

# The LIFE

## Sides: Eric Tam

EXT. CHINATOWN - LUCKY STREET - CORNER - DAY

The street is filled with various businesses, people and cars. Jimmy and Eric solicit fireworks to cars driving and people passing by.

JIMMY TRUONG

(yelling)

Fireworks, fireworks! Get your fireworks for Chinese New Year! Hey, you want some fireworks...

A person ignores him.

JIMMY TRUONG (CONT'D)

...forget you then. Man, I didn't sell nothing yet.

**ERIC TAM**

Relax baby, they'll come. They come every year. Come on, let's take a break.

Eric and Jimmy sit's on the curb. Eric lights a cigarette and offers one to Jimmy.

JIMMY TRUONG

Naw, I'm cool. I don't wanna die, that shit's addicting.

**ERIC TAM**

You tripping. Anyway, I can quit anytime I want...

Eric put's out his cigarette.

**ERIC TAM (CONT'D)**

... and I can smoke anytime I want.

Eric light's up another cigarette.

JIMMY TRUONG

Whatever.

**ERIC TAM**

(smoking)

Let me give you some advice baby if you want to make some money.

JIMMY TRUONG

Oh yeah, what advice?

**ERIC TAM**

You got to kiss brother?

JIMMY TRUONG

(shocked)

Kiss? I ain't gay! I need money, but I don't need it that bad!

**ERIC TAM**

No fool, kiss stands for “Keep It Simple Son.”

JIMMY TRUONG

(confused)

Keep it simple son?

**ERIC TAM**

Yeah, later when you walk up to them all you need to say “You want the kiddie stuff or the big boy stuff?” That’s it, nothing else.

JIMMY TRUONG

For real?

**ERIC TAM**

That simple. Trust me I was the top firework grosser in Tri-City for 3 years in a row.

JIMMY TRUONG

Alright, I’ll give it a try.

EXT. KING STREET - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy stops at the top of a hill with a view looking down at the city. Eric catches up to him.

**ERIC TAM**

(breathing heavily)

Man, I thought you were hurt? How the hell you run so fast?

JIMMY TRUONG

Leave me alone.

**ERIC TAM**

Leave you alone? Man, we boys! You got my back and I got yours!

JIMMY TRUONG

Boys, hah! Where the fuck were you when I got my ass whooped in the alley and Dai-lo Ming’s place? I’m done with you guys, I want out of Fook Sing! Got my back, hah!

**ERIC TAM**

I helped you call back up didn’t I? If it wasn’t for me, you probably be having Dai-lo Ming’s foot for dinner.

JIMMY TRUONG

And, if it wasn’t for you I wouldn’t be in this mess. I just wanted to make some money, is it that fucking hard!

Jimmy pointing at the sky.

JIMMY TRUONG (CONT’D)

(screaming)

Why, why, what did I fucking do wrong! Why my life gotta be so fucking hard! Why does my dad have to die, why does my brother have to fucking go to jail! What the fuck did I do wrong for you to do this shit

to me?

Jimmy squats down starts crying, Eric put's his arm around him.

**ERIC TAM**

Look man, I'm not doing any better than you are. My parents don't give a shit about me. My dad, all he does is go gambling and massage parlors. My mom even told me when I was a baby he took the money for my milk and diapers to go gamble. Why you think I'm so fucking skinny? Who needs a dad like that? I don't even consider him my dad, for all I know, I never had one.

Jimmy stops crying and wipe his tears.

JIMMY TRUONG

Really, what about your mom?

**ERIC TAM**

My mom, hah! All she does is bitch at me and tell me how useless I am. I tried to be nice to her, but whatever I do, is never enough. She always tell me how much I look like my fucking dad. Maybe that's why she hates me so much. She even tells me I make her sick, by just looking at me.

JIMMY TRUONG

Really?

Eric lights up a cigarette and offers one to Jimmy. Jimmy hesitates, but takes the cigarette.

JIMMY TRUONG (CONT'D)

(coughing)

**ERIC TAM**

You okay man? Take it easy. Of course, you think I'll make this kind of shit up?

JIMMY TRUONG

(coughing)

I don't know, you always making shit up?

**ERIC TAM**

I may say a lot of shit, but one thing I won't bullshit about is my family. You're the only person I ever talked to about my folks with, so don't be telling anyone, alright?

EXT. PACIFIC PLAYGROUND - BASKETBALL COURT - LATER

Eric notices Jimmy's surrounded, so he hangs up the phone and runs downstairs.

**ERIC TAM**

(yelling)

Dai lo!

Tony pauses and turns around.

**ERIC TAM (CONT'D)**

Dai lo, dai lo. Chill, chill he's my friend, he's my friend.

TONY DONG

He's your friend?

**ERIC TAM**

Yeah, we've known each other since we preschool. It's all good right, dai lo? Man, you wanna get your ass whooped? If you still wanna walk tomorrow tell dai lo you're sorry.

JIMMY TRUONG

(mumbling)

Sorry.

TONY DONG

What you say? I can't hear you.

JIMMY TRUONG

(loud)

Sorry, dai lo!

TONY DONG

Mmm... I'm gonna give face to Eric, next time don't be so cocky. Let's go!

Everyone follows Tony upstairs, except Eric.

**ERIC TAM**

Dude, I know you can fight but watch who you talk to next time.

JIMMY TRUONG

Thanks man.

**ERIC TAM**

What you doing here?

JIMMY TRUONG

I got in an fight with my mom.

**ERIC TAM**

Mrs. Johnson called her, huh?

JIMMY TRUONG

Yeah, fucking bitch. How about you, didn't you get in trouble?

**ERIC TAM**

Naw, my parents don't care. All they do is work and gamble. They don't give a shit about me.

JIMMY TRUONG

Who's that guy at first? You always hang out with them?

**ERIC TAM**

Most of the time, these guys are like my brothers. Tony's my dai lo, he takes care of me, so I work for him.

JIMMY TRUONG

Oh yeah, what kinda work?

**ERIC TAM**

Just as long I get paid, it's all good.

JIMMY TRUONG

Oh yeah, how much you get paid?

**ERIC TAM**

Depends, why you looking for a job?

JIMMY TRUONG

Kinda, I'm broke as a joke. I'm tired of being broke.

**ERIC TAM**

Alright, let me see what's coming up, I'll get back to you.