

SELF HELP

Written by
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INT. HOTEL SUITE - DAY

A TELEVISION CREW films an interview.

Across from a FEMALE JOURNALIST sits -- JIMMY YUKON, 40s, cocksure to a fault. He reclines, fingers tented.

JOURNALIST (O.C.)

Jimmy Yukon. You published your first book, *Quit Whining and Get a Job*, at age nineteen.

JIMMY

It's what my father told me when I was a lad. He was right. And I did.

JOURNALIST

He was a single father. Would it be fair to say he shaped you into the person you are today?

JIMMY

Absolutely. Showed me what it is to be a man.

Behind the cameras wheelchair-bound ARCHIE, 70s, Jimmy's father/manager, smokes a cigarillo as he watches a monitor.

JOURNALIST

Your mother passed away giving birth to you --

JIMMY

-- As a fetus I had a very large head. Like an oversized cantaloupe.

JOURNALIST

That must have been difficult.

JIMMY

When I was younger --
(deep in thought)
I guess it's still a little big, but for the most part I grew into it. It's not totally disproportionate. Is it?

Jimmy pulls out a pocket mirror.

JOURNALIST

I mean growing up without a mother.

JIMMY

Oh, no. I had plenty of matronly figures. Jasmine, Destiny, Candie, Porsche, Crystal. -- Dad ran through poon like Au Jus through a vegan's colon.

JOURNALIST

How about your brother, Eli? Did his being a "little person" affect your view of the world?

Reveal ELI MANNING, 40s, Jimmy's dwarf brother, on tip toes, struggling to see a monitor.

ARCHIE

That's it. Interview's over. You knew the rules. No questions about the halfling.

Jimmy stands, smiles, extends his hand to the journalist.

JIMMY

Sorry. Nice meeting you.

JOURNALIST

I didn't mean to overstep. If I can get a few more questions in --

ARCHIE

Let's go boy.

JIMMY

I have a seminar later, but, if you're up for it, maybe we could grab a drink at my place after.

JOURNALIST

Isn't that your girlfriend?

DIANE, early 30s, stands to the side.

JIMMY

Oh, no. She's not my girlfriend. -- She's my fiance. But she's totally cool.

JOURNALIST

(laughs)

Can the camera crew come with?

JIMMY

I normally hold the camera with a free hand, but, sure, why the hell not? Up the production value.

ARCHIE

Let's go, dip shit.

Jimmy hands the Journalist a card.

JIMMY

Call me.

CARD READS:

Jimmy Yukon. 555-867-5309. RustyTromboner69@bangmail.net

FADE TO:

EXT. SERENGETI PLAINS - DAY

A LION stalks a GAZELLE.

JIMMY (V.O.)

I am the Alpha predator.

The lion inches closer to its dinner.

ELI (V.O.)

(muffled)

Heya, Jim?

JIMMY (V.O.)

I AM the ALPHA predator!

SMASH TO:

BACKSTAGE - SELF-HELP CONFERENCE - DAY

Amongst backstage bustle, Jimmy listens to an iPod. Mouths the words, "I am the alpha predator."

ELI

Jimmy!

Eli taps Jimmy on the shoulder. Archie is next to them.

Jimmy freaks.

From ear buds we hear Jimmy's voice repeat, "I AM the ALPHA PREDATOR!" He removes the buds.

JIMMY

What is it?! This is king of the
jungle time. You damn well know
not to screw with my lion mojo!

ARCHIE

Boy, this is --

KELLY HASTINGS, middle aged, exceedingly attractive.

Jimmy takes her hand, kisses it. Tilts his head.

JIMMY

Give me a sec... I'll get it...
Maybe... twenty years ago? We did
it in a... hotel ballroom...
Behind the stage while some schmuck
politician gave an acceptance
speech. Am I right?

Kelly blushes.

TWO MEN approach, one older (50s) the other younger (20s).
They stand next to Kelly.

The the older one extends his hand.

CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS

Congressman Adam Hastings. I see
you've met my wife. This is our
boy, Luke. Works with me on the
hill.

Luke rolls his eyes as both Jimmy and Archie ogle Kelly.

CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS (CONT'D)

Nice, right? She dropped like a
buck fifty after going to your
workshops.

KELLY

*Orca to Mermaid: No One Wants to
Harpoon a Whale.* That series
changed my life.

CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS

Popped in some silicone and bam!
Needless to say, we're big fans.

JIMMY

Yes they are.

ARCHIE

The congressman authored the bill
requiring the forced sterilization
of welfare queens.

Jimmy continues to leer at the congressman's wife.

Kelly bites her lip suggestively.

Luke doesn't like it one bit.

CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS

Like you say, "survival of the
fittest."

ELI

Found your guy. First seat, second
row.

JIMMY'S POV

Scanning the audience, from behind stage curtains, we see an
awkward looking man. Redheaded, geeky.

BACKSTAGE

A STAGEHAND gives Jimmy a microphone. A disembodied voice
announces --

DISEMBODIED VOICE

Aaaaand heeere is the man you've
all been waiting for. Best selling
author of such books as *Seek and
Destroy: A practical guide to
leadership* and *Don't Take NO for an
Answer: How to Close the Deal on
the First Date*. Jiiiiiiiiiiiii
Yuuuuukooooon.

STAGE

Jimmy runs out to a packed house. The audience goes wild
with applause.

A grown man with a grizzled beard weeps.

A pair of panties is thrown on stage. Jimmy picks them up
and twirls them around his finger.

A creepy, super skinny guy winks and waves. Disgusted, Jimmy
drops the panties.

JIMMY

You -- Are -- All -- Pussies!
Worthless, steaming sacks of crap.
Why else would you be at a self-
help seminar?

(mocking)

But Jimmy, I can't find a job.
Jimmy, I lost my left arm in a meat
grinding accident. Time to face
reality and its bloody, gaping maw,
people.

(to an OVERWEIGHT MAN)

You, you're fat. Is it even
mechanically possible for you to
masturbate?

(to a "HOMELY" WOMAN)

You're so ugly, looking at you made
my penis recede inside my body.
Honest to God. It's like I've had
gender reassignment surgery.

(to an INNOCENT LOOKING
WOMAN)

And you! -- I can smell a slut
coming a mile away. Every last one
of you is royally screwed up. But
when you walk out those doors you
will have been given the tools to
Make Life YOUR Bitch!

A graphic is projected behind Jimmy. The cover of his new
book, *Make Life YOUR Bitch*. Jimmy makes a grand motion to
the image.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

On sale in the lobby for \$29.95.
Quick history of Jimmy Yukon. Age
12, became the sole provider for my
family when my father lost the use
of his legs.

An image of Archie in his wheelchair is projected behind
Jimmy.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Had to take care of my brother.

An image of Eli as a baby.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

College?

Harvard Yard Projected.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Screw college, I had to work.

RAPID SERIES OF IMAGES: Jimmy as an *Ice Road Trucker*, Jimmy icing a cupcake, Jimmy in a UFC match, young Jimmy selling drugs on a street corner.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
Adopted a beautiful little girl
from Burundi. That's in Africa.

Stock image of a starving African child surrounded by flies.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
And I did it before that kind of
thing was even cool.

Jimmy descends from the stage to the auditorium floor.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
And what's the first thing I wanted
that precious little girl to
understand? You all know, so say
it with me --

AUDIENCE
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!

Jimmy walks up to the man Eli pointed out. His name tag reads, KEITH.

JIMMY
Keith, why did you come here today?

Shoves the microphone in Keith's face.

KEITH
I want to be a better person.

JIMMY
Something wrong with you, Keith?

KEITH
I just believe in striving to
improve myself. You know, be a
decent member of society.

JIMMY
Decent member of society? That's
cute. Did being decent ever get
you into some chick's panties?
When the zombie apocalypse comes,
will being "decent" help you escape
the marauding undead?

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)
 Someone told me you're afraid of heights. That true?

KEITH
 Yeah, but --

STAGE HANDS push a GIGANTIC TREE ON WHEELS onto the stage.

Jimmy drags Keith next to the tree.

JIMMY
 You're going to climb this tree, Keith. You're going to make it your bitch.
 (to the Audience)
 Right?

AUDIENCE
 MAKE IT YOUR BITCH! MAKE IT YOUR BITCH!

Jimmy holds up his hand, quieting the mob.

JIMMY
 You heard the people. Get your ass up there.

KEITH
 I don't think --

Jimmy puts his hand over the microphone. Leans in.

JIMMY
 You're going to scale that thing like a hooker would a hard on. Got it?

Jimmy points to the upper branches of the tree. A kitten.

JIMMY (CONT'D)
 (to the Audience)
 And look, a reason to climb. Somehow a widdle kitty got caught up there. Awww. Keith, be a hero, save the kitty.

AUDIENCE
 SAVE THE CAT! SAVE THE CAT!

Jimmy covers the mic again. Smiles to the audience. Turns to Keith.

JIMMY

See that shadow there?

(re: dark corner)

There's a high powered rifle with a laser scope pointed at Mr. Fluffy.

A red dot appears between the kitten's eyes.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Now climb this freakin' tree or there are going to be fuzzy skull fragments all over the screen back there. Hollow points are no joke. You want that? Cause it'll be on you. My conscience is clean.

Jimmy gives a sweeping gesture towards the tree.

A deep breath and Keith beings to climb.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Look at that, folks. Not five minutes in and Keith is making his fear of heights his bitch!

The higher Keith gets, the more the tree wobbles.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

They say give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day, but teach a man to fish and, as long as he's legal, he'll make somewhere around minimum wage. Keith up there is about to cash that first paycheck.

Keith is level with the cat. He reaches for it. The tree sways. The cat screeches, takes a swipe. Keith recoils.

Support wires snap. The whole thing starts to fall on the audience. People scatter.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Son of a -- Alright, everybody, let's give Keith a hand!

The audience flees in panic. For some reason there are several small fires throughout the auditorium.

A man, engulfed in flames, runs towards the stage. Jimmy pushes him to the ground with his heel.

The cat runs the length of the fallen tree towards the stage.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Screw it.

Jimmy drops the mic, walks off stage.

BACKSTAGE

Jimmy pushes Archie's wheelchair down a hallway. They're trailed by Archie's assistant, ALISON, 30, and Eli.

Total chaos. Firemen and paramedics rush past.

ALISON

It wasn't so bad.

JIMMY

And you are?

ALISON

Alison. Your dad's new assistant.

JIMMY

Really? Standards have fallen.

(to Archie)

Have you talked to the people at GMC? They know the name Jimmy Yukon isn't free, right? Daddy wants a new mink vase.

ALISON

I think you mean Ming vase. It was a Chinese dynastic period. A mink is an animal.

JIMMY

I think I know what a mink vase is, sweetheart.

ARCHIE

They want to see how the new book sells.

JIMMY

My naming rights have a premium. There's no reason this cash cow can't be Ford Focus or Pepsi Max. Aston Martin. Sounds ethnic, right? That's called diversification.

A door sporting a giant star with Jimmy's name across it.