



## SKILL OR BE SKILLED

Thirstin Howl III, Polorican

Story: Roosevelt Franklin (a.k.a. El Moreno)  
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Unlike most rappers who talk that trash, he's been a real life bonafide gangstah, prison record and all. Unlike most mcs, he's actually a master of Hip-Hop who can cut, scratch, b-boy with windmills and speak on graf as his introduction to this thing of ours.

Thirstin Howl III represents Crooklyn at it's most vicious. Brownsville's baby boy straight out the projects of Marcus Garvey Village is known as a man of respect and microphone molester. He's also one funny mutha-fuckah.

With the weirdest of flows, sometimes bilingual, he made his bones in the underground. You may have heard his piece "Brooklyn Hard Rock" off the Rawkus compilation *Soundbombing 2*. Others remember his duet with Eminem produced by DJ Spinna. Like our good friend Necro, his best work was released independently on his own label Skillionaire Enterprises. From his hide-away on Skilligan's Island, he's already put out 3 albums with the next solo soon to come featuring production by P.F. Cuttin' (Blahzay Blahzay) and a cameo by Professor X (X Clan).

Lyrically, he's like a dusted demon rising up from the lower depths to do a comedy routine over a beatbox. And there's plenty more where he came from. His MC crew, the Spit Squad, includes (among others) his crime partner Rack Lo and el puno boracho Master Fuol of MTV's Lyricist Lounge fame. Thirsty's made guest appear-

ances on the show as well, in such memorable skits as "I Still Live With My Moms." Few realize, however, that he helped create the concept of the program in a freestyle session with star player Punch and worked on staff as a writer throughout the entire second season.

For all his lyrical killings, this serial skiller has yet to be truly recognized for his penmanship. That may soon change. He's been scheming for a minute to release a series of books that may potentially shine a bright light on this borinquen Donald Goines of the Hip-Hop generation.

His stories focus on his time as a Lo-Life, a crew of Crooklyn kids who specialized in robbery and the shoplifting of Ralph Lauren Polo gear throughout the 80s and early 90's. Known as Vic Lo, he was respected as a general and credited as the originator of the moniker Lo-Life.

Thanx to the editorial prowess of Dee Tee Won, Thirstin's work has been published in the Source and Stress magazines. He even released a companion soundtrack to their series, Love and Loyalty, featuring many of the original founders of the crew. My man Sid Locks of Triad Productions just told me the other day he was working on a Lo-Life documentary as well.

For your intellectual and voyeuristic pleasure, we present to you a slice of this culture's next pulp literary sensation. Enjoy.

