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# Underdog Kids

By Phillip Rhee

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- Yo, come on, man.

- James! James!

- Come on, man.

- What about the kids?

Don't you dare call them kids.

Those are not kids.

Those are little animals, man.

No. No.

- I can't do it. I can't do it, no.

- Sure, you can.

No, no, look, I don't even want  
you to pay me to teach them.

All right? No, no.

I can't pay you,

but I would if I could.

Listen, that one with the attitude,  
man, I can't deal with him.

- Well...

- I'm not here for that, okay?

One of them keeps farting. No,  
I gotta get out of here, man.

- I can't do this, man.

- Wait, wait, wait.

What about the tournament?

You can't quit now.

Charlie...

watch me.

But...

Now what?

- Awesome.

- Mm-hmm, yes. Thank you.

Next.

Ooh.

- Inspiring.

- Yeah. Thank you.

Impressive.

Next.

- Ooh.

- Great balls of fire.

You gotta keep your chin down.

What?

I said you gotta

keep your chin down.

Uh, excuse me, mister,  
but I believe you're disturbing  
our concentration.  
Wait, let him speak.  
Yes, let him speak.  
So what do you know  
about karate?  
A little.  
Like what?  
I know that if you  
keep your chin down,  
you won't lose balance.  
And how do you know that?  
I just know.  
Bullsha.  
Are you here for an audition?  
No.  
Can you show us?  
Maybe some other time.  
I knew it.  
All talk and no action.  
He thinks he's all tough  
with his leather jacket.  
- Come on, guys.  
- And his glasses.  
Okay.  
I'll show you.  
So, who wants to hold the pad?  
- He does.  
- Careful.  
Okay.  
Put it up.  
Which... what are you  
knuckleheads trying to do?  
Break a window or what,  
for crying out loud?  
Charlie.  
Jimmy.  
You came.  
You're all back together again.  
Look at you.  
Charlie, how come  
you're limping?  
Ah, it's just a hip.

I'm just getting old, you know?

It's nothing. It warms up.

Hey, listen, did you eat?

No, not yet.

I gotta... I gotta  
take you someplace.

- Oh, yeah?

- Yeah.

Where are you  
taking me, Charlie?

You're late.

- Hey, Big Mama.

- Hey, Charlie.

I brought you a surprise.

Well, for heaven's sakes!

Hey, Big Mama.

How are you doing?

Boy, we have not seen you  
in this neck of the woods  
for a long time.

Last time I heard,  
you hit it big.

Then it hit me that you got hit  
by a bus or something?

- Semi.

- A what?

A big truck.

Oh, semi, big truck...

what do I know, Charlie?

I just heard you got hurt  
really bad.

So, tell me, Jimmy,  
are you coming home for good  
or are you just visiting?

No, I'm just visiting.

Jimmy's training  
for his big fight.

What?

Boy, are you gonna fight again  
after all that?

Are you crazy?

Can't give up now.

Besides, it's the only thing  
that I'm good at.

Well, if you're gonna fight,  
you gotta eat.  
So what can I get  
for you, sugar?  
- Charlie?  
- Get the special.  
- The special.  
- You got the special. Charlie?  
- I'll have my Hebrew.  
- Your Hebrew dog.  
Uh-uh! You know good and well  
your money is no good here.  
Now you put that back  
in your pocket.  
That's on me.  
All right, give me a special  
and a Hebrew dog for my Charlie.  
This is a bad idea.  
Why do you keep saying that?  
Because I hate kids, Charlie.  
They smell  
and they're a pain in the butt.  
Just give it a chance, okay?  
Hey, kids!  
Gather up here.  
I want you to meet  
the former mixed martial arts  
champion of the world  
Jimmy "the Lightning Bolt,"  
your new coach.  
I bet a dollar  
you won't last one week.  
I'll give him two weeks, tops.  
Hi, kids.  
- Hi, Valerie.  
- Hi, Charlie.  
- How was class today?  
- We didn't have class today.  
You still couldn't find a  
teacher?  
No, I found a replacement.  
Meet Jimmy.  
Jimmy, this is Valerie.  
Valerie is Sean and Alex's aunt.

- How are you doing?

- Hi.

- Nice meeting you.

- A pleasure.

Auntie, this is Jimmy  
the Lightning Bolt.

Jimmy the Lightning Bolt?

Isn't he awesome? Look at him.

Look at his jacket.

He's a former MMA champion.

Oh, a former MMA champ, huh?

Kids, go get ready, okay?

Charlie, can I have  
a word with you?

Would you excuse us  
for a moment?

- Sure.

- Thanks.

Are you kidding me?

An MMA champ  
named Lightning Bolt?

- Well, uh...

- Are you crazy, Charlie?

And who names their kid  
Lightning Bolt?

Well, when Jimmy was a kid,  
he was struck by lightning...  
and he lived.

That's how he got his name.

And he's a great guy  
when you get to know him.

Valerie, Jimmy is like  
a son to me.

And I trust him with my life.

"Jimmy the Lightning Bolt,  
an orphan boy grows up  
to become an MMA champion."

That's what Charlie meant.  
He doesn't have any family.

"Jimmy the Lightning Bolt  
hospitalized."

What?

"Saves a five-year-old boy  
from a runaway truck."

What?

"Champ may never  
be able to fight again.  
Career ruined."

Listen, you've been out of the fight  
circuit for over three years,  
and fight years  
are like dog years.

Well, I was in a little  
accident, remember?

Yeah, everybody remembers,  
which is why nobody  
wants to insure you.

Look, Geno,  
I'll sign a waiver, okay?  
I'll do anything.

Just get me back  
into the cage, all right?  
Jimmy, you're not getting  
any younger.

- What did you say?

- Okay, you know,  
I may have something  
in the meantime, all right?

The Shapiro bar mitzvah.

It's a sweet gig, too.

All you do, you dress up  
like a ninja.

About halfway through the ceremony,  
you drop out of the ceiling,  
you go up onstage,  
you fight this kid.

And believe me,  
he's not a big kid, so...

It pays \$500, but the kid  
does get to beat you up.

I'm gonna pretend  
like I didn't hear that.

All right. I'm trying.

- Geno, just get me a fight, will ya?

- I'll try.

What if I made it so you could beat up  
the kid and then... okay, forget it.

Excuse me, Mr. Lee?

What?  
Aren't you gonna teach us?  
So what do you wanna do?  
Um...  
maybe we can start  
with some punching drills?  
Why do we have to start  
with punching drills?  
Okay, you guys wanna do blocks?  
Man, blocking is for the birds.  
Why don't we just go  
right into sparring?  
It is a known fact that without  
proper sparring equipment,  
one can get seriously injured,  
maimed, or knocked unconscious.  
Man, you're just scared  
and you know it.  
No, I'm not.  
- Yes, you are.  
- Not.  
- Then back it up!  
- Hey, hey, hey.  
Break it up.  
From now on, I will lead  
and you will follow.  
No questions, no objections.  
You got that?  
Hey, Alex, what's an objection?  
That's what lawyers  
always say to the judge.  
Quiet!  
Get back in line.  
If you guys keep talking,  
I'm gonna give you guys  
10 push-ups on your knuckles.  
On our knuckles?  
Man, that's B.S.!  
Okay, everybody go down 10.  
Forget this. I quit.  
You wanna quit? Quit.  
Man, I hate this class already.  
Well, that's good because  
I don't like you, either.



- You're mean!  
- And you're short.  
Go eat some Cheerios.  
Where's Raymond?  
Raymond!  
Oh, my God.  
Get your butt over here.  
All of you line up. Let's go.  
What... what is this?  
- Just a snack.  
- Just a snack?  
Oh, boy.  
Okay, you guys.  
Right leg back, fighting stance.  
You guys do know  
fighting stance, yes?  
Right leg back, hands up to the side.  
Here we go.  
Give me some kiai. One!  
Again.  
- Rah!  
- Two, ah!  
Three!  
Three, ah!  
Aw, is that the best  
you guys could do?  
It's the sound of karate.  
Oh, boy, what did I get  
myself into?  
Three, and...  
Hah!  
Hah, one, two, three.  
Hah!  
- Hup.  
- Hup.  
Do you see how I executed  
that technique?  
It's flawless.  
Speed, power, technique, and timing  
is everything in competition karate.  
- Does everyone understand?  
- Yes, sir.  
- Does everyone understand?  
- Yes, sir!

Take a break.

Freeze.

- Eric.

- Yes, Dad.

Yes, sir.

What are you doing?

Helping an opponent  
is a sign of weakness.

- Never do it again.

- Yes, sir.

Dismissed.

Come on, Mom,  
we're gonna miss the show.

Almost done.

Why do you always gotta do that?

What?

I mean, can't we just buy it  
at the theater?

20 bucks for a bucket of popcorn?

I don't think so.

Plus, mine is way better.

Then I'm not going.

- Why?

- It's embarrassing.

Honey, nobody's gonna even know!

- I'll know!

- So what?

You wanna just sit around  
and mope all day  
or you wanna go to the movies?

I already told you.

- I'm not going.

- Wyatt!

Hey, Alex, what would Mom say  
if she ever saw a building  
with the YMCA sign on it?

- What?

- They spelled Macy's wrong!

You and your dumb blonde jokes.

Alex, do you ever miss  
Mom and Dad?

- Yeah.

- Me, too.

Time to brush your teeth.

I hate brushing my teeth.  
"Ugh...  
I hate brushing my teeth!"  
If you don't brush your teeth,  
they're gonna start  
falling out of your mouth.  
Is that why you put  
that green stuff on your face  
so your face  
won't fall off, huh?  
Oh, you think you're so funny.  
Oh, you want some, too?  
Here comes the green monster!  
Oranges, sir?  
Would you like oranges?  
I love that color.  
That looks super cute.  
Don't feed him too much, Martha.  
He's a growing boy  
for heaven's sake.  
That's the problem.  
He's growing sideways.  
That was mean  
and uncalled for, Ron.  
That's okay, Mom.  
I'm really not that hungry.  
So did you go  
to karate class today?  
Yes, sir.  
Mm, did you sweat?  
- Yes, sir.  
- Good.  
Because if you don't sweat, you're  
never gonna lose any weight.  
And when you're fat, people  
will treat you differently.  
Chubby!  
Don't listen to your dad.  
He doesn't know  
what he's talking about.  
There you go  
always protecting him.  
You know, you're the reason  
he's so fat, Martha.

You baby him too much.

- Ron!

- What?

Here.

- I'm sorry, Mom.

- Oh, don't be sorry.

- Be strong.

- Here we go, one...

- Come on, Raymond.

- ...two...

three...

four...

Raymond!

Ugh!

- You're disgusting.

- Raymond, you're disgusting.

It wasn't me, I swear.

Sure.

All right, so what? I farted.

As if you never fart.

Girls don't fart.

- My auntie farts.

- No, she doesn't.

Yes, she does. You

guys, everybody get up!

Make one single line.

Raymond, don't you ever

do that again.

Everybody get your hands up.

Four. One...

You're late.

If you're gonna be in my class,

you can't be late.

I don't wanna be

in your stinking class.

So just get out of my face.

What did you say?

You heard me.

What happened?

I don't wanna talk about it.

Don't tell me you ran into a

door.

- That ain't funny.

- I'm not laughing.

Now, what happened?  
There's this big guy.  
He wanted me  
to sell something for him and...  
when I said no, he beat me up.  
Where is this guy?  
- It's them.  
- Hey!  
What, are you back for more?  
Did you do this to him?  
No...  
I did it.  
You?  
So the little baby  
brought his nanny.  
I thought you told me  
that a big guy beat you up.  
I did.  
His name is Big Guy.  
- I'm out of here.  
- Bye, you little chicken butt.  
You think you're funny, huh?  
Yeah.  
Hey, look at that!  
Come on, let's get out of here.  
Come back here,  
you chicken butt!  
Fight me like a real man instead  
of pulling my pants down.  
It was nothing.  
- Coach?  
- Yes?  
Kids.  
Move aside.  
Take him out.  
I hear you were messing  
with my brother out there.  
Yeah, so?  
So nobody hits my brother  
and gets away with it.  
I'll tell you what...  
if you beat me...  
I'll do anything you say.  
But if I beat you,

in fact, if I beat all of you,  
you'll do what I say.

Fair?

Who do you think you are,  
Superman?

I'm just his nanny.

Wyatt, step aside.

Kids, I want you  
to close your eyes.

Ow!

You, go! You, take him out.

Ricky, you have  
a lot of potential.

You need to make a choice.

You wanna take someone out,  
you gotta do it yourself.

You all right?

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

Get up.

- I am strong. Are you strong?

- Yes, sir!

- Are you strong?

- Yes, sir!

- Are you a champion?

- Yes, sir!

- Are you a winner?

- Yes, sir!

- Do you have what it takes?

- Yes, sir!

- Are you sure?

- Yes, sir!

- Are you sure?

- Yes, sir!

Then give me 10 more, now!

So, listen up, everybody.

You all know about this tournament  
that's coming up in two weeks.

I think this would be  
a good opportunity  
for all of you to participate.

What are you doing here, Ricky?

- I came to apologize.

- For what?

My behavior.

And?

I won't quit.

Charlie?

You made a good choice, son.

Thank you, sir.

Wyatt?

Dude, I'm sorry.

It's all right, man.

Thank you.

Thank you all for being here.

Today we appreciate it so much.

As a proud sponsor

of this year's tournament,

we at Champions Are Us

want you to know

that we are dedicated

to building a bright future

for all our children.

And now I hope

that you will join in with me

in a nice big round of applause

for the three-time All-City

Junior National Champions,

the Beverly Hills Scorpions.

Now,

this is your first tournament,

so I want you to work really

hard and use your hands a lot.

- Your strategy...

- Jimmy Lee.

I hadn't heard that voice

in a long time.

I thought it was you.

Ted Barret. How's it going?

Great, just great.

My team's undefeated champions

three years running.

Life couldn't be sweeter.

I'm sorry, how about you?

I can't complain.

- Really?

- Yeah.

Well, that's funny 'cause

I thought I heard a nasty rumor

that you can't even get a fight.  
Now, that couldn't be true,  
could it?  
You know, you haven't changed  
since we were little kids,  
you know that?  
What've we got here?  
This is my team.  
Kids, say hello  
to Mr. Ted Barret.  
Ted Barret?  
The undefeated  
world karate champion?  
That's right.  
You're looking at him.  
Can I have your autograph?  
Well, now, if I gave you  
my autograph,  
I'd have to give it to  
everybody, wouldn't I?  
I've got some presigned 8x10s right  
back there for only 10 bucks.  
10 bucks? That's "ridiculous."  
Did I tell you I started  
my own line of workout wear?  
Here you go.  
You just hand them this  
and they'll give you a 2%  
discount each and every time.  
A whopping 2%?  
Barret,  
that's very generous of you.  
Hey, what are friends for?  
Really, Jimmy,  
good to run into you.  
And honestly...  
best of luck.  
Good seeing you, Barret.  
Kids, come on.  
What an idiot.  
What did you say?  
He didn't say anything.  
Ricky, you've gotta  
watch your mouth.



We're in public.

Move, move, move.

Get your hands up.

- Point.

- What?

- I slipped. Are you kidding?

- Out.

Come on, Ricky,

get your hands up.

Get your hands up.

Winner.

- Winner.

- Winner.

- Winner.

- Winner.

- Winner.

- Aw, Jimmy.

I hate to say it, but...

your kids really suck.

- Bye, you guys.

- Bye.

- See ya!

- Good job.

Thanks.

Hey, Geno, it's me.

So far, a whole lot of nothing,

but I'm working on it, buddy.

Nothing?

Geno, I gotta get back

in the ring.

Otherwise I'll be stuck

with these kids forever.

And I'm running out of money.

Maybe I could book you with the

Johnson sisters' bachelorette party.

It's a good gig.

All you gotta do is dress up

like Bruce Lee in a Speedo,

but it's 200 bucks.

And if you're super nice, you

could make a buttload of tips.

I like this job. This is good.

Just get me a fight, will ya?

All right, suit yourself.

You gotta get me  
out of here soon.  
Listen, pal, when I get you a  
fight, I'll call you back.  
Hi, I'm 57.  
Look, I know everyone's  
got their own story,  
but I really need a job.  
Hey, yo, Mr. Lee.  
What do you think?  
You missed a spot.  
Okay, no problemo.  
We got your back, Mr. Lee.  
You're the man, Big Guy.  
You're the man.  
- Do your job next time.  
- I am doing my job.  
Wanna get your butt  
kicked again?  
- Not really.  
- Okay. Then keep on cleaning.  
You're not the boss of me.  
Keep it up and I'm telling Mom.  
? Sorry if I'm not  
star hip-hop material?  
? Sorry if I'm selling,  
it'll take a miracle?  
? For my dreams to come true  
'cause they're set too high?  
? I'm in the clouds, if I  
roll off, I might just die?  
? So my only chance to live  
is to make this right...?  
Pretty good. What's your name?  
What's your name?  
Hey! Where are you going?  
He'll be back.  
- Charlie, who is that kid?  
- Now, that's, uh...  
that's our...  
our local troublemaker.  
- Kids call him Psycho.  
- Psycho?  
Yeah, they say he likes

to beat up kids.

- Does he have any friends?

- Not that I know of.

And he never talks.

I just wanted to fit in.

You broke your mother's heart.

Everybody at that tournament

had uniforms except for us.

It's not the uniform that's  
gonna make you a winner, Wyatt.

Yeah, well...

I didn't want them

laughing at me.

Would you rather have

kids laugh at you

or go to jail for doing

something so stupid?

Who cares?

Wyatt...

there are two kinds

of people in the world...

either you're a problem-maker

or you're a problem-solver.

If my dad was alive,

things would be different.

Look, I understand

your situation,

but you still gotta give me your

word that you'll never steal again.

- Your word, Wyatt.

- Why are you doing this?

- Doing what?

- I'm not stupid, you know?

What are you talking about?

I overheard you on the phone.

So don't pretend like you care

for us when you really don't.

- Jimmy Lee to see Mr.

- Hershfeld.

Sure, take a seat.

He'll be with you in one moment.

Great, thank you.

Mr. Hershfeld?

Yes, Gigi, what is it?

There's a Mr. Lee  
here to see you.  
Oh, okay, tell him I'll be  
with him in just a little bit.  
Well, as I was saying,  
I'm going to have my attorney  
draft up a new contract.  
We're gonna extend your  
sponsorship another three years.  
Ah, that's fantastic.  
- Thank you, Mr. Hershfeld.  
- You've earned it, both of you.  
And I'm sorry,  
I didn't mean to eavesdrop,  
but your appointment with Mr.  
Lee...  
that's not with Jimmy Lee  
by any chance, is it?  
Yes, it is.  
Why, do you know him?  
I'm afraid that I do  
and, well, quite frankly,  
he's bad news.  
How so?  
Well, I've known him  
for a number of years.  
He's washed up as a fighter,  
but word on the street is that he's been  
working at a local community center  
and he's been using the kids as  
an excuse to make extra money.  
I mean, you do what you want,  
obviously, but if I were you,  
I'd be very careful  
about getting involved with him.  
Well...  
I'll tell you what, why don't  
you guys have some water...  
I want my captain hydrated...  
while I go have a little  
conversation with Mr. Lee.  
All right.  
Why did you say that  
about Mr. Lee?

In order to win, you use every weapon at your disposal.

- Even if it's not the truth?

- Every weapon.

- Gigi?

- Yes, Mr. Hershfeld?

Could you please send in Mr. Lee?

Thank you.

Thank you. Mr. Hershfeld.

Ah, Mr. Lee. Come in, sit down.

Thank you.

And thank you for seeing me on such a short notice.

Absolutely. So how can I help?

Well, I came here because, uh, I coach a bunch of the kids at the community center.

But because of the budget cuts, we're having a difficult time supporting them.

So I was wondering if you would have any interest in supporting us.

I assume you have some experience in tournament competitions.

Yes, sir, I do.

In fact, I was a former MMA champion for three consecutive years.

- Really?

- Yes, sir.

And now you're down at the community center coaching kids in karate.

Well, karate, tae kwon do, kung fu, martial arts, yes.

All right, look, the thing that I don't really get...

why is an MMA champ like yourself...

Yes.

Working down at the community center coaching kids?

- It's temporary.

- It's temporary?

Yes, until I get

my next big fight.

So what I heard about you  
is... is true.

I'm sorry?

See, I give you the money,  
you get your next big fight,  
you leave all those kids  
high and dry.

- Sorry, we're not gonna do that.

- Uh, Mr. Hershfeld...

No.

Our company's  
overextended right now.

We can't help out.

- Mr. Hershfeld...

- No.

I'm not asking you  
for a lot of money.

These kids,  
they're really good kids.

I'm sure they are.

If you could just  
give them a chance.

Maybe some other time.

I understand.

All right, I should be going.

- Good luck at your next big fight.

- Thank you, sir.

Thank you.

I'm sorry, Mr. Lee.

Our company's not in a position  
to sponsor you at this time.

This time.

Thank you, baby.

Boy, you look like you had  
one heck of a day.

That noticeable, huh?

Jimmy, I've never seen you like this.

What's the matter?

You really wanna listen?

Try me.

Well, I need to find a sponsor  
for Charlie's kids,  
but everybody turned me down.

Maybe you're asking  
the wrong people.  
Maybe you're right, but I'm  
running out of options, Big Mama.  
Well, how much  
do you need, baby?  
I mean, about \$2,000, \$3,000.  
Hmm.  
Put me in for two.  
Wait a minute, Big Mama.  
No, no.  
I know it's not a lot, but  
that's all I have in my savings.  
I can't take your last savings.  
Jimmy, if I had more,  
I'd give it to you.  
I don't know  
what to say, Big Mama.  
Well, I do something  
nice for you  
and you do something  
nice for me.  
And what's that?  
You'll see.  
Where is he?  
He said he'll be here.  
Well, then he will be here.  
? Big Mama's hot dogs,  
ooh, ooh?  
? Big Mama's hot dogs, ooh, ooh,  
yeah, come and get it?  
? Yeah, Big Mama's hot dogs,  
ooh, ooh?  
? Hot dogs,  
Big Mama's hot dogs, yeah?  
- ? Come and get it, ooh...?  
- Well, he's here.  
? Big Mama's hot dogs,  
ooh, ooh, hot dogs?  
? Big Mama's hot dogs, yeah,  
come and get it?  
? Big Mama's hot dogs,  
ooh, ooh, hot dogs?  
? Big Mama's hot dogs, yeah,

come and get it?  
? Big Mama's hot dogs,  
ooh, ooh, hot dogs?  
? Big Mama's hot dogs, yeah,  
come and get it?  
? Big Mama's hot dogs,  
ooh, ooh, hot dogs?  
? Big Mama's hot dogs, yeah...?  
Hey, isn't that your coach?  
I've never seen him in my life.  
- Nope.  
- No way.  
I could've won that match.  
How could he do that to us?  
It was so embarrassing.  
Yeah, it was so embarrassing.  
Will you stop repeating  
everything I say?  
Will you stop  
repeating everything I say?  
Does this mean we get  
free hot dogs?  
Shut up!  
Okay, kids...  
I can explain.  
But first, I want you  
to close your eyes.  
What, another surprise?  
Yeah, maybe he'll turn  
into a hamburger this time.  
Come on, guys.  
Just close your eyes.  
Open your eyes.  
This is for you,  
this is for you,  
this is for you,  
this is for you.  
Sweet!  
I'm Darth Vader.  
Uh, Sean, I don't think  
that goes there.  
You guys, meet your  
new sponsor... Big Mama.  
Hello, kids.



My name is Alice,  
but you can call me Big Mama.  
And it is my pleasure  
meeting you all.  
Hi, Big Mama.

I knew it.

- You gotta be kidding me.
- Coach, really?
- Coach, we can't wear this.
- Yeah, we can't wear this.

Why?

Yeah, Alex, why not?

Dude, don't you get it?

- They're gonna call us weenies.
- Not me.
- What's a weenie?
- Wyatt...

how many times

do I have to tell you?

It's not the uniform that's  
gonna make us win or lose.

This is messed up.

Look, this is  
what's handed to us.

Either we compete with uniforms  
or we don't.

Now, I know you kids don't think this  
is the coolest thing in the world,  
but we have to make the best  
with what we've got.

And that's why  
we're the Underdogs.

From now on, we take everything  
that is negative in our lives  
and let's do something  
positive with it.

Are you with me or not?

Not.

Shut up, Wyatt. Dang!

Excuse me, Jimmy,  
but may I speak?

By all means.

Privately?

You kids listen up.

What you just did to Jimmy  
was not only unfair,  
but mighty disrespectful.  
Come on, think about it.  
Do you think  
a professional champ like him  
dressing up like a hot dog  
was easy?  
All these people  
laughing at him?  
Hmm?  
He went to hundreds of companies  
when he didn't have to.  
I know I wouldn't,  
but he still did.  
And do you know why?  
Because no one wanted  
to sponsor you.  
Everybody turned you guys down.  
And if it wasn't for Jimmy,  
I wouldn't sponsor you either.  
So you kids either shape up or  
we can just go home right now.  
You hear what I'm saying?  
Yeah, Big Mama.  
Darth Vader, can you please go  
and get Jimmy back for me now?  
Well?  
I'm in.  
Me, too.  
I'm with you, Coach.  
I'm not quitting, Coach.  
Only if we get free hot dogs.  
I think I can manage that.  
Yes!  
Anybody else?  
I guess so.  
All right.  
This is good.  
From now on, what are we?  
Weenies!  
See, I told you.  
- It's Underdog, you dummy.  
- Aw, pickles.

Once again, who are we?

- Underdogs.

- Who are we?

- Underdogs.

- Who are we?

Underdogs!

Higher.

Concentrate.

Strength.

Rasheed has a bad temper,  
but he loves this stuff.

I mean, he watches every kung  
fu movie that comes out.

So my husband and I just thought  
this could be a good place  
for him to learn  
some discipline.

Mrs. Shabazz, you've brought him  
to the right place.

That's good news.

Thank you.

Rasheed, you're gonna get  
started tomorrow morning, okay?

All right, well,  
we'll be going now.

Thank you.

Nice talking to you, Rasheed.

Hooah-ah.

That boy doesn't need karate,  
he needs therapy.

Hey, Charlie,

I was that kid, remember?

And I've always been thankful  
that you never gave up on me.

That means you're staying  
for good, right?

I didn't say that.

What I said was I was thankful.

Charlie, I've gotta get you  
some hearing aids

because you're beginning  
to hear things.

I'll talk to you later, Charlie.

When you were born,

you did not have a choice  
to be black, brown,  
white, or yellow.  
You also didn't have a choice  
to be born rich or poor.  
And you certainly  
don't have a choice  
in what people think of you.  
But that's okay  
because the most important  
choice you have  
is what you think of yourselves.  
And that's something  
no one can take away from you.  
So if you had a choice between  
being a winner or a loser,  
then choose to be a winner.

- Hey.

- Hi.

You look very nice.

Um, I hope

I'm not bothering you.

No, not at all. What's up?

I wanna thank you for everything  
you've done for Alex and Sean.  
You know, they've really taken  
a liking to you.

They're great kids.

And anybody would have  
done the same.

Well, I doubt that.

Anyway, um, listen,

I was wrong about you.

I just wanted to apologize.

Hey, look, it's okay.

If I was in your shoes,

I wouldn't pay 40 bucks

to a guy who calls himself  
the Lightning Bolt.

I'd better be going.

Hey, Valerie.

- Yeah?

- Would you like to, uh...

um, never mind.

I'd love to.  
Strong eyes.  
Concentrate, Raymond.  
Strong eyes.  
Do it.  
Raymond...  
not with your mouth.  
You're supposed to punch it.  
Okay, you guys, go wash up.  
And don't forget to practice  
strong eyes.  
What, who am I?  
I'm your worst nightmare.  
I'm Farticus Maximus  
and you're going down.  
And fight!  
Yeah, that's it! That's it!  
Oh, did you see that?  
- Whoo! Whoo!  
- White, winner.  
Good afternoon,  
parents and children.  
I'm Master Marc Zuko.  
And now we have the results to  
the All-City Junior Nationals.  
The winner of this event will  
have a chance to go up against  
our reigning champions, the  
Beverly Hills Scorpions team.  
And now, the winner is...  
the Mid-City Underdogs?  
The Mid-City Underdogs!  
Congratulations!  
Mid-City Underdogs!  
We're gonna celebrate! Yeah!  
Well, congratulations, Jimmy.  
Your weenies made it in.  
- Barret, you mean the Underdogs.  
- Whatever.  
They don't stand a chance  
against my Scorpions.  
They don't have what it takes.  
Hmm, you think so, huh?  
Huh, one could say

they can't cut the mustard.

- Here you go.

- Thank you.

You were really good.

I wanna go.

Aren't you happy for them?

I am.

But you know what?

They needed so much energy.

They... they just lacked, um...

- Charlie, what's that word?

- Chutzpah.

Chutzpah! That's what we need.

And their musical form

was totally off.

And, um, you know, in order

for us to beat Barret's team,

we're gonna need

new choreography.

I think I can help you

with that.

If you're interested, that is.

Why are we here?

- To learn?

- Learn to be what? A wuss?

Bonjour.

Bienvenidos.

Welcome.

I know what you boys

are thinking.

But dance, like martial arts...

is all about rhythm.

Everything from ballet

to hip-hop

has a different rhythm.

- Just kill me now.

- Everyone ready?

- Dude, that workout today was insane.

- Hey, guys,

- you're not gonna believe this.

- What?

My little sister's in this ballet

class and guess who else is in it.

- Who?

- The weenies.  
The weenies?  
- Let's get them.  
- I have a plan.  
Lift over, chin up.  
- Four...  
- There they are.  
Let's get them.  
Are you catching this?  
Who came up with this?  
"Oh, yeah, that was me."  
Don't even know  
what they're doing.  
I'm liking this.  
Oh, man, this is great.  
- Let's put it online.  
- Yeah.  
Come on, let's go.  
What's so funny?  
What are you laughing at?  
We're laughing at you,  
T-T-Twinkle Toes.  
Break it up!  
What is going on here, huh?  
What's going on?  
They started it.  
Okay, I've had enough of you.  
You're suspended.  
The rest of you  
back to class now.  
Come on.  
Hey, how you doing?  
Hey, man, what's up?  
You must be Rasheed's  
older brother.  
Yeah, who's asking?  
- I'm Jimmy, Rasheed's coach.  
- Oh, man.  
- How you doing?  
- What's up? Good, man.  
He in the doghouse, yo.  
- All right.  
- Later, man.  
- Hit me.

- Let's go.

Yeah.

Why are you getting  
into so many fights?

I don't like to be teased.

Nobody does, Rasheed.

But you can't go through life  
beating up on people.

It's easy for you to say.

You've never been teased  
like I have.

Rasheed, I've got news for you.

When I was your age,

I got teased a lot.

So... so what did you do?

I got into a lot of fights.

So... so you know how I feel.

Yes, I do.

But I had to learn that it takes a  
bigger man to know when to fight  
and when not to.

And in order for you to do that,  
well, you've gotta  
believe in yourself.

But I don't know how.

Charlie once told me  
to remember the three Rs.

R number one, you have to learn  
to respect others.

Number two, you have  
to respect yourself.

And number three,  
you have to take responsibility  
of your actions.

Now, you think  
you could do that?

Yeah.

You're gonna be  
all right, Rasheed.

I believe in you.

But next time...

don't block with your face.

Right?

Come here, give me a hug.



Oof!

Um...

- Come on, boys, let's go.

- Aw, come on!

- No.

- Are you serious?

Really, Leticia?

That means you, too. Come on.

Coach, look at my nails.

That's great.

Boys, how do like  
your hand massage?

This is awesome.

- Hey, Coach?

- Yeah?

What does

the Bill of Rights mean?

Oh, oh, I know!

- No, you don't.

- Yeah, I do.

All right, what does it mean?

It means...

when you get a bill  
at the restaurant,  
you check it to make sure  
that it's right.

- Wow.

- That's dumb.

D-U-M, dumb.

One, two, three!

You missed one, Sean.

It's okay.

You'll be able to do it  
next time.

Just practice harder, okay?

- Oh, my God!

- Whoohoo!

How did you do that?

That was incredible!

- Hey, buddy. What's up?

- Hi, Dad.

You're coming  
to the tournament, right?

Oh, you bet. In fact, I'm

flying in right now.  
You ready to kick some butt?  
You know it.  
Oh, you remind me of myself  
when I was your age.  
All right, good luck.  
All right, Dad. Bye.  
Hey, James?  
Clear my schedule tomorrow.  
We're gonna kick some butt.  
Dad, can I ask you something?  
What is it?  
Are you ashamed of me?  
I never said that.  
Then how come you never  
come see me compete?  
Because I'm busy, son.  
- Oh.  
- Oh.  
Okay.  
Wyatt?  
Honey, what are you doing here?  
I wanted to make sure  
you got home safely.  
Oh, sweetie.  
Here, here, here. Take my coat.  
Oh, no, Mom,  
I'm really not that cold.  
No, I don't want you  
to catch a cold.  
Here, come, come, come, come.  
Very dashing.  
So I got some good news.  
Oh, yeah?  
I got a promotion at work today.  
- Really?  
- Yeah.  
My manager said I was one of the  
best workers that she has ever had.  
- That's awesome.  
- Mm-hmm.  
So you wanna know  
how I'm gonna celebrate?  
How?

I am taking you to the movies  
this weekend.

I'm gonna buy you  
a big old bucket of popcorn,  
lots of fake butter  
and Milk Duds and...

Mom, Mom, Mom, I'm over that.  
All right? We could just bring  
popcorn from home.

Besides, ours is just as good  
as theirs anyway.

Yeah? You think so?

And, um, I've been thinking...

I don't wanna be  
a problem-maker anymore.

And when I grow up,  
I'm gonna be really successful  
and I'm gonna take  
really good care of you.

Oh, honey.

And I wanna be the best mom  
that I can be.

- I love you.

- Oh, baby.

I love you.

Are you serious? A title fight?

I know, I know, it's great.

One of their fighters got sick and  
I slipped you right in there.

\$200,000.

Yes!

They wanna fly you  
out here tonight.

First class, everything.

- Tonight?

- Yes, I already booked your ticket.

There's a limo on the way  
to get you.

Now, wait a minute.

My kids' tournament is tomorrow.

It's \$200,000, Jimmy.

You can buy 'em a bunch of toys.

Buddy, we are back in the game.

Listen, if you don't fight

tomorrow, your career is over.  
Yeah, I know, I know.  
Jimmy, this is your last chance.  
Don't blow it.  
Guys, I just wanted  
to say good-bye before I leave.  
It's not fair.  
Sean...  
I'm sorry.  
Are you coming back?  
No.  
Oh, great, so you're just gonna  
walk out on us?  
Raymond, I don't have a choice.  
You have a choice.  
Everybody has a choice.  
You taught us that.  
Wyatt.  
Ricky.  
Leticia.  
Rasheed.  
Charlie.  
Can't blame 'em.  
They love you.  
Jimmy, they're ready  
for you to sign.  
Here we go.  
Here we go, buddy.  
Gentlemen, I'm sorry.  
I changed my mind.  
Geno, I can't do it.  
One second.  
Stop. Wait a minute.  
Jimmy, what are you doing?  
I can't do this anymore, Geno.  
- What are you talking about?  
- I can't do this anymore.  
It's those kids.  
They got to you, didn't they?  
It's where I belong.  
But what about the money, Jimmy?  
I know we need the money.  
Yeah. Yeah.  
But I've been chasing

the wrong thing all my life.  
And finally,  
I know what I want now.  
Well, I wish I had your courage.  
- You mean that?  
- No.  
Good luck to you out there.  
Hello and welcome.  
My name is Frank Bosco,  
AKA "Big Man" Bosco.  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
an event of this size  
could not happen without  
the support of our sponsors.  
Catapult Footwear.  
The Max Cure Pediatric  
Cancer Foundation.  
Yowza!! Go to [getyowza.com](http://getyowza.com).  
Without this sponsor, we couldn't  
have made this event happen.  
Thank you, Century Martial Arts.  
To my right,  
the undefeated title holder  
of the All-City Junior  
National Championships  
for three consecutive years.  
Let's hear it  
for the Beverly Hills Scorpions.  
And to my left,  
the Mid-City Underdogs.  
May the best team win.  
Here we go!  
There is no team  
greater than you.  
Your only objective  
is to destroy  
everything that stands  
in the way of victory.  
You must not only defeat  
your opponent,  
but you must also break them  
mentally and physically.  
Okay, let's circle up.  
- He came! He came...

- Sean! Sean!

- Whoa!

- Sean!

Hi.

Hey, guys.

- Am I too late?

- No.

You're never too late, Coach.

Okay, here we go,  
ladies and gentlemen.

The first match of the day between  
Andrew, representing the Scorpions,  
and Wyatt,

representing the Underdogs.

Watch it, watch it.

Whoa, a kick to the head  
knocking Wyatt down.

What a kick.

And here we go again.

Both fighters looking  
for an opening.

- You can do it.

- Right.

You can take him,  
you can take him!

- Andrew kicks and misses.

- Good move, good move.

Wyatt with a jumping  
spin roundhouse kick...

- Oh, yeah! That's it.

- Andrew goes down.

Boy, these two fighters  
are really going at it today.

So far, Scorpions are  
in the lead.

Underdogs behind in points  
trying to catch up.

Both teams sizing each other up.

Whoa, Wyatt, a punch  
to the midsection.

A point.

Scorpion, roundhouse kick to  
the head knocking Wyatt down.

You were awesome, Wyatt.

I have no excuses.  
He was better than me.  
That was my bad.  
You've come a long way, Wyatt.  
And I'm proud of you.  
And the Scorpions  
take the first match.  
Going to the scoreboard,  
Scorpions 10, Underdogs 6.  
It's now Cameron of the Scorpions  
against Ricky of the Underdogs  
- getting ready to fight.  
- Fight!  
The referee gives the signal.  
The battle is on.  
Both fighters exchanging kicks.  
Spinning roundhouse kick  
that connects!  
A point.  
Whoa, a powerful kick to Ricky  
knocking him down and getting  
points for the Scorpions.  
Connects with a 360 spin heel  
kick knocking Cameron to the mat.  
Wow, what a comeback  
for the Underdogs.  
Wow, what a spectacular kick.  
The instant replay.  
What a close fight.  
And it's a tie.  
That was intense.  
Fight.  
Scorpion attacks,  
Leticia blocks and counters  
with a spin heel kick.  
Point!  
Now Scorpions are on the  
offensive.  
Underdog counters.  
Punches, Scorpion blocks and counters  
with an under punch to the ribs.  
- Point.  
- Fight!  
Scorpion attacks.

Leticia counters, misses.  
Moving, waiting for an opening,  
Scorpion moves in.  
Boom! A side kick to the head.  
Girl power!  
Girl power is alive and well.  
What a fight!  
The score is now 14 to 10,  
Scorpions in the lead.  
Uh-oh, looks like Raymond from the  
Underdogs team is on the run.  
- Where are you going?  
- Get him!  
- Come on, Raymond!  
- There you go, get him.  
Oh, boy, this looks like a  
train wreck waiting to happen.  
He calls that the fart of death.  
This has to be the skunk  
maneuver of the century.  
Now the match is between Scorpions'  
Jake and little Sean from Underdogs.  
- Sean's in trouble.  
- Yeah.  
Jake attacks.  
Oh, this doesn't look good.  
Pass this down  
to your coach, all right?  
Good boy.  
Little Sean could sure  
use a miracle right now.  
What?  
Little Sean attacks  
with two punches, and boom.  
Kicks Jake in the stomach  
for a point.  
Judge raises the white flag.  
Point for the Underdogs.  
And another point!  
Don't touch my pillow.  
Come on. Come on, Sean.  
Come on, Sean.  
Oh, boy, this next match  
is gonna be interesting.



Alex's opponent  
is a foot taller than he is.  
What's the matter?  
He's so much bigger than I am.  
He's gonna kill me.  
Alex, just keep looking  
at him, all right?  
- Remember David and Goliath?  
- Yeah.  
- All right, so who was bigger?  
- Goliath.  
- Who won?  
- David.  
Yeah, so have the courage  
of David, all right?  
Use your speed  
and your smarts, okay?  
And remember,  
the bigger they are...  
- The harder they fall.  
- Yeah.  
Go get him, Alex.  
Get him, Alex.  
Okay, here we go.  
Scorpions on the offensive.  
Alex trying to evade  
those powerful kicks.  
Alex trying to find an opening.  
The Scorpion fighter is relentless,  
not giving Alex an opening.  
Alex shuffling his feet  
side to side...  
- Come on, Alex.  
- ...looking for an opening.  
The bigger they are,  
the harder they fall.  
- Yeah!  
- Mazel Tov!  
Alex lands a huge kick,  
taking the giant down.  
Whoa, did you see that kick?  
Did you see that kick?  
That was like poetry in motion.  
Eric...

this kid Rasheed, he stutters  
and he's got a bad temper.  
Piss him off  
and get him disqualified.  
- Dad, I can take him.  
- Do as I say.  
You understand?  
- Yes, sir.  
- Okay...  
- Good boy.  
- ...here we go.  
Scorpions team captain Eric  
and Underdog Rasheed.  
- Come on, Eric.  
- Come on, Eric.  
Come on, Shabazz.  
Nope, nope. N-Nice try.  
I bet your grandma hits  
harder than you.  
What, what?  
Come on, Eric, kick him.  
Eric, come on.  
- Attack!  
- Finish him!  
- Whoa, whoa, whoa!  
- No!  
Rasheed, no!  
Put your gloves on.  
Move back. Get back.  
You're gonna get disqualified.  
Be careful.  
Think of your team!  
Think of your team, Rasheed!  
Think of your team. Watch it.  
Rasheed, confidence.  
Believe in yourself.  
Now take it to him, Rasheed.  
Hey, come on, little bro.  
It's all you, man.  
- Come on. Come on!  
- What are you doing, man?  
I bet your whole family  
is a spazz.  
Look at his moves.

It's so unorthodox.  
Come on, bro. It's you, man.  
There you go.  
Come here. You see that, huh?  
Will you look at that?  
You see that? That's a tie.  
What it's not is a win.  
You let him beat you.  
Him! He stinks,  
which means you suck.  
Get out of here.  
I'm sorry, what?  
Can I please direct your  
attention to our scoreboard?  
This never happens.  
Look at the score.  
You've got  
the Beverly Hills Scorpions 22,  
Mid-City Underdogs 22.  
We have a tie, ladies and gentlemen,  
which means that our competition  
will be decided  
with a musical form competition.  
And now, introducing  
the musical form judges...  
Master Richard Norton.  
Master Don "The Dragon" Wilson.  
Master Danny Inosanto.  
Master Benny Urquidez.  
Master Jun Chong.  
First, performing  
their extreme musical form,  
please give a warm round  
of applause  
to the undefeated All-City  
Junior National Champions,  
the Beverly Hills Scorpions!  
Let's hear it one more time  
for the Beverly Hills Scorpions.  
Come on!  
All right,  
let's look at our board.  
Beverly Hills Scorpions 71,  
Mid-City Underdogs 22.

So let's give a big, warm round  
of applause for our challengers,  
the Mid-City Underdogs.  
Here they are!  
We need some insurance.  
Squirt that water in the socket.  
- Dad, I'm not gonna do that.  
- Squirt some water in the socket.  
- No.  
- What did you say?  
You heard me, Dad.  
Hey, I didn't get us  
into this position, you did.  
Now squirt some water  
in the socket.  
Give me that.  
Guys, I have bad news.  
What's wrong, Coach?  
The CD is broken.  
How are we supposed to do  
the form without the music?  
This is jacked up.  
Yeah, how?  
With our hearts.  
That doesn't make sense.  
I want you to listen to the music  
and feel the music in your hearts.  
We are the Underdogs.  
This is what's handed to us.  
But always remember our motto...  
to take everything  
that's negative in our lives...  
And turn it  
into something positive.  
That's right.  
Now I want you to go out there,  
close your eyes,  
and listen for my beats.  
You got that? Okay.  
Can somebody please turn on  
the... lights... I need lights.  
I can't do an event with...  
Hi! Frank Bosco.  
And apparently you, uh...

you see the lights are back on.  
It's all good.  
Now let's continue  
our musical forms competition.  
Thank you, Jaime.  
Charlie, I need your shoes.  
Okay, for what?  
I don't have time  
to explain right now.  
Come on.  
Come on, come on, come on.  
- Oh!  
- Oh, Charlie.  
Hold your breath.  
Those are my new ones.  
Yes, Raymond! Whoohoo!  
Good job! Way to go!  
Yeah!  
He came.  
That's my son! Yes, he is.  
Yeah!  
Yeah!  
What a performance,  
ladies and gentlemen.  
All right, now for the scores.  
First judge, a 10.  
Second judge, a 10.  
Third judge, a 10.  
Fourth judge, a 10.  
And the final judge, 10!  
Oh, my God, they did it!  
The Underdogs  
are our new champions!  
They did it! Whoo-hoo-hoo!  
Whoohoo!  
I'm so proud of you.  
Auntie?  
Can I call you Mom from now on?  
Yeah.  
I'd like that very much.  
I'm so proud of you.  
Ah, come here!  
Underdogs!  
Hey!

Nice match.

You guys were awesome.

Yeah, you got

some pretty sick moves.

That was mean, man.

Friends?

Friends.

Mr. Hershfeld.

Aren't you proud of me?

Uh, I mean, proud of us,  
obviously.

Proud of the team, yes.

You? No.

It's people like you  
that give this sport a bad name.

So as of today, right now,  
we are through.

- But, but...

- No, no, no butts, Barret.

James, unfriend him and  
block him from my Facebook.