" Butler, and Faheem "Crippy" Walter.

000: "Crippy wasn't arrested, exactly—he was already in jail, having been busted for the month before for his role in the restaurant brawl": "Cops nab two in Tekashi 6ix 9ine entourage shooting in Midtown," *The New York Daily News*, Oct. 27, 2018.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-metro-cops-arrest-shooting-tekashi-20181027-story.html>

000: "It was an approach to law enforcement that began in 1970, as a way to fight the mob": Wikipedia, "Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act,"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racketeer_Influenced_and_Corrupt_Organizations_Act "RICO was enacted by section 901(a) of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 (Pub.L. 91–452, 84 Stat. 922, enacted October 15, 1970)... its original use in the 1970s was to prosecute the Mafia..."

000: "The federal government has an often-bragged-about conviction rate of well above 90%":

Womack & Associates, "Federal and State Charges," <https://www.guywomack.com/federal-criminal-defense/federal-v-state-charges/#:~:text=More%20than%2090%25%20of%20individuals,in%20federal%20court%20are%20convicted>. "More than 90% of individuals who are prosecuted in federal court are convicted."

000: "Snitching was prohibited by Nine Trey's 31 rules": Henry Culvyhouse, delmarvanow.com, May 18, 2016, "Who are the Nine Trey Gangsters?"

<https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/local/maryland/2016/05/18/who-nine-trey-gangsters/84533278/> "there are 31 common rules--which include admonishments against 'snitching'."

000: "The punishment was to be put on the "worldwide menu" of people who should be killed at the earliest possible opportunity": Jane Wester, "One rule of the Bloods gang is you don't talk about the Bloods gang, prosecutors say in Charlotte trial," *The Charlotte Observer*, May 7, 2018, https://journalnow.com/one-rule-of-the-bloods-gang-is-you-dont-talk-about-the-bloods-gang-prosecutors/article_54805de6-aa00-521f-a1e4-aa311337c0af.html "If members break one

of the organization's 31 rules by cooperating with law enforcement, prosecutors said, they join a 'worldwide menu' of people marked for death. If a Blood runs into someone on the worldwide menu, retaliation is not optional — they have to 'eat the food or be the food,' prosecutors said."

000: "But according to gang experts, it most frequently serves to protect members in the upper ranks, while leaving the foot soldiers out to dry": Author interview with Edwin Santana, 2019, p. 23-4.

000: "I've yet to...less time": Author interview with Edwin Santana, 2019, p. 23.

000: "He was facing a minimum sentence of almost five decades": BBC News, "Tekashi 6ix9ine: Rapper sentenced to two years in prison," Dec. 18, 2019, <https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-50835644> "The rapper had been facing a minimum of 47 years and a maximum of life in prison."

000: "he was already telling law enforcement about the gang": "5K1" letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019 p. 1-2. "Hernandez was approached by law enforcement on the evening of Saturday, November 17, 2018... Hernandez (with counsel present) provided some information about the organization of Nine Trey and identified certain members of Nine Trey."

000: "At the indictment the next day, Tekashi's was brought out in front of a judge separately from all the other defendants": Author interview with Stephen Rex Brown, 2019. "Tell me about that arraignment. What was that like? Stephen Rex: If I remember correctly, he was brought out separately than all the other defendants. So even at that moment he was being separated from the rest of the gang, sort of a reflection of what was happening behind the scenes... But he was already sort of getting the VIP treatment in that sense."

000: "At Tekashi's indictment...shootings": USA against Daniel Hernandez, et. al., PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE HENRY PITMAN, Nov. 19, 2018.

000: "There were eight counts...cookout": USA v. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, Jensel [sic] Butler, Daniel Hernandez, Fuguan Lovick, and Faheem Walter, Superceding Indictment, Filed Nov. 19, 2018 (Document 1).

000: "Although Tekashi wasn't present at that event, he and Shotti had been the ones to order it": "5K1" letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019, p. 6.

000: "He laid out...denied": USA against Daniel Hernandez, et. al., PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HONORABLE HENRY PITMAN, Nov. 19, 2018.

000: "A meeting was set with the government for the next morning": 5K1" letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019, p.2. "Hernandez was

arrested in the evening of November 18, 2018 and was ordered detained at his presentment the next day. He proffered with the Government the following morning...”

000: “ Page Six honed in on the lead prosecutor’s mention of the “superviolate” conversation between Mel Murda and Jim Jones”: Kaja Whitehouse and Chris Perez, “Feds claim Tekashi 6ix9ine is a member of murderous NYC gang,” Page Six, Nov. 19, 2018. <https://pagesix.com/2018/11/19/feds-claim-tekashi-6ix9ine-is-a-member-of-murderous-nyc-gang/> “Despite his alleged loyalty, Longyear described how 6ix9ine almost became a victim himself this weekend after what he said on the Breakfast Club. ‘They wanted to violate him,’ the prosecutor explained, in reference to his former team members. ‘They wanted to ‘super violate’ him.’ Longyear said the term ‘super violate’ meant to perform a ‘violent act, including shooting him.’”

000: “At this point, though, Jim Jones’s name was kept out of it. He was referred to only as ‘Individual-1’”: Letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Nov. 27, 2018, (Document 34), p. 4-5.

000: “At Tekashi’s meeting...kidnapping”: 5K1” letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019, p.2. “He proffered with the Government the following morning, admitted to his involvement in Nine Trey, including his participation in an armed robbery in midtown Manhattan, for which he had been charged, and provided information concerning additional acts of violence, some of which had not yet been charged, including: (1) a shooting that took place in “Smurf Village” in Brooklyn on or about July 16, 2018; (2) a July 22, 2018 robbery and kidnapping of Hernandez by Anthony Ellison, a/k/a “Harv” and an individual named “Sha;” (3) the circumstances by which an assault rifle was stored at Hernandez’s home; and (4) his ordering of a June 2, 2018 shooting at the W Hotel in Times Square.”

000: “He’d been indicted on Halloween and arrested a few days later”: Gabrielle Fonrouge, “Tekashi 6ix9ine’s attacker indicted on federal charges,” Page Six, Nov. 13, 2018. “A grand jury indicted Anthony Jamel Ellison, 31, on Oct. 31 for the July 22 attack, in which Tekashi claims he was kidnapped and robbed of \$750,000 in jewelry and \$20,000 in cash when he was coming home from a music video shoot. Ellison, also known as ‘Harv,’ was arrested on Nov. 6 and has been charged with conspiracy to obstruct commerce by robbery, obstructing commerce by robbery and carrying a firearm to commit a crime, court records show.”

000: “On Monday, November 26...his hands”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, Jensel [sic] Butler, Daniel Hernandez, Fuguan Lovick, and Faheem Walter, Nov. 26, 2018 transcript.

000: “Paul Engelmayer was 57”: Wikipedia, “Paul A. Engelmayer,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_A._Engelmayer “Paul Adam Engelmayer (born April 12, 1961)...”

000: “Room 1305 at the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse”: See <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/hon-paul-engelmayer> “Thurgood Marshall United States

Courthouse...Courtroom: 1305.”

000: “He went to Harvard for undergrad, worked briefly at the *Wall Street Journal*, and then went to law school at Harvard. He landed a few choice clerkships, including one with Thurgood Marshall, just a few years before the legendary Justice’s retirement”: Wikipedia, “Paul A. Engelmayer,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_A._Engelmayer

000: ““I think about him...justice business”: C-Span, Mar. 6, 2018, “Justice Thurgood Marshall” <https://www.c-span.org/video/?442141-1/justice-thurgood-marshall#> 8:21.

000: “Engelmayer was...months later”: Wikipedia, “Paul A. Engelmayer,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_A._Engelmayer#Federal_judicial_service

000: “he oversaw no shortage of gang cases”: See United States Attorney’s Office, Southern District of New York, “National Leader Of ‘Trinitarios’ Gang Sentenced In Manhattan Federal Court To 19 Years In Prison,” July 25, 2014. <https://www.justice.gov/archive/usao/nys/pressreleases/July14/LeonidesSierraSentencingPR.php>

000: “Shotti’s lawyer was Scott Leemon”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, Jensel [sic] Butler, Daniel Hernandez, Fuguan Lovick, and Faheem Walter, Nov. 26, 2018 transcript, p. 3. “MR. LEEMON: Good morning, your Honor. Scott Leemon L-e-e-m-o-n, on behalf of Mr. Jordan...”

000: “XXL once named him one of the rap game’s best lawyers”: Rob Markman, “Scott E. Leemon,” XXL, Aug. 2008. <http://leemonlaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/XXLAug08.pdf>

000: “The day before the hearing...welch out”: Letter from Scott E. Leemon to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 23, 2018 (Document 50). “By way of background, I first entered my appearance for Mr. Jordan at the initial status conference on November 26, 2018. I only appeared at that time because I met with Mr. Jordan at the MCC on November 25, 2018 and I was assured by Mr. Jordan and his family that I would receive my initial retainer fee early that week. That never happened. It has now been several weeks since that appearance and I still have not received payment. I was told by a family member of Mr. Jordan’s that the family is still trying to put funds together, as a group; and, once they do that, they are going to pursue new counsel at that time.”

000: “At the hearing, the government revealed that Ro Murda was arrested a few days before, and was now a part of the case”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, Jensel [sic] Butler, Daniel Hernandez, Fuguan Lovick, and Faheem Walter, Nov. 26, 2018 transcript, p. 8. “Your Honor, I would also note that another defendant, Roland Martin, was arrested on Thursday morning on another Superseding Indictment that was also returned on Monday, the 19th.”

000: “in his mid-30s”: Longyear was 23 in 2006. See *The New York Times*, “Danielle Walsh and Michael Longyear,” Dec. 31, 2006.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/31/fashion/weddings/31WALSH.html>

000: “He admitted that the investigation into Nine Trey had been going on since February”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, Jenseal [sic] Butler, Daniel Hernandez, Fuguan Lovick, and Faheem Walter, Nov. 26, 2018 transcript, p. 10, “Your Honor, the investigation began in or about February 2018 into the Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods, which is a sect of the United [sic] Bloods Nation.”

000: “We have...was needed”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, Jenseal [sic] Butler, Daniel Hernandez, Fuguan Lovick, and Faheem Walter, Nov. 26, 2018 transcript.

000: “Shotti turned...it’s Treyway”: Shawn Setaro, “Everything We Learned at 6ix9ine’s Court Hearing,” *Complex*, Nov. 26, 2018. <https://www.complex.com/music/2018/11/everything-we-learned-at-tekashi-6ix9ine-court-hearing/theres-still-a-long-way-to-go> “Shotti, despite the judge’s prognostication, appeared unbowed. ‘We don’t fold, we don’t bend, we don’t break,’ he said as the courtroom was emptying out. ‘It’s Tr3yway.’”

000: “Outside the courthouse...completely false”: Worldstar Hip Hop, Facebook, Nov. 26, 2018. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=209727356593967>

000: “Mel’s attorney wrote a letter to the judge, offering a \$100,000 bond co-signed by three of Mel’s aunts”: Letter from Dawn M. Cardi to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Nov. 26, 2018 (Document 25).

000: “The next day...the letter read”: Letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Nov. 27, 2018 (Document 34).

000: “Replacing ‘c’’s at the beginning of words with ‘b’’s was a common Blood practice, meant to show disrespect to their historic rivals, the Crips”: Kollege Kidd, “Bompton Rapper YG Explains Bloods Replacing ‘C Words’ with Letter B,” <https://kollegekidd.com/news/bompton-rapper-yg-explains-bloods-replacing-c-words-with-letter-b/#:~:text=Bompton%20Rapper%20YG%20Explains%20Bloods%20Replacing%20C%20Words%20with%20Letter%20B&text=Rapper%20YG%20a%20Los%20Angeles,words%20with%20the%20letter%20B>.

000: “Another big strike...heroin”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Roland Martin, Kifano Jordan, Jenseal [sic] Butler, Daniel Hernandez, Fuguan Lovick, and Faheem Walter, Superceding Indictment S4, Nov. 28, 2018 (Document37), p. 16-18.

000: “At the direction of the cooperating drug dealer and law enforcement, Mel sold two kilos of heroin, on tape, directly to an undercover cop. He made \$10,000. When he was arrested four days later, he had \$9,000 of that money still on him”: USA v. Jamel Jones, Nov. 28, 2018 bail hearing transcript, p. 20. For “cooperating drug dealer,” see USA v. Kristian Cruz, Sentencing

hearing transcript, Feb. 27, 2020, p. 17-18. “Mr. Cruz also helped broker certain sting operations, such as the sting operation involving Jamel Jones in which, unbeknownst to Mr. Jones, he was transporting a substantial amount of heroin from what he thought was one dealer to another but was actually between undercover agents.”

Chapter 11: Lawyers, Guns, and Money

000: “With a case now up to seven defendants”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Roland Martin, Kifano Jordan, Jense [sic] Butler, Daniel Hernandez, Fuguan Lovick, and Faheem Walter, Superseding Indictment S4, Nov. 28, 2018 (Document37), p. 1.

000: “Leemon wrote a letter...this request”: Letter from Scott E. Leemon to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 23, 2018 (Document 50).

000: “At the beginning of the month...was now”: Letter from Scott E. Leemon to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Jan. 7, 2019 (Document 62).

000: “He represented rappers like Fat Joe...Gotti”: The Law Offices of Jeffrey Lichtman, “About Jeffrey Lichtman” <https://jeffreylightman.com/attorney-profiles/jeffrey-lichtman/>

000: “On January 2, 2019...to the team”: Letter from Jeffrey Lichtman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Feb. 1, 2019 (Document 96), p. 3.

000: “So Lichtman took on Shotti as his client”: Notice of Appearance, Jan. 15, 2019 (Document 72). “PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Jeffrey Lichtman, Esq., and Jeffrey Einhorn, Esq., Law Offices of Jeffrey Lichtman, 11 East 44th Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10017, appear on behalf of defendant KIF ANO JORDAN in the above-captioned case.”

000: “There was a noon hearing”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, defendants, *Curcio* hearing, Jan. 22, 2019, 12:08 pm (Document 124).

000: “and a 2:30 one to make sure that Lichtman could rep Shotti”: USA v. Jamel Jones, et. al., Conference transcript, Jan. 22, 2019, 2:30 pm.

000: “The stakes were so low that Mel’s current lawyer wasn’t even there, sending someone else in her place”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, defendants, *Curcio* hearing, Jan. 22, 2019, 12:08 pm (Document 124), p. 2.

000: “Judge, just one...nothing”: USA vs. Jamel Jones, Kifano Jordan, defendants, *Curcio* hearing, Jan. 22, 2019, 12:08 pm (Document 124) and USA v. Jamel Jones, et. al., Conference transcript, Jan. 22, 2019, 2:30 pm, p. 8.

000: “At the afternoon...resolved”: USA v. Jamel Jones, et. al., Conference transcript, Jan. 22, 2019, 2:30 pm, p. 10.

000: “he gained intimate knowledge of Mr. Jordan’s affairs”: Letter from Jeffrey Lichtman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Feb. 1, 2019 (Document 96), p. 2.

000: “On December 22, 2018, the federal government began its longest shutdown in history. It would last for a shocking 35 days”: Wikipedia, “2018-2019 United States federal government shutdown,”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018%E2%80%932019_United_States_federal_government_shutdown#:~:text=The%20United%20States%20federal%20government,the%20presidency%20of%20Donald%20Trump. “The United States federal government shutdown of 2018–2019 occurred from midnight EST on December 22, 2018, until January 25, 2019 (35 days). It was the longest U.S. government shutdown in history.”

000: “Defendants in the case...a computer”: USA v. Jamel Jones, et. al., Conference transcript, Jan. 22, 2019, 2:30 pm, p. 32.

000: “The federal jail in Brooklyn...hot food”: Annie Correal, “No Heat for Days at a Jail in Brooklyn Where Hundreds of Inmates Are Sick and ‘Frantic,’” *The New York Times*, Feb. 1, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/01/nyregion/mdc-brooklyn-jail-heat.html>

000: “Because of the...his body”: USA v. Faheem Walter, Sentencing hearing transcript, Aug. 14, 2019, p. 23.

000: “Tekashi sat down in front of Judge Engelmayer, ready to accept responsibility”: USA v. Daniel Hernandez, Jan. 23, 2019 transcript, p. 1.

000: “in Tekashi’s case, it was over two dozen”: “5K1” letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019, p. 10. “As detailed herein, the defendant provided extensive assistance in this case [redacted], including seven substantive proffer sessions with the Government prior to his guilty plea, and approximately 26 meetings between his arrest and trial.”

000: “the section...letter”: United States Sentencing Commission Guidelines Manual, “§5K1.1 - SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO AUTHORITIES (POLICY STATEMENT)”
<https://guidelines.uscourts.gov/guidelin/%C2%A75K1.1>

000: “This was the scenario...was the hope”: TMZ, “Tekashi69 Has Plan to Get Out of Jail Before September Racketeering Trial,” Apr. 8, 2019. <https://www.tz.com/2019/04/08/tekashi-6ix9ine-plea-deal-jail-release-racketeering-trial/> “The hope for Tekashi and his attorneys is that all of the others also take deals -- given the overwhelming evidence against them -- so there would be no need for a trial at all. Here's why that could be huge. Tekashi's attorney, Dawn Florio, tells us if the other men strike plea deals and the trial is called off ... they'll ask a judge to grant 6ix9ine time served -- he's been locked up since November. If the judge grants it, he'd walk free because he's fulfilled his obligations under his cooperation agreement with authorities.”

000: "At 12:35 PM...Stepfather": USA v. Daniel Hernandez, Jan. 23, 2019 transcript.

Chapter 12: The Big Day

000: ""Being removed...case": Kaja Whitehouse, "Tekashi 6ix9ine transferred from federal jail after threats on his life," *Page Six*, Nov. 22, 2018. <https://pagesix.com/2018/11/22/tekashi-6ix9ine-transferred-from-federal-jail-after-threats-on-his-life/>

000: "On January 31...to be found": USA v. Jamel Jones, Roland Martin, Kifano Jordan, Anthony Ellison, Denard Butler, Jesnel Butler, Fuguan Lovick, Kintea McKenzie, Faheem Walter, and Aaron Young, Sealed Superseding Indictment, S6. Filed Jan. 31, 2019, p. 1.

000: "The record of Tekashi's January 23 guilty plea became public": USA v. Daniel Hernandez, Order (Document 86), Filed Feb. 1, 2019. p. 2. "NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the...transcript of the defendant's January 23, 2019 guilty plea be unsealed." See also USA v. Daniel Hernandez, Jan. 23, 2019 transcript.

000: "it was picked up in national papers like the *New York Times*": Benjamin Weiser and Ali Watkins, "Tekashi 6ix9ine Pleads Guilty and Agrees to Cooperate With Prosecutors," *The New York Times*, Feb. 1, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/01/nyregion/tekashi-69-pleads-guilty.html>

000: "Nine Trey affiliate Jim Jones": Dayna Haffenden, "Audio released of Jim Jones advising Nine Trey Bloods to 'violate' 6ix9ine," *Revolt*, Sept. 20, 2019. <https://www.revolt.tv/2019/9/20/20875653/jim-jones-6ix9ine-audio-leak>

000: "the Diplomats who sold "Stop Snitchin'" t-shirts": Wikipedia, "Stop Snitchin'," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop_Snitchin%27#National_prominence "The Diplomats, a Harlem-based rap group, made their own version of the Stop Snitchin' shirts, with their logo on the end of the short sleeves."

000: "Dipset leader...4E": CBS News, "Rapper Cam'ron On Snitching (CBS News)," Apr. 19, 2007. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxdqC8kZIQo>

000: "NWA's 'Fuck tha Police' in 1988": Wikipedia, "Fuck tha Police," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuck_tha_Police "'Fuck tha Police' is a protest song by American hip hop group N.W.A that appears on the 1988 album Straight Outta Compton..."

000: "YG's 'FTP' 32 years later": YG, "YG - FTP (Official Audio)," Uploaded to YouTube on Jun. 2, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NFJtEqO0HU

000: "the police, in turn, have a long history of surveilling, harassing, and arresting high-profile (and not-so-high-profile) rappers": Shawn Setaro, "Why Are the NYPD 'Hip-Hop Police' Spying

on Rappers?” *Complex*, Jun. 11, 2020. <https://www.complex.com/music/2020/06/nypd-hip-hop-police>

000: “Lil Boosie went...snitching”: MsJennyb, “Boosie Calls Out 6ix9ine For Snitching, Says Rapper Would Be ‘Murdered Less Than A Month’ After His Release In Louisiana,” *Baller Alert*, Feb. 15, 2019. <https://balleralert.com/profiles/blogs/boosie-calls-out-6ix9ine-for-snitching-says-rapper-would-be-murdered-less-than-a-month-after-his-release-in-louisiana/>

000: “50 Cent”: “50 cent addresses Tekashi 6ix9ine SNITCHING on Treyway and Crippy,” Uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 4, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6edjOPbBmM>

000: “21 Savage”: ALL URBAN CENTRAL, “21 Savage Reacts To Tekashi69 Snitching To FED’s ‘You A Rat,’” Uploaded to YouTube on Feb. 2, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqoZF4qobwo>

000: “Meek Mill”: Michael Saponara, “6ix9ine & Meek Mill's Feud Explained: A Timeline,” *Billboard*, May 12, 2020. <https://www.billboard.com/articles/news/9375441/6ix9ine-meek-mill-feud-timeline>

000: “Fat Joe”: Power 106 Los Angeles, “Fat Joe Calls Tekashi 69 A Snitch,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJpQM1OYB5c>

000: “Snoop Dogg”: Alex Galbraith, “Snoop Dogg Accuses 6ix9ine of Being a Snitch,” *Complex*, Feb. 2, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/02/snoop-dogg-6ix9ine-snitch>

000: “Lichtman and Shotti...objections”: USA v. Daniel Hernandez, Order (Document 136), Filed Mar. 14, 2019, p. 1. “On February 15, 2019, the Court issued an order (Dkt. No. 120) authorizing defendants Kifano Jordan and Faheem Walter to move, by February 27, 2019, for the disqualification of Lance Lazzaro, Esq., as counsel for defendant Daniel Hernandez. Neither defendant elected to file such a motion.”

000: “On the morning of March 28...about to plead guilty”: USA v. Kifano Jordan, Mar. 28. 2019 (Document 161), Filed Apr. 23, 2019. For “morning of March 28,” see p. 1. For “plead guilty,” see p. 2-3.

000: “for the next 15 years”: Shawn Setaro, “6ix9ine’s Ex-Manager Kifano ‘Shotti’ Jordan Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison,” *Complex*, Sept. 6, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/09/tekashi-6ix9ine-manager-kifano-shotti-jordan-sentenced-prison>

000: “He pled to...that’s related”: USA v. Kifano Jordan, Mar. 28. 2019 (Document 161), Filed Apr. 23, 2019.

000: “Treyway, from my understanding, it was a more sophisticated way to name the gang, something that we could market”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 242.

000: “Within a week, Crippy”: Shawn Setaro, “Fifth Defendant in 6ix9ine Case Pleads Guilty,” *Complex*, Apr. 4, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/04/fifth-defendant-in-tekashi-6ix9ine-case-pleads-guilty>

000: “Mel”: Stephen Rex Brown, “9 Trey ‘godfather’ who threatened to ‘super-violate’ Tekashi69 pleads guilty,” *The New York Daily News*, Apr. 3, 2019. <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-9-trey-godfather-guilty-20190404-yecflyfxjzdfpbyuhm5rh6ucxu-story.html>

000: “and one more defendant”: Shawn Setaro, “New Guilty Plea in 6ix9ine Case,” *Complex*, Apr. 2, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/04/new-guilty-plea-in-tekashi-6ix9ine-case>

000: “One of Tekashi’s attorneys went as far as to tell TMZ in April that she was hoping for exactly that”: TMZ, “Tekashi69 Has Plan to Get Out of Jail Before September Racketeering Trial,” Apr. 8, 2019. <https://www.tMZ.com/2019/04/08/tekashi-6ix9ine-plea-deal-jail-release-racketeering-trial/>

000: “One in mid-April”: Shawn Setaro, “Sixth Defendant in 6ix9ine Case Pleads Guilty,” *Complex*, Apr. 19, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/04/sixth-defendant-tekashi-6ix9ine-pleads-guilty>

000: “another in early May”: Shawn Setaro, “Accused Nine Trey ‘Shooter’ Pleads Guilty in 6ix9ine Case,” *Complex*, May 9, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/05/accused-nine-trey-shooter-pleads-guilty-tekashi-6ix9ine-case>

000: “two more in early June”: Hannah Lifshutz, “Accused Chief Keef Shooter in 6ix9ine Case Pleads Guilty,” *Complex*, Jun. 3, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/06/eighth-defendant-tekashi-6ix9ine-case-pleads-guilty> and Joshua Espinoza, “Ninth Person Pleads Guilty in 6ix9ine Racketeering Case,” *Complex*, Jun. 5, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/06/ninth-co-defendant-pleads-guilty-in-tekashi-6ix9ine-racketeering-case>

000: “there were strong hints that Ro Murda was on the way”: Shawn Setaro, “The 6ix9ine Case: Where It Stands Now and What Might Come Next,” *Complex*, Jun. 6, 2019. “A letter submitted to the court by U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman on Wednesday implied that more guilty pleas might be coming soon. Berman asked for a two-week delay in submitting paperwork to the remaining defendants. The reason? ‘The Government is in negotiations with the remaining defendants regarding pretrial dispositions. The requested adjournment will allow the parties sufficient time to continue those discussions, and if agreements are reached, to schedule change of plea conferences...’ In other words, the then-remaining two defendants (Roland ‘Ro Murda’ Martin and accused 6ix9ine kidnapper Anthony ‘Harv’ Ellison) were currently negotiating

guilty pleas, and the government thought it possible that both of them may plead before the end of the month.”

000: “on June 6, things changed. A new Nine Trey member was added to the case: Aljermiah ‘Nuke’ Mack”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack and Anthony Ellison, Superseding Indictment S10 (Document 184), Filed Jun. 6, 2019.

000: “When Nuke got arrested on June 6”: See docket entry on Jun. 6, 2019. “Arrest of Aljermiah Mack. (jm)”

000: “‘conspiring to distribute heroin, fentanyl, and MDMA,’ as Longyear put it to Engelmayer at a hearing on June 10”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack, Conference, Jun. 10, 2019, p. 4.

000: “And one of them...was out”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack, Conference, Jun. 10, 2019, p. 8.
 “MR. LONGYEAR: Including Mr. Mack there are now three defendants remaining. We anticipate that one of those will be pleading guilty in the near term, by the end of the month. The other defendant we are engaged in fairly active discussions. So we will hopefully have some clarity in the next couple weeks...”

000: “he ended up doing it on June 27”: Shawn Setaro, “New Guilty Plea in 6ix9ine Case Leaves Only 2 Defendants,” *Complex*, Jun. 28, 2019.
<https://www.complex.com/music/2019/06/new-guilty-plea-roland-martin-tekashi-6ix9ine-only-two-defendants> “On Thursday, Roland ‘Ro Murda’ Martin became the latest person to plead guilty in the federal racketeering case involving 6ix9ine. Martin pleaded guilty to one count, admitting to participating in a racketeering conspiracy.”

000: “Nuke once said that, in Nine Trey, you could either ‘play with the shit’—he meant engage in violence—or ‘be the nigga that’s grinding,’ by which he meant dealing drugs”: For quote, see Trial exhibit 304T, p. 6. For meaning, see Trial transcript, Sept. 24, 2019, p. 1046. “Q. You see in line 10 to 11 where Mr. Mack says, If you want to be the N that play with the shit, then you are going to play with the shit. What do you understand play with the shit to mean? A. He is meaning like if you are going to be somebody that plays with a pistol. Q. When he says, If you want to be the N that's grinding, then you are going to grind, what do you understand him by saying grinding? A. Grinding means selling drugs.”

000: “He was charged kidnapping Tekashi, and with slashing Mark”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack and Anthony Ellison, Superseding Indictment S10 (Document 184), Filed Jun. 6, 2019.

000: “the government found the policeman Jorge talked to”: Herman Kirton, Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 823.

000: “the one Tekashi saw when he stumbled into the police station”: Moses Lebron, Trial transcript, Sept. 19, p. 695.

000: “the doctor Tekashi saw at the hospital”: Dr. Andy Lu, Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 815.

000: “the medical records showing his bruises”: Trial exhibit 402A.

000: “Harv’s then-girlfriend, who heard him brag about it”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 158-9; p. 165.

000: “the joking meme texts sent afterwards”: Trial exhibits 800G1-3.

000: “ones Harv had sent just before the kidnapping, showing him trying to buy a gun from a friend”: Trial exhibits 800H and 800H1.

000: “ones in the aftermath, showing him trying to sell Tekashi’s jewelry”: Trial exhibits 800L and 800N.

000: “At a hearing on July 9, 2019...responded”: USA v. Anthony Ellison and Aljermiah Mack, Conference, July 9, 2019, p. 36-7.

000: “‘Tekashi has mastered the art of marketing, trolling, and, for lack of a better word, fabricating,’ he said”: Shawn Setaro, “Defendant in 6ix9ine Case ‘Is Going to Trial,’ Says Lawyer,” Jul. 9, 2019, <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/07/defendant-in-tekashi-6ix9ine-case-is-going-to-trial-says-lawyer>

000: “‘No robbery or kidnapping...was real”: Shawn Setaro, “Lawyer for 6ix9ine’s Alleged Kidnapper Says Rapper Faked the Incident,” *Complex*, Aug. 16, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/08/lawyer-for-tekashi-6ix9ine-alleged-kidnapper-says-rapper-faked-the-incident>

000: “When it showed up in legal paperwork, that horrific past sounded cold and clinical: ‘incidents of domestic violence from approximately 2011 through in or about November 2018’”: Trial exhibit 1200, p. 5.

000: “So of course...off limits”: Shawn Setaro, “6ix9ine’s Child Sex Case and Domestic Violence Accusations Will Not Be Scrutinized at Trial,” *Complex*, Sept. 4, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/09/tekashi-6ix9ine-controversial-past-not-scrutinized-at-upcoming-trial>

000: The judge said that if the defense brought it up, it ‘would transparently be an attempt not to impeach the witness’s credibility’—that much would be okay—’but to lead the jury to discount the witness altogether on the separate grounds that he is immoral and loathsome’”: USA v. Anthony Ellison and Aljermiah Mack, Conference, Sept. 4, 2019, p. 46.

000: “And that ‘would be unfairly prejudicial to the government and to the overall truth-seeking process’”: USA v. Anthony Ellison and Aljermiah Mack, Conference, Sept. 4, 2019, p. 46.

000: “‘it is well settled...at this trial’”: USA v. Anthony Ellison and Aljermiah Mack, Conference, Sept. 4, 2019, p. 47-8.

000: “The government wanted...Ro Murda”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, “The Government’s Motions *In Limine*” (Document 240). Filed Aug. 2, 2019.

000: “A 1996 study...reads”: Carrie B. Fried, “Bad Rap for Rap: Bias In Reactions to Music Lyrics,” *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 1996, 26, 23, p. 2135-2146.
<http://endrapontrial.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Fried-1996.pdf>

000: “He was arrested in October 2020 for allegedly stealing peoples’ identities to get unemployment benefits from California’s Employment Development Department—a scam he bragged about on his song ‘EDD’”: NBC Los Angeles, “Rapper Who Boasted on Youtube About Getting Rich From Unemployment Fraud Gets Arrested — for Unemployment Fraud,” Oct. 16, 2020. <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/rapper-nuke-bizzle-edd-uneemployment-fraud-los-angeles/2445279/>

000: “There has been a spate of this in Tekashi’s native Brooklyn especially, with prosecutors going out of their way to mention rap crews, lyrics, and videos in criminal complaints”: See USA v. Terrique Hines, Complaint and Affidavit, (Document 1), Filed Aug. 18, 2020. See also USA v. Dajahn McBean, Semaj Smith, and Mark Waiters, Indictment (Document 1), Filed July 16, 2020.

000: “revealed his conclusions...were real”: USA v. Anthony Ellison and Aljermiah Mack, Conference, Sept. 4, 2019.

000: “CW-2 is expected...acts of violence”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, “The Government’s Motions *In Limine*” (Document 240). Filed Aug. 2, 2019. p. 27.

000: “In 2001...NPR reporting”: All of NPR’s episodes on Mac Phipps can be found at <https://www.npr.org/series/922432233/louder-than-a-riot>

000: “the 2019 book *Rap on Trial: Race, Lyrics, and Guilt in America*”: Erik Nielson and Andrea L. Dennis, *Rap on Trial: Race, Lyrics, and Guilt in America*. Published by The New Press in November, 2019. <https://thenewpress.com/books/rap-on-trial>

000: “Engelmayer’s ruling...gang activity”: USA v. Anthony Ellison and Aljermiah Mack, Conference, Sept. 4, 2019.

000: “Dicky stiffy, uh/Bet she give some licky, uh”: USA v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a “Nuke” and Anthony Ellison, a/k/a Harv, “The Government’s Motions *In Limine*, Exhibit 2 (lyrics to “Kooda”)” (Document 240-2), Filed Aug. 2, 2019.

000: “Aljermiah ‘Nuke’ Mack had some ties to the rap world”: Shawn Setaro, “Cam’ron Writes Letter on Behalf of One of the Defendants in 6ix9ine Case,” *Complex*, Feb. 11, 2020.
<https://www.complex.com/music/2020/02/camron-writes-letter-for-aljermiah-nuke-mack-tekashi-6ix9ine-nine-trey-case>

Chapter 13: ‘A Jussie Smollett, If You Will’

000: “On Monday, September 16, 2019, the trial in the case of United States of America v. Aljermiah Mack a/k/a ‘Nuke,’ and Anthony Ellison a/k/a ‘Harv’ began”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 1.

000: “The government’s side...state’s work”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 2.

000: “Deveraux Cannick remained as Harv’s lead attorney”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 2.

000: “Nuke had a small team of lawyers led by Louis Fasulo”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 2.

000: “Fasulo was late-middle-aged”: He was in his early 60s at the time of the trial.
<https://people-background-check.com/Louis-Fasulo-4k5q5C21>

000: “He was always ready...next move”: Personal observation by author during trial.

000: “The first step...steady hand”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019.

000: “The only hint...their hand”: Shawn Setaro, “The 6ix9ine Nine Trey Trial: Everything We Learned, Day 1: ‘It’s a Jussie Smollett, if you will’,” *Complex*, Oct. 3, 2019.
<https://www.complex.com/music/2019/10/tekashi-6ix9ine-nine-trey-trial-everything-we-learned/day-1-its-a-jussie-smollett>

000: “ In addition to expected names like Casanova and Chief Keef, there was one name that might have been puzzling to bystanders: Jim Jones”: Shawn Setaro, “The 6ix9ine Nine Trey Trial: Everything We Learned, Day 1: ‘It’s a Jussie Smollett, if you will’,” *Complex*, Oct. 3, 2019.
<https://www.complex.com/music/2019/10/tekashi-6ix9ine-nine-trey-trial-everything-we-learned/day-1-its-a-jussie-smollett>

000: “‘Statements, arguments, and questions by the lawyers are not evidence,’ he said. ‘Only the answers given by the witnesses are evidence’”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 24-5.

000: “‘You are to listen...testimony?’”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 27.

000: "Jorge would face 17 years to life in prison": Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 784. "Q. Mr. Rivera, have you been sentenced? A. Not yet. Q. And what's your understanding of the maximum sentence you face as a result of your guilty plea? A. A life sentence. Q. And what's your understanding of the mandatory minimum sentence you face as a result of your guilty plea? A. 17 years."

000: "the opening argument fell to Jonathan Rebold": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 34. "We will now begin with counsel's opening statements, beginning with the government. Mr. Rebold."

000: "'Drugs get you...shootings": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 34.

000: "The defendants...is about": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 34

000: "In a country riven by an oft-publicized 'opioid crisis": Dept. of Health and Human Services, "Opioid Crisis Statistics," <https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/opioid-crisis-statistics/index.html#:~:text=Two%20out%20of%20three%20drug%20overdose%20deaths%20in%202018%20involved%20an%20opioid.&text=Misuse%20of%20prescription%20opioids%20among.the%20survey%20began%20assessing%20it.&text=In%202016%2C%20the%20national%20rate,was%20297%20per%20100%2C000%20population.>

000: "Often that violence...of violence": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 36.

000: "Rebold knew his team had photos of a bloodied slashing victim to show the jury when the time was right": See Trial Exhibits 200 and 201.

000: "Let me be clear...sentenced": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 38.

000: "With respect...the truth": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 38.

000: "'Let's talk about...words": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 39-40.

000: "the government had a photo of Tekashi and Nuke outside a nightclub, doing a Nine Trey hand sign": See Trial exhibit 501X.

000: "There may be...in Iowa": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 40-41.

000: " The rapper is...the top": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 41-42.

000: "'Idle chatter amongst friends, that's the best way to pass the time,' he argued": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 44.

000: "This whole thing about a kidnap is a hoax. It's a Jussie Smollett, if you will": Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 49.

000: “the early 2019 attack on *Empire* star Smollett, allegedly staged by the actor himself”: Wikipedia, “Alleged assault of Jussie Smollett,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alleged_assault_of_Jussie_Smollett

000: “Cannick’s evidence for his claim? A trolling Instagram post from Tekashi in February, 2018, many months before the kidnapping”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 49. For “February, 2018” see Tone Are, “Tekashi 6ix9ine: Someone Please Snatch My Chain,” VladTV, Feb. 27, 2018. <https://www.vladtv.com/article/241645/tekashi-6ix9ine-someone-please-snatch-my-chain>

000: ““You will remember Dr. King told us long ago, no lie can live forever”: Trial transcript, Sept. 16, 2019, p. 50.

Chapter 14: Dial It Back and Start Again

000: “When the lawyers assembled at 9 am to work out small stuff with the judge before the jury arrived, he wasn’t there. Instead, he was caught in traffic”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 57-59.

000: “It’s imperative that all counsel be ready at 9:00”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 60.

000: ““You need to be here at 9:00,’ the judge said. ‘I start at 9:00’”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 61.

000: “gruesome photos...face”: See Trial exhibits 200 and 201.

000: ““And what did you...Bloods gang”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 134.

000: “He basically...in the face”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 154.

000: “I had told him...famous for that”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 165.

000: “It was...of doing”: Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 196.

Chapter 15: ‘Do You Recognize Anyone in the Courtroom?’

Daniel Hernandez’s testimony from Sept. 17, 2019 can be found in Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 203-256. All other sources for the chapter are notated below.

000: “Tekashi was squinting incessantly on the stand, something he kept up for the entire three days he testified. Was it because he couldn’t see? Was it nerves? Fear?”: Author interview with Emily Saul, p. 2. “I figured out if it was that he was terrified for his life but as he sat on the witness stand, he sort of had eyes darting all around. He continued to lick his lips, he squinted around the courtroom. I believe he also wears glasses and so he was devoid of those during

trial so he couldn't really see but there were a lot of facial ticks [sic] that really initially caught my eye that you don't typically see with defendants even if they're uncomfortable.”

000: “There was certainly no shortage of people in red in the courtroom, the traditional color of the Bloods”: Author interview with Stephen Rex Brown, p. 6. “So it was a really surreal scene. I'd mentioned there were a fair amount of people in the courtroom wearing red. Whatever that means, I don't know. I mean, I can speculate but I don't know for certain what it meant. But, I mean, it could be perceived as sending him a message.”

000: “there was a ton of media: Vulture, the New York Times, the Post, the Daily News”: Personal observation by author. Also, see 1. Victoria Bekiempis, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Recounts His Alleged Kidnapping in Court: ‘Damn, They Caught Me. It’s Over.’,” Vulture, Sept. 18, 2019. <https://www.vulture.com/2019/09/tekashi-69-case-kidnapping-testimony.html> 2. Colin Moynihan, “Tekashi69’s Testimony Leads to Guilty Verdicts for 2 Gang Members,” The New York Times, Oct. 3, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/03/nyregion/tekashi-69-guilty.html> 3. Elizabeth Rosner, Emily Saul, and Jackie Salo, Page Six, “Tekashi 6ix9ine testifies he flipped on Bloods crew ‘next day’ after gang bust,” Sept. 17, 2019. <https://pagesix.com/2019/09/17/tekashi-6ix9ine-testifies-he-flipped-on-bloods-crew-next-day-after-gang-bust/> 4. Stephen Rex Brown, “Tekashi69 chokes up recalling kidnapping at hands of accused Nine Trey Bloods,” *The New York Daily News*, Sept. 18, 2019. <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-tekashi-kidnapping-testimony-20190919-fig2p6lznvfv5ovu4ujpbo7n4e-story.html>

000: “the time when they appeared on New York radio station Hot 97 and Tekashi outright lied, with Seqo sitting right next to him, about their relationship, saying they’d grown up together when in reality they’d only known each other for a few months”: For video of interview, see DJ DREWSKI, “Tekashi 6ix9ine and Seqo Billy talk how they got poppin and how long they have been rapping,” Uploaded to YouTube on Nov. 29, 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57vfcX5EtHs> 2:43. For Seqo’s reaction, see Author interview with Seqo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019, p. 20-21. “Like he said we grew up together. Like, how we going to grow up together? Like, you a kid. I'm a man. Like, you know what I'm saying? How did we grow up together? I just came home from jail, you know what I mean?... He wanted that authenticity, so by them, he thinking Drew, he think oh 'hood, this the radio, Hot 97, this is what they want to hear. They want to hear that I grew up with him in the 'hood. Then, we probably stole some chips from the corner store together or some shit.”

000: “And now, Seqo was just Exhibit 22, a photograph and a nameplate”: See Trial exhibit 22. For “nameplate,” see Trial transcript, Sept. 17, 2019, p. 211. “MR. LONGYEAR: Your Honor, the government offers Government Exhibits 22 and 22A, which is the nameplate Seqo Billy.”

000: “Gummo...clear enough”: Trial exhibit 607-T.

000: “and even created a Tr3yway brand of cosmetics”: See Facebook, “Tr3yway Lipline,” <https://www.facebook.com/Tr3yway-Lipline-415035359010233/>

000: “They had been...dedicated to the practice”: Dasun Allah, “The Hiphop Cop,” The Village Voice, Mar. 30, 2004. <https://www.villagevoice.com/2004/03/30/the-hiphop-cop/> “Interviews with former detective first grade Derrick Parker, who claims to be the founder and architect of the New York Police Department’s rap intelligence unit, reveal that in the 1990s Parker thought it was important to monitor people who were starting to ‘latch on’ to rappers and entertainers...”

000: “a specialized ‘binder’ with information on almost every major rapper in the city”: Dasun Allah, “The Hiphop Cop,” The Village Voice, Mar. 30, 2004. <https://www.villagevoice.com/2004/03/30/the-hiphop-cop/> “In 2003, Miami cops came to New York for a training session. By then, what had been ‘a booklet’ on rappers during Parker’s tenure had become a six-inch binder, cited in the *Herald*.”

000: “‘The reason they put HIDTA into it [was] they had better computers and better resources,’ says Derrick Parker”: Author interview with Derrick Parker, Jun. 8, 2020, p. 11.

000: “Ms. Tr3yway who registered the trademark”: See US Patent and Trademark Office, Trademark/Service Mark Application, Principal Register, “Tr3yway,” Serial Number 87857637, Filing Date 3/30/2018.

000: “Sequo who came up with it”: Author interview with Sequo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019, p. 4, “Shit. I was just in ... I was recording one day. I was crawling the track. I can’t remember the name of it, but I was doing a track with my boy, Trev. And I ... Right before my ... the verse came on, I was vibing. I was doing a mic check. And I was just, like, Tr3y, I was like Tr3yway, right? And then, from there, it was catchy to me. And we decided to turn it into a label name. It was just so gravitating, the name.”

000: “Shotti’s lawyer who planned to make it a household name”: Author interview with Navarro Gray, 2019.

000: “It had something to do with Garland Tyree’s book, but it was also a spontaneous rap ad-lib”: Author interview with Sequo Billy and Ms. Tr3yway, Feb. 20, 2019.

000: “Longyear introduced a photo of Nuke and Tekashi together”: See Trial exhibit 501X.

000: “several videos and photos of Harv throwing up the Nine Trey sign”: See Trial exhibit 800K, trial exhibit 802N, trial exhibit 802B, trial exhibit 802D.

Chapter 16: ‘Let’s Talk About the Times When You Actually Paid Cash’

Daniel Hernandez’s testimony from Sept. 18, 2019 can be found in Trial transcript, Sept. 18, 2019, p.268-469. All other sources for the chapter are notated below.

000: “He called J. Prince’s Rap-a-lot label ‘a wanna-be mafia kind of thing’”: Mis-typed as “They are like I wanna be Mafia type” in official transcript, p. 282.

000: “Billboard ‘cheated’ him out of a No. 1 album”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019 p. 593.

000: “kicking off a fight that made it to TMZ”: TMZ, “Rapper Tekashi69 and Crew in Massive Brawl at LAX,” Feb. 21, 2018. <https://www.tmz.com/2018/02/21/tekashi69-brawl-fight-lax/>

000: “it was one of Tekashi’s go-to insults to anyone who got on his bad side”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 638. “Q. Tell us some of the things that you would do to troll others. Well, let me see if I can help you. Did you tell others to suck your body parts? A. Correct. Q. What of your body parts did you tell others to suck? A. My dick.”

000: “Out of the tens of thousands of texts at their disposal”: “5K1” letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019, p. 9. “The defendant reviewed thousands of pages of text messages from his cellphone and identified text messages between himself and other members of Nine Trey...”

000: “I just thought...rats do”: Author interview with Scumlord Dlzzy, Jan. 27, 2020, p. 1.

000: “Video of the actual kidnapping, from inside Jorge’s car”: Trial exhibit 604 (video) and 604-T (transcript).

000: “At around 4:45...the internet”: Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019 p. 492-3. For “the internet,” see DJ Vlad, “10 Minute Audio Released of Tekashi 6ix9ine Testifying in Court, Day 1 (Part 1),” Sept. 18, 2019 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhBCjO7J0qw>.

Chapter 17: ‘You Knew Cardi B Was a Blood, Correct?’

The record of the trial from Sept. 19, 2019 can be found in Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 474-729. All other sources for the chapter are notated below.

000: “No phones in...the courtroom”: Author observation, Sept. 19, 2019.

000: “some in the courtroom smiled”: Author observation, Sept. 19, 2019.

000: “There was tape...each other”: Trial exhibits 323 (audio) and 323-T (transcript).

000: “The entire courtroom listened quietly to nearly 20 minutes straight”: Trial exhibit 300 (the tape in question) is just over 19 minutes in length.

000: “Longyear showed text messages from Harv the day before the robbery where he was talking about getting a gun”: Trial exhibit 800H, p. 2.

000: “And some from afterwards, where an acquaintance hit Harv about buying a ‘bitch with the red face’—the red-faced watch he stole from Tekashi”: Trial exhibit 800H, p. 9.

000: "Then they got to exhibit 320": Trial exhibit 320 (transcript) and exhibits 320A, 320B, 320C (audio).

000: "The news became a sensation": See, for example, Peter A. Berry, "Prosecutors Play Phone Call of Jim Jones Saying 'They Going to Have to Violate Shorty' While 6ix9ine Testifies: Report," *XXL*, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://www.xxlmag.com/jim-jones-6ix9ine-testify-trial-violate-wiretapped-phone-calls/> See also Aron A., "Jim Jones Phone Call Played In 6ix9ine's Trial: 'They Going To Have To Violate Shorty,'" *Hot New Hip Hop*, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/jim-jones-phone-call-played-in-6ix9ines-trial-going-to-have-to-violate-shorty-news.91158.html>

000: "Jim's name was everywhere on Twitter": Trent Clark, "TWITTER SPAZZES WITH GIFS OVER TEKASHI 6IX9INE'S JIM JONES CONFSSIONAL," *HipHopDX*, <https://hiphopdx.com/news/id.52870/title.twitter-spazzes-with-gifs-over-tekashi-6ix9ines-jim-jones-confessional>

000: "Cardi had tweeted in response to a fan query back in 2017, 'Bitch I been a big time Blood since I was 16'": @iamcardib on Twitter, May 6, 2017. <https://twitter.com/iamcardib/status/861019973078183936?lang=en> "Bitch I been a big time Blood since I was 16 sooo fuck is you talking bout ..ya just never peep it."

000: "She confirmed her teenage membership to GQ": Tom Philip, "Cardi B Confirms Her Blood Gang Connections in GQ Profile," *GQ*, Apr. 9, 2018. <https://www.gq.com/story/cardi-b-confirms-blood-gang-affiliation>

000: "'Red Barz' (which opened with an intro proclaiming the song to come contained 'Bloody bars')": *WORLDSTARHIPHOP*, "Cardi B 'Red Barz' (WSHH Exclusive - Official Music Video)," Uploaded to YouTube on Apr. 5, 2017. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nFwjck_bY4 0:16

000: "the song's flow was borrowed from the rapper Kodak Black": Wikipedia, "Bodak Yellow," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodak_Yellow#Composition_and_production "The name of the song was inspired by Kodak Black, a Florida rapper, because Cardi B said the cadence of words in 'Bodak Yellow' reminded her of Black's 2015 song 'No Flockin.'"

000: "contained a pun calling Christian Louboutin shoes, with their red bottoms, 'Bloody shoes'": Genius, "Bodak Yellow," <https://genius.com/12365695> "'Bloody shoes' may also be a thinly veiled allusion to the Blood gang..."

000: "Inside the courtroom itself, the exchange was largely not perceived as a big deal": Author observation, Sept. 19, 2019.

000: "But as news of what happened trickled outside the courtroom, people went nuts": For example, Associated Press, "Tekashi 6ix9ine testified in court that Cardi B was a gang member," Sept. 19, 2019, <https://www.nbcnews.com/pop-culture/pop-culture-news/tekashi->

[6ix9ine testified court cardi b was gang member n1056736](https://www.thefader.com/2019/09/19/6ix9ine-cardi-b-nine-trey-gangsta-bloods-trial-testimony) and Alex Robert Ross, “6ix9ine testifies that Cardi B was a member of the Nine Trey Bloods,” *The Fader*, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://www.thefader.com/2019/09/19/6ix9ine-cardi-b-nine-trey-gangsta-bloods-trial-testimony>

000: “the New York Post reported, incorrectly, that Tekashi testified Cardi was a member of Nine Trey specifically. They put that in a headline and tweeted it out”: Emily Saul, Elizabeth Rosner, and Jackie Salo, “Tekashi 6ix9ine testifies Cardi B is member of Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods gang,” Page Six, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://pagesix.com/2019/09/19/tekashi-6ix9ine-testifies-cardi-b-is-member-of-nine-trey-gangsta-bloods-gang/> For “tweeted it out,” see @PageSix on Twitter, Sept. 19, 2019, <https://twitter.com/PageSix/status/1174751014047670272> “Tekashi 6ix9ine testifies Cardi B is member of Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods gang <https://trib.al/9AguENg>”

000: “some other outlets picked up on the mistake from there”: See Alex Robert Ross, “6ix9ine testifies that Cardi B was a member of the Nine Trey Bloods,” *The Fader*, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://www.thefader.com/2019/09/19/6ix9ine-cardi-b-nine-trey-gangsta-bloods-trial-testimony> and Sharon Lynn Pruitt, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Swears Under Oath That Cardi B Is A Member Of The Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods Gang,” *Oxygen*, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://www.oxygen.com/crime-time/tekashi-6ix9ine-69-cardi-b-testimony-nine-trey-gangsta-bloods-trial>

000: “Cardi cleared it up in a quickly-deleted tweet, saying that she had been part of the Brims set, not Nine Trey”: John R. Kennedy, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Testifies Cardi B Was In Bloods Gang,” *iHeartRadio*, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://www.iheartradio.ca/news/tekashi-6ix9ine-testifies-cardi-b-was-in-bloods-gang-1.9982779> “A rep for Cardi B issued a statement claiming ‘she’s not and has never been affiliated with this gang.’ In a tweet she later deleted, the rap star said she was part of the Brim Bloods gang, not Nine Trey.”

000: “She also shared the Keke Palmer ‘I don’t know who this man is’ meme as commentary”: Aron A., “Cardi B Responds To 6ix9ine With Keke Palmer Meme Over Gang Affiliation Claims,” *Hot New Hip Hop*, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://www.hotnewhiphop.com/card-b-responds-to-6ix9ine-with-keke-palmer-meme-over-gang-affiliation-claims-news.91193.html>

000: “It took until the end of the day for Complex to obtain a rush transcript and publish the Huot/Tekashi exchange in full before the truth was fully out”: Joshua Espinoza, “Full 6ix9ine Transcript Shows He Never Named Cardi B as Being a Part of Nine Trey Gangsta Bloods,” *Complex*, Sept. 19, 2019. https://www.complex.com/music/2019/09/tekashi-6ix9ine-testimony-transcript-never-mentions-cardi-b-being-part-of-nine-trey-gangsta-bloods?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=musictw

000: “Atlantic Records gave a terse denial to Billboard that Cardi was a part of Nine Trey”: Michael Saponara, “Cardi B Rep Denies Gang Allegations Made by 6ix9ine,” *Billboard*, Sept. 19, 2019. <https://www.billboard.com/articles/columns/hip-hop/8530521/6ix9ine-cardi-b-nine-trey-gangsta-bloods>

000: “‘All Hell Breaks Loose After Tekashi 6ix9ine Outs Cardi B, Jim Jones as Gang Members in Court’ read a typical headline from *The Root*”: Jay Connor, “All Hell Breaks Loose After Tekashi 6ix9ine Outs Cardi B, Jim Jones as Gang Members in Court,” *The Root*, Sept. 20, 2019. <https://thegrapevine.theroot.com/all-hell-breaks-loose-after-tekashi-6ix9ine-outs-cardi-1838279926>

000: “Tekashi’s song ‘Kika’”: Tekashi 6ix9ine, “KIKA (feat. Tory Lanez),” Uploaded to YouTube on Nov. 27, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkQfpEfqQkA>

000: “That was Tory Lanez’s part of the song”: Tekashi 6ix9ine, “KIKA (feat. Tory Lanez),” Uploaded to YouTube on Nov. 27, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkQfpEfqQkA> 0:10.

000: “in its aftermath reporters were talking amongst themselves”: Personal observation by author, Sept. 19, 2019.

000: “went back to his small private jail in Queens”: Andrew Denney, “Coronavirus cases surge at NYC’s lone privately run jail,” *The New York Post*, Apr. 22, 2020. <https://nypost.com/2020/04/22/coronavirus-cases-surge-at-nycs-lone-privately-run-jail/> “the 222-bed federal lockup in Queens, New York City’s lone privately run jail...Among the inmates who have recently won release from the Springfield Gardens-based facility because of concerns about COVID-19 include rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine...”

Chapter 18: ‘Did There Come a Time When You Became a Confidential Government Informant?’

Jorge Rivera’s testimony can be found in Trial transcript, Sept. 19, 2019, p. 713- 726 and Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019 p. 755-815. All other sources are listed below.

000: “Rumors of Rivera’s cooperation had been swirling for months”: Author interview with Jack Frost, 2019, p. 8. “there’s allegations that absolutely cannot be proven that Jorge told people or alluded to weapons...”

000: “Nine Trey members knew...to chance”: Author interview with Jorge Rivera, Feb. 25, 2020 (pt. 2). “So they know where I live, they know where my son going to school, my wife back then, she wasn’t working. Right? But they know my wife’s alone in the room. They know where my father in law works. You know? So they know everything about me. So actually, when I try to leave... Right? When Danny was going to Europe in July, I was “Listen, when this guy coming back, that’s it. I don’t have to come back for him.” You know? That’s when they arrest me. You know? So at that point I don’t have a choice. In the beginning I don’t have a choice, because Shotti knows everything about my family.”

Chapter 19: Borderline Frivolous

000: “The next major witness was Kristian Cruz”: Kristian Cruz’s testimony is Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019 p. 852-977; Trial transcript, Sept. 24, 2019, p. 1031-1251; and Trial transcript, Sept. 25, 2019, p. 1286-1353.

000: “That nigga...see him”: Trial exhibit 304-T.

000: “At the end of the day...Engelmayer said”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 993-996.

000: “Cannick wanted to...answer is no”: Trial transcript, Sept. 23, 2019, p. 996-1000.

000: “It quickly became clear he had no interest in testifying, and would have to be forced to do so”: Judge’s order to compel Mark to testify is on Trial transcript, Sept. 25, 2019, p. 1441-1442.

000: “By the time, several days later, he actually showed up in the courtroom, Deveraux Cannick decided not to follow through with it. The victim’s sole moment in the courtroom was when the room was mostly empty for a lunch break”: For “victim’s sole moment...lunch break,” see Trial transcript, Sept. 25, 2019, p. 1440-3. For “decided not to,” see Trial transcript, Sept. 25, 2019, p. 1447. “MR. CANNICK: Mr. Hobdy is not testifying.”

000: “Mel Murda gave up...do then”: Trial exhibit 317-T.

000: “Reginald Donaldson”: Reginald Donaldson’s testimony is found in Trial transcript, Sept. 25, 2019, p. 1401-1427.

Chapter 20: ‘Imma try to hurt a nigga close to you’

All closing arguments can be found in Trial transcripts, Sept. 26, 2019. All other sources are named below.

000: “One member was even caught on tape saying the words, ‘I’m a Nine Trey gangster’”: Trial exhibit 321-T.

000: “Fasulo did a thing that seemed disingenuous to some observers”: Personal observation from author, Sept. 26, 2019.

Chapter 21: Has the Jury Reached a Verdict?

000: “ It took three hours to get through. In the transcript of the trial, it takes up 100 pages”: Trial transcript, Oct. 2, 2019, p. 1680-1780.

000: “After that...referring to”: Trial transcript, Oct. 2, 2019, p. 1792-1800.

000: “He was referring to an article *Complex* published the previous day”: Personal conversation between this author and Deveraux Cannick, Oct. 2019.

000: “Written by this author...bought it”: Shawn Setaro, “Exclusive: 6ix9ine’s Alleged Kidnapper Shares Statement,” *Complex*, Oct. 1, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/10/tekashi-6ix9ine-alleged-kidnapper-statement>

000: “Engelmayer asked...from there”: Personal conversation between this author and Deveraux Cannick, Oct. 2019.

000: “As the hours of deliberation went by, the jury asked to see several exhibits and portions of testimony”: Trial transcript, Oct. 2, 2019, p. 1786, 1788, 1795, 1805.

000: “At a few minutes after 2 pm, friends, family, and a slew of reporters all showed up to hear the verdict”: Trial transcript, Oct. 3, 2019, p. 1824, “2:10 p.m.”

000: “The jurors had...keep going?”: Trial transcript, Oct. 3, 2019, p. 1824.

000: “Count 1...with a gun”: Trial transcript, Oct. 3, 2019, p. 1827-1829.

000: “Cannick, pushing the...defendants out”: Trial transcript, Oct. 3, 2019, p. 1831-1835.

Chapter 22: ‘I Don’t Know If This Is a Joke Anymore’

000: “One gang member involved in the This Is 50 robbery got 60 months, or five years, in prison”: Shawn Setaro, “First Defendant Sentenced in 6ix9ine Case Gets 5 Years,” *Complex*, July 18, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/07/first-defendant-sentenced-in-tekashi-6ix9ine-case>

000: “Crippy got 62 months”: Shawn Setaro, “‘Right-Hand Man’ of 6ix9ine’s Manager Shotti Sentenced to 62 Months in Prison,” *Complex*, Aug. 14, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/08/right-hand-man-of-tekashi-6ix9ine-manager-sentenced-62-months-prison>

000: “Days before Harv and Nuke’s trial started, Shotti got 15 years”: Shawn Setaro, “6ix9ine’s Ex-Manager Kifano ‘Shotti’ Jordan Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison,” Sept. 6, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/09/tekashi-6ix9ine-manager-kifano-shotti-jordan-sentenced-prison>

000: “Just a few weeks after it ended, Mel Murda got a whopping 135 months, or over 11 years”: Shawn Setaro, “Jamel ‘Mel Murda’ Jones Sentenced to 135 Months in 6ix9ine/Nine Trey Case,” *Complex*, Oct. 17, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/10/mel-murda-sentenced-135-months-tekashi-6ix9ine-nine-trey-case>

000: “his fellow Godfather Ro Murda’s 66 month sentence, issued just a week prior”: Shawn Setaro, “Latest Defendant Sentenced in 6ix9ine Case Gets 66 Months,” *Complex*, Oct. 10,

2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/10/latest-defendant-to-be-sentenced-in-tekashi-6ix9ine-case-gets-66-months>

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<https://www.complex.com/music/2019/12/aaron-bat-young-tekashi-6ix9ine-nine-trey-case-20-year-sentence>

000: “In Ro Murda’s case...attacked”: Shawn Setaro, “Latest Defendant Sentenced in 6ix9ine Case Gets 66 Months,” *Complex*, Oct. 10, 2019.

<https://www.complex.com/music/2019/10/latest-defendant-to-be-sentenced-in-tekashi-6ix9ine-case-gets-66-months>

000: “Nuke got it among the worst out of almost everyone, ending up with 17 years”: Shawn Setaro, “Defendant in 6ix9ine Case Gets 17-Year Sentence,” *Complex*, Feb. 24, 2020.

<https://www.complex.com/music/2020/02/defendant-in-tekashi-6ix9ine-nine-trey-case-aljermiah-nuke-mack-17-years>

000: “Harv’s sentencing suffered a seemingly endless series of delays”: See, for example, letter from Deveraux Cannick to Judge Paul Engelmayer, May 19, 2020; and Order from Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 539), filed Oct. 2, 2020.

000: “On December 4, 2019...Sentencing Guidelines”: “5K1” letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019

000: “The 5K1...from others”: “5K1” letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 381), Filed Dec. 4, 2019

000: “His attorney...continued”: Letter from Lance Lazzaro to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 11, 2019, p. 4.

000: “The Probation Department recommended exactly that”: Letter from Lance Lazzaro to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Dec. 11, 2019, p. 1. “Notably, Probation is also recommending a sentence of time served.”

000: “There were even rumors...walking out”: Joshua Espinoza, “50 Cent Is Convinced 6ix9ine Will Still Have Success Despite Breaking Street Code,” *Complex*, Feb. 19, 2020.

<https://www.complex.com/music/2020/02/50-cent-believes-tekashi-6ix9ine-will-have-success-after-prison-release> “Elsewhere in the interview, 50 claimed a record label—presumably 10K Projects—had lost six figures on a video shoot that was scheduled on one of 6ix9ine’s trial dates. Fif suggested the shoot was planned for the day because 6ix9ine’s team was confident he would be released. ‘The day that he went to court, [the record company] lost \$280,000,’ 50 said. ‘They had a full music video set up for him to shoot—full production, everything line up for him ... shoot the video for a song that he recorded.’”

000: "This is exactly what happened with Kristian Cruz": USA v. Kristian Cruz, Sentence, Feb. 27, 2020, p. 53. "it is the judgment of the Court that you are to serve a sentence of time served plus one-week imprisonment in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons to be followed by a period of five years' supervised release. The one week is to assure that everyone relevant to this process gets their ducks in a row to make sure that your transition to freedom is as fluid as possible."

000: "There were ones from his mom, his brother, and his new girlfriend": US v. Jones, et. al., Document 388-2, letters from Oscar Hernandez, Natividad Perez-Hernandez, and Ms Rachel Wattlely.

000: "Danny is a kid from the streets, but he is no street kid": US v. Jones, et. al., Document 388-3, letter from Sam Sprouse

000: "his booking agent":

000: "a ton of overseas concert promoters": US v. Jones, et. al., Document 388-4

000: "He and his crew were very kind to our team and the venue staff": US v. Jones, et. al., Document 388-4, Letter from Herman Muurlink, p. 1.

000: "Mr. Hernandez has always been polite, punctual, and very professional": US v. Jones, et. al., Document 388-4, Letter from Noureddine Dahmani, p. 5.

000: "gave a decent performance": US v. Jones, et. al., Document 388-4, Letter from Maarten van Vugt, p. 6.

000: "There were long letters testifying to Tekashi's renewed purpose and change of heart": See US v. Jones, et. al, Document 388-7.

000: "Some of them...case": Many of the letters in Document 388-4, 388-5, 388-7, and etc. are dated from October, 2018, the month of Tekashi's sentencing in the 2015 case. In addition, some letters are addressed directly to Judge Felicia Mennin, the judge in that case. See US v. Jones, et. al, Document 388-7, p. 5, Letter from Chrissy Monroe; and US v. Jones, et. al, Document 388-8, p. 9-10, Letter from John Rivera.

000: "Tekashi wrote his...made": Letter from Daniel Hernandez to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Filed Dec. 11, 2019 (Document 388-1).

000: "Skyy said....video of the robbery": Letter from Skyy L. Daniels to Wendy Olsen Clancy, "Victim Impact Statement of Skyy L. Daniels," (Document 392), Filed Dec. 17, 2019.

000: “Her assistant...not free”: Letter from [redacted] to Wendy Olsen Clancy, “Victim Impact Statement of [Redacted],” (Document 393), Filed Dec. 17, 2019.

000: “The vast majority of the hip-hop media acted as if it was certain that Tekashi would get time served”: Matthew Meadow, “REPORT: Tekashi 6ix9ine To Be Sentenced To Time Served, Released From Jail On Wednesday,” YourEDM, Dec. 16, 2019.

<https://www.youredm.com/2019/12/16/report-tekashi-6ix9ine-to-be-sentenced-to-time-served-released-from-jail-on-wednesday/>

000: *“Once everyone got settled”: All accounts of the sentencing hearing come from USA v. Daniel Hernandez, Sentence, Dec. 18, 2019, p. 1-96, inclusive. Additional sources for the remainder of the chapter are below.*

000: “A woman named Marlayna wrote to the judge”: Letter from Marlayna M. to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Document 397, filed Dec. 20, 2019.

000: “With her was an attorney”: Shawn Setaro, “6ix9ine’s Lawyer Explains Why Rapper Will Be Home in July, Criticizes Victim Who Spoke at Sentencing,” Complex, Dec. 19, 2019.

<https://www.complex.com/music/2019/12/tekashi-6ix9ine-lawyer-lance-lazarro-sentencing-interview> “I find out later that she was sitting next to her civil attorney,’ Lazzaro says.”

000: “LL would go on to file a civil suit against Tekashi several months later, for a whopping \$150 million”: TMZ, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Sued for \$150 Million by Woman Over 2018 Shooting,” Mar. 19, 2020. <https://www.tz.com/2020/03/19/tekashi-6ix9ine-sued-150-million-over-2018-shooting/>

000: “Lazzaro guessed, correctly, that LL had a civil suit on the way”: Shawn Setaro, “6ix9ine’s Lawyer Explains Why Rapper Will Be Home in July, Criticizes Victim Who Spoke at Sentencing,” *Complex*, Dec. 19, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/12/tekashi-6ix9ine-lawyer-lance-lazarro-sentencing-interview> “She sent a letter yesterday asking for Daniel’s civil attorney, because they’re looking to sue Daniel Hernandez.”

000: “walked in with a woman by his side”: See Getty Images, Dec. 18, 2019. “NEW YORK, NY - DECEMBER 18: Tekashi 6ix9ine's estranged father, Daniel Hernandez and his girlfriend are seen outside Manhattan federal courthouse on December 18, 2019 in New York City. (Photo by Jose Perez/Bauer-Griffin/GC Images)” <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/tekashi-6ix9ines-estranged-father-daniel-hernandez-and-his-news-photo/1189438843?adppopup=true>

000: “Hernandez was muttering, ‘Danny is my son’ by way of explanation to the confused people whose laps he was walking past”: Author’s contemporaneous notes, Dec. 18, 2019.

000: “He told anyone who asked that he was a borough away from his son, just over in Queens”: Jon Blistein and Stephen Witt, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Sentenced to Two Years in Prison, Late 2020 Release Anticipated,” *Rolling Stone*, Dec. 18, 2019.

<https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-news/tekashi-6ix9ine-two-years-prison-sentence-928597/> “Later, the older man gave his name as Daniel Hernandez as well, and gave his address as a homeless shelter in Queens.”

000: “he renegotiated Tekashi’s contract as the rapper had become a star”: See US District Court, Eastern District of New York, Seth Gordon against Brytavious Chambers, Daniel Hernandez, Create Music Group, Inc., TenThousand Projects, LLC., and S.C.U.M. Gang Inc., “Declaration of Elliot Grainge in Support of Defendant TenThousand Projects, LLC’s Motion to Dismiss, Document 13-7, filed Jun. 12, 2020, p. 1-2. “Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of an exclusive artist recording agreement, between TenThousand and co-defendant Daniel Hernandez p/k/a ‘Tekashi69’ (‘6ix9ine’), dated July 25, 2017 (the ‘Initial Recording Agreement’). 3. Attached as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of an amendment to the Initial Recording Agreement, dated January 31, 2018, executed by TenThousand and 6ix9ine (the ‘First Amendment’). 4. Attached as Exhibit 3 is a true and correct copy of an amendment to the Initial Recording Agreement and the First Amendment, dated August 8, 2018, between TenThousand and 6ix9ine Entertainment, Inc., furnishing the services of 6ix9ine (the ‘Second Amendment’).

000: “after the trial re-signed him to a reported \$10 million deal”: TMZ, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Scores Multi-Million Dollar Record Deal from Prison,” Oct. 10, 2019. <https://www.tMZ.com/2019/10/10/tekashi-6ix9ine-million-dollar-record-deal-prison/> “Sources close to Tekashi tell TMZ ... he just cut a record deal worth more than \$10 million with his former label -- 10K Projects.”

000: “I want to tell him I love him and that I miss him”: Shawn Setaro, “Inside the Courthouse at 6ix9ine’s Sentencing: Long-Lost Father Surfaces and Judge Talks Memes,” *Complex*, Dec. 18, 2019. <https://www.complex.com/music/2019/12/tekashi-6ix9ine-sentencing-hearing>

000: “Kristian Cruz and Jorge Rivera, who would both receive time served”: For Kristian Cruz, see USA v. Kristian Cruz, Sentence, Feb. 27, 2020, p. 53. For Jorge Rivera, see USA v. Jorge Rivera, Judgment in a Criminal Case (Document 552), filed Oct. 2, 2020, sentencing Rivera to 2 years of probation and no additional prison time.

000: “the Boss’ song, originally recorded in 1982 but not released until 13 years later”: Wikipedia, “Greatest Hits (Bruce Springsteen album),” [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greatest_Hits_\(Bruce_Springsteen_album\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greatest_Hits_(Bruce_Springsteen_album)) “*Greatest Hits* is the first compilation album by American singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen, released February 27, 1995... The incorporation of the ‘new’ tracks was portrayed in the 1996 documentary *Blood Brothers*. ‘Murder Incorporated’ and ‘This Hard Land’ were, in fact, unused 1982 songs from the *Born in the U.S.A.* sessions.”

000: “He’d have to serve 85% of that time, given Bureau of Prisons rules”: FAMM, “Frequently Asked Questions: Federal Good Time Credit,” p. 8. <https://famm.org/wp-content/uploads/faq-federal-good-time-credit.pdf> “In 1987, the U.S. Sentencing Commission mirrored Congress’s

intent when it designed the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines. The guideline ranges in the Sentencing Table are 15% longer than the time Congress actually wanted prisoners to serve. This made it very clear that prisoners should serve only 85% of the sentences they are given.”

000: “‘We were expecting time served,’ he said. ‘We thought that he deserved it, with all that he had done’”: Shawn Setaro, “Inside the Courthouse at 6ix9ine’s Sentencing: Long-Lost Father Surfaces and Judge Talks Memes,” *Complex*, Dec. 18, 2019.

<https://www.complex.com/music/2019/12/tekashi-6ix9ine-sentencing-hearing>

Chapter 23: Extraordinary and Compelling Reasons

000: “Sixty percent of all the new cases in the country were coming from the five boroughs”: Benedict Carey and James Glanz, “Travel From New York City Seeded Wave of U.S. Outbreaks,” *The New York Times*, May 7, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/07/us/new-york-city-coronavirus-outbreak.html> “Over all, Dr. Grubaugh estimated, infections spreading from New York account for 60 to 65 percent of the sequenced viruses across the country.”

000: “On March 22...right now”: Letter from Lance Lazzaro to Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 437), Filed Mar. 22, 2020.

000: “The government was...Bureau of Prisons”: Letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, (Document 438), Filed Mar. 24, 2020.

000: “But, Lazzaro fired back, Tekashi was in a private jail, not technically in Bureau of Prisons custody”: Letter from Lance Lazzaro to Judge Paul Engelmayer, (Document 439), Filed Mar. 24, 2020.

000: “Three long days...sympathetic”: Order from Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 440), Filed Mar. 25, 2020.

000: “But the Bureau of Prisons had up to 30 days to issue an answer”: Shawn Setaro, “Why 6ix9ine Might Get an Early Release From Prison Very Soon,” *Complex*, Apr. 1, 2020. <https://www.complex.com/music/2020/04/6ix9ine-early-release-prison-coronavirus-explained> “‘The remedy at that point was to apply to the Bureau of Prisons, which I knew would more than likely deny him,’ he [Lazzaro] explained. ‘But they had up to 30 days to issue that denial. I kept pushing them to make a decision immediately because, in today’s environment, with the virus spreading in a way that nobody could have imagined, it was imperative to get a quick decision. So the Bureau of Prisons through the general counsel this morning denied my request for compassionate release. That now becomes an appealable decision in front of Judge Engelmayer.’”

000: “The Bureau denied that they even had the authority to *make* the decision at first”: *US v. Jones, et. al.*, Document 445-2, Email from Ellis Pacheco to Lance Lazzaro, Filed Mar. 31, 2020. “I understand that we are all hopeful that a compassionate release may be granted by

BOP but it seems as if Danny is stuck in a donut hole on who's custody he belongs to and who can grant him that release to avoid him possibly contracting Covid-19 with his Asthma condition."

000: "The Bureau of Prisons...that day": Document 447-1, Letter from Zachary Kelton to Lance Lazzaro, Filed Apr. 1, 2020. And Order by Judge Paul Engelmayer, Document 446, Filed Apr. 1, 2020.

000: "They got back just in time and said, essentially, We're fine with Tekashi going home": Letter from Geoffrey Berman to Judge Paul Engelmayer, (Document 448), Filed Apr. 1, 2020.

000: "Engelmayer okayed it, but that remained secret until 4 PM the next day": Order by Judge Paul Engelmayer, (Document 450), Filed Apr. 2, 2020.

000: "Tekashi was taken out of a back entrance of the jail about an hour and a half before the order became public": Stephen Rex Brown and Marco Poggio, "Judge orders Tekashi69 be released early from prison due to coronavirus pandemic," *The New York Daily News*, Apr. 2, 2020. "An employee at the facility said Tekashi had left the prison by a rear exit about 90 minutes before Engelmayer's order was made public."

000: "confined to his house except for legal and medical visits": Shawn Setaro, "6ix9ine Is Out of Prison. What Now?" *Complex*, Apr. 2, 2020. <https://www.complex.com/music/2020/04/6ix9ine-out-of-prison-what-now> "Until his release date, 6ix9ine has to remain at home unless he's visiting a doctor or one of his lawyers. And his location will be monitored by GPS."

000: "He used the time to record a new album": TMZ, "Nicki Minaj and Tekashi 6ix9ine Team Up on 'Trollz' Track," Jun. 10, 2020. <https://www.tMZ.com/2020/06/10/nicki-minaj-tekashi-69-collab-trollz-track-song/> "6ix9ine was even released early to house arrest due to COVID-19 concerns. He then began to get back to business and back on social media almost immediately."

000: "shoot videos inside his house": HipHopDX, "Tekashi 6ix9ine Celebrates House Arrest End By Revealing Music Video Secret Sauce," Uploaded to YouTube on Jul. 7, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJwIEbZNX6A>

000: "He even, after a few weeks, got back on social media": TMZ, "Nicki Minaj and Tekashi 6ix9ine Team Up on 'Trollz' Track," Jun. 10, 2020. <https://www.tMZ.com/2020/06/10/nicki-minaj-tekashi-69-collab-trollz-track-song/> "6ix9ine was even released early to house arrest due to COVID-19 concerns. He then began to get back to business and back on social media almost immediately."

000: "Kooda B, while awaiting sentencing, managed to be released on bond temporarily after pleading susceptibility to coronavirus": Order by Judge Paul Engelmayer, Document 443, Filed Mar. 30, 2020.

000: “However, he almost torpedoed that by immediately sharing video on social media of himself hanging out in a room, surrounded by a bunch of friends, some of whom were smoking weed, with no masks in evidence”: Letter from Audrey Strauss to Judge Paul Engelmayer, Document 560, Filed Oct. 23, 2020, p. 2. “On March 30, 2020, the Court granted the defendant’s motion for bail pending sentencing due to the defendant’s asthma condition and the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, within hours of being released, the defendant was seen partying with numerous other individuals (some of whom appeared to be smoking marijuana) in his apartment – in complete disregard of all recommendations by health officials to practice social distancing.”

000: “The judge was livid, because it seemed like Kooda had been using the covid thing as an excuse”: Order by Judge Paul Engelmayer, Document 449, Filed Apr. 2, 2020. “The video is of concern to the Court for two reasons... It appears inconsistent with the health and safety justification his counsel articulated in seeking, and on which the Court relied in granting, Mr. McKenzie’s temporary pre-sentencing release from the MCC on conditions including home incarceration: that his high-risk medical condition required his separation from others to minimize the risk of his contracting COVID-19.”

000: “In the end...his sentencing”: Order from Judge Paul Engelmayer, Document 457, Filed Apr. 6, 2020. “as the Government notes, returning McKenzie to the MCC now would put others in danger. McKenzie’s frolic in close proximity to numerous others during his recent taste of liberty alone potentially exposed him to COVID-19. To remand him now would potentially expose United States marshals, BOP officials, fellow MCC inmates, and others in his presence to the virus. These persons, including the other inmates, deserve better.”

000: “But all the other Nine Trey members who tried to get their long sentences turned to home confinement because of the pandemic were turned down”: See, among others, USA v. Roland Martin, Order from Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 591), filed Feb. 25, 2021; USA v. Jesnel Butler, Order from Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 574), filed Nov. 9, 2020; USA v. Kifano Jordan, Order from Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 516), filed July 8, 2020; USA v. Anthony Ellison, Opinion and Order from Judge Paul Engelmayer (Document 479), filed Apr. 27, 2020.

000: “Tekashi was making music and shooting videos at a feverish pace”: “Gooba” video was released on May 8, 2020. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPw_izFr5PA “Trollz” video on Jun. 12, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNg3M9IJJIY> “Yaya” video on July 3, 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxgJclR4dUU>

000: “regardless of covid concerns, he was inviting people into his house to work on them”: @NICKIMINAJ on Twitter, Jun. 11, 2020: “we shot [the “Trollz” video] in his guest bedroom...” <https://twitter.com/NICKIMINAJ/status/1271159150282563585>

000: “On May 6, Tekashi took to Instagram to make an announcement: ‘I’m going live Friday’”: Chelsea Adjalla, “Tekashi 6ix9ine Is Going Live On Instagram This Week,” The Jasmine Brand, May 6, 2020. <https://thejasminebrand.com/2020/05/06/tekashi-6ix9ine-is-going-live-on-instagram-this-week/> “On his Instagram, the ‘Fefe’ [sic] revealed that he will be making his first

appearance on IG Live since being released from jail. In the post, Tekashi 6ix9ine wrote, 'I'm going LIVE Friday 3:00pm EST'"

000: "On May 8, he shared a new video for his song 'Gooba': Tekashi 6ix9ine, "6IX9INE-GOOBA (Official Music Video)," Uploaded to YouTube on May 8, 2020.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pPw_izFr5PA

000: "The video showed him in the same room with a number of models, including his girlfriend Rachel 'Jade' Watley and her sister Sarah": Laviasco, "Desperate For Number 1 on Billboard 6ix9ine 'GOOBA' Lyrics Meaning With Girls After Jail," <https://laviasco.com/6ix9ine-gooba-lyrics-meaning/> "In 'GOOBA,'...The 'double thick thighs twin sisters' that the rapper is citing to are Rachel "Jade" Watley and her sister Sara Watley aka Baddie G. Rachel has been his ladylove since the end of 2018. Both Watleys', the Instagram models for Gooba, were jabbed into public attention in October of 2018 after bringing in a confrontation with Cardi B in a strip club."

000: "Millions of viewers tuned in to the Instagram Live to see what Tekashi had to say": Power 105.1, "Tekashi 6ix9ine Shatters IG Live Record With Over 2 Million Viewers At Once," May 8, 2020. <https://power1051.iheart.com/content/2020-05-08-tekashi-6ix9ine-shatters-ig-live-record-with-over-2-million-viewers-at-once/>

000: "All traces of the repentance he'd shown during his sentencing hearing had vanished": This and all following descriptions of the May 8, 2020 Instagram Live come from "6ix9ine Instagram Live Full HD 1080p 09.05.2020," Uploaded to YouTube on May 8, 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvGptC9Xpvk>

000: "Or what people around him remember as his countless incidents of cheating on Sara": Author interview with Pvnch, p. 23. "it was a shock for him to get girls at the amount that he did. And sadly enough women they see somebody popular and you're all over him. You know, women have to do better as well. You get what I'm saying? Like they all just flock. Oh, famous guy. Oh, here we go. Let's go give some sex. You know, it's fucking unbelievable. But that's really what it is. And he could not deal with it."

000: "a collaboration with Nicki Minaj": Tekashi 6ix9ine, "TROLLZ - 6ix9ine & Nicki Minaj (Official Music Video)," Uploaded to YouTube on Jun. 12, 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNg3M9IJJIY>

000: "Because the exact date was different, due to a weekend, than the date posted on the Bureau of Prisons' website, he was able to go out into the world before most people released what was happening": The Bureau of Prisons listed his release as August 2, 2020. See Shawn Setaro, "6ix9ine's Prison Release Date Has Been Set," Complex, Mar. 9, 2020. <https://www.complex.com/music/2020/03/tekashi-6ix9ine-prison-release-date> But that day was a Sunday, so other reports had him as being released the previous Friday. See Shawn Setaro, "6ix9ine Plans to Release an Album in August and Make Public Appearances, According to Lawyer," Complex, July 14, 2020. <https://www.complex.com/music/2020/07/6ix9ine-album->

[august-public-appearances-lance-lazzaro](#) The confusion meant he was able to be out in New York City on Sunday, August 2, 2020. See Lauren Thiesen, “Tekashi 6ix9ine shoots video in New York after finishing house arrest,” *The New York Daily News*, Aug. 2, 2020. <https://www.nydailynews.com/snyde/ny-tekashi-6ix9ine-shoots-video-in-new-york-after-finishing-house-arre-20200803-d7qyfydtgrhjzhvjhznialje-story.html>

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CONCLUSION: Over the Rainbow

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