

The LIFE

Sides: Jimmy Truong

INT. JIMMY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jimmy enters, Mary and Jenny is sitting on the couch.

JIMMY TRUONG

(stuttering)

Hi, hi mom. You're home early today?

MARY TRUONG

It was slow at work, so I came home early.

JIMMY TRUONG

Oh okay, what's for dinner tonight?

MARY TRUONG

Miss Johnson called me today.

JIMMY TRUONG

Oh yeah, what'd she say?

MARY TRUONG

She said you were fighting and made the other boy cry. Didn't I tell you to stay out of trouble?

JIMMY TRUONG

But mom, it wasn't my fault. He started it.

MARY TRUONG

What he do?

JIMMY TRUONG

He was picking on Michael.

MARY TRUONG

(angry)

Picking on Michael! So it wasn't your problem, why don't you mind your own business next time. Now, I have to waste my time to go to your school and talk to your principal and that boy's mom!

JIMMY TRUONG

(whining)

But mom, Brad would of killed Michael if I didn't help him.

MARY TRUONG

(angry)

Help him, you think you're Superman? You think you know kung fu you can fight for everyone? I told you if you ever got in a fight you're not training at Master Yen's no more!

JIMMY TRUONG

What! Come on mom, I was just sticking up for my friend. I promise I won't do it again.

MARY TRUONG

(angry)

No! No more training, You need to learn a lesson.

JIMMY TRUONG

(whining)

Come on mom!

MARY TRUONG

Shut up! Anyway, I can't afford it. Your brother was paying for it, but now he's in jail.

JIMMY TRUONG

(whining)

But mom!

MARY TRUONG

No but's, if you have the money, you pay it yourself.

JIMMY TRUONG

How am I supposed to pay for it? I don't work, I ain't got no money. Where am I supposed get the money from?

MARY TRUONG

You're a smart guy, you think for yourself. Don't ask me, I ain't got no money.

JIMMY TRUONG

(upset)

Man, we always have no money. I hate being broke.

MARY TRUONG

(angry)

You think I like living like this? If you so smart go find your own money, and stop asking me. Even better, find some money and give me some.

JIMMY TRUONG

(upset)

Fine then, I will! I don't need your money, I can make my own!

Jimmy exits the apartment and slams the door behind him.

MARY TRUONG

(yelling)

Fine, you said it! Don't ask me for nothing, okay!

Mary throws her slipper at the door.

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?

JIMMY TRUONG

Alright.