

THE HIGH LIFE

Written by

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EXT. CHURCH - DAY

JAKE, 15, long hair pulled back into a pony tail, a good looking boy but who's still very much going through puberty.

Dressed in his school uniform his wealth is on display with his expensive shoes, gold wristwatch, gold necklace and expensive branded baseball cap. All gifts from his rich parents.

Jake positions his phone onto a wall just outside an impressive looking church. With the camera aimed at him he double checks it's recorded then proceeds with his performance.

JAKE

(rapping)

Yo, yo, check, check. This is Lil  
Jake you know who. Outside gods  
church's slinging fast words.  
Reaching you all around the world,  
come at me and I'll bury you deep.

(flashes a large kitchen  
knife, his mum's  
favourite)

I'm a killer. A drug dealer. I'll  
kill you and...

Suddenly three older BOY'S all around 19 ride up to Jake on their bikes. There's the leader, the biggest and his two underlings. One short and one fat. They circle around Jake.

LEADER

What the fuck are you doing?

Jake hides the knife and is instantly afraid.

JAKE

Just waiting for my friend.

LEADER

(looks to the church then  
back to Jake)

In there?

Jake nods.

LEADER (CONT'D)

You're such a fucking freak. Making  
rap videos again?

JAKE

No.

LEADER

Good, because you're shit. We all  
laugh at you.

The other two with the Leader laugh over the top, right into  
Jake's face.

JAKE

I'm not. I'm just waiting for a  
friend. Honestly.

Leader's attention is now brought to the recording phone.

LEADER

Is this recording me?

Panicked Jake rushes over to take his phone off from the  
wall.

JAKE

It's mine. I'm turning it off now.

Jake tries to get to his phone but the Leader beats him to  
it. Taking it he throws it down onto the ground and stamps on  
it, cracking the screen. Again, his two sidekicks laugh over  
the top.

JAKE (CONT'D)

No. Why? I got that for my  
birthday.

LEADER

(to Jake)

Don't make any more shitty music  
you fucking loser.

Leader rides off on his bike, his two underlings hurry after  
him, still laughing.

Jake drops down to his knees, carefully picking his phone up,  
he's close to tears.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

LUCY, 15, in a modest long dress that stretches down to her  
ankles. A real church mouse, her favourite place to go is the  
library and her best friends, her grandparents.

She's mopping the floors clean, really getting into it,  
building up quite the sweat.

A Catholic priest, dressed in his robes with a gold crucifix  
dangling from his neck approaches her with a puzzled look.

PRIEST

Lucy, you don't have to do this.

LUCY

Of course I do. The floors are filthy, It's like a pigsty. Awful. I wouldn't bring my worst enemies here. So, so dirty.

The Priest is stunned.

PRIEST

(stuttering)

I only did these floors myself yesterday.

LUCY

Then you might need to get your eyes examined. But don't worry, I'll get this whole place clean in no time.

The Priest walks on, hurt. Blinking his eyes, holding a couple of his fingers out in front of him. Conducting a quick eye test on himself, worried.

Lucy continues with her cleaning, putting even more effort into it.

A short, fat, miserable looking Nun now watches Lucy from an open door.

NUN

Lucy, I told you to clean the toilets first. Do them now.

Panic sets in, Lucy drags the mop and bucket behind her, hurrying over towards the Nun. But she turns too fast and the bucket with the dirty water in, now spills all over the floor.

LUCY

Oh no.

NUN

You stupid girl.

The Nun comes charging towards Lucy, a thick wooden ruler already in her hand, the classic weapon of any self respecting nun.

Lucy quickly tries to mop the water back up.

LUCY  
(picking the bucket back  
up)  
I can fix this.

Now close enough, the Nun delivers a couple of hard hits with the ruler against the back of Lucy's legs. Lucy yelps out in pain.

NUN  
Go clean those toilets now, you  
stupid girl.

LUCY  
(scared)  
Yes, I'm sorry.

Lucy now carries the mop and bucket in her arms and hurries towards the toilets.

The Nun looks down at the dirty water shaking her head, disgusted.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

In an alleyway at the back of the church, BARRY, a skinny drug addict, who is hard to age. Maybe he's 21, or 41, who knows. Dressed in several different colours, every item of clothing is drastically different from the other. Dirty with rotting teeth he kneels quite comfortably amongst the trash.

On his knees Barry is meticulously rolling the worlds smallest joint. It's tiny, but it's all the weed he's got.

Finished he holds it out in front of him.

BARRY  
(almost crying)  
Oh God, I need this so bad.

Putting the joint in his mouth he's about to light it when he breaks out into a coughing fit. The coughing gets so bad that he accidently swallows the joint whole. Swallowing it accidently, he leaps up onto his feet. Tries to make himself sick, tries to cough it back up, even hitting himself on the back of the head. But the joint is lost.

BARRY (CONT'D)  
No. No. That's all I had.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Jake waits at the bus stop, inspecting his broken phone. Lucy then enters the small sheltered bus stop, limping from the blows she received to the back of her legs.

The two make brief eye contact, but then embarrassed, both quickly look the other way.

Across the street a car speeds and then comes to a hard emergency stop. A large duffel bag is thrown out of the passenger side window and lands in a bush. The car then speeds away.

Both Jake and Lucy see this. Sharing another look they both race across the road to get to the bag first.

CUT TO:

Both get there at the same time, both grabbing a hold of it.

LUCY

Let go.

JAKE

No, you let go. I got here first.

LUCY

No you didn't.

JAKE

You don't even know what it is.

LUCY

Neither do you.

JAKE

Let go.

Lucy unzips it and inside is a single wrapped package of cocaine.

LUCY + JAKE

(at the same time)

It's a sign.

Both startled that the other said the same as them.

JAKE

I can use this to fund my rap career.

LUCY  
No, this is a test from God so that  
I can show him I'm a good person.

JAKE  
God? That's so stupid.

LUCY  
A rap career? And you say I'm  
stupid?

JAKE  
You don't even know what this is.

LUCY  
It's drugs.

JAKE  
Let go.

LUCY  
No.

They both attempt to pull the bag from the other, but neither is strong enough to out muscle the other. A stand off.

CUT TO:

Barry rounds the corner. Looking sorry for himself. He sees these two teenagers fighting over the bag. He slows, puzzled.

As Jake and Lucy continue to fight, shaking the bag, the single cocaine package falls out and lands on the ground in between them.

Barry's eyes get huge, he instantly knows what it is. At least he hopes so.

CUT TO:

Barry runs over to them. Jake picks up the cocaine and puts it back into the bag that he and Lucy still have a hold of.

BARRY  
Careful kids, careful.

JAKE  
Go away.

LUCY  
(scowls at Jake)  
Don't be rude.

Barry holds up his hands.

BARRY  
(thinking fast)  
That bag...

JAKE  
We know what it is.

BARRY  
Well...no You don't...it might be  
poison.

LUCY  
(worried)  
Really?

JAKE  
(rolls his eyes)  
And how would he know.

BARRY  
I work for the government.

LUCY  
Really?

BARRY  
It's a terrorist plot.

JAKE  
He's lying.

LUCY  
(scared)  
Terrorist?

BARRY  
(thinking on the fly)  
Yeah. Placing poisoned packages all  
around the city.

LUCY  
So what the heck do we do.

JAKE  
(to Lucy)  
We ignore him.

BARRY  
I wouldn't if I were you.

JAKE  
(to Barry)  
If you work for the government why  
do you look so homeless?



LUCY  
Maybe he's undercover?

BARRY  
(clicks his fingers at  
her, smiling)  
That's exactly it. I was just about  
to say that.

LUCY  
Then what do we do?

JAKE  
I'm not listening to this.

BARRY  
Then what's your plan?

JAKE  
I'm going to sell it.

LUCY  
I was going to hand it in to the  
police.

BARRY  
Well if it's what I think it is.  
Poison. Hundreds of people could be  
killed. Hundreds have already died.  
(switches between the two  
of them)  
You don't want to be responsible  
for killing anyone do you?

LUCY  
No.

JAKE  
Then what the hell are you going to  
do?

BARRY  
We take it to my office. I inspect  
it. If it's not poison you keep it.

LUCY  
That's so nice.

JAKE  
Why would someone from the  
government let two kids keep a  
package of drugs?

BARRY  
It's the law. Finders keepers. It's  
the law, I have to let you keep it.

Lucy believes him, Jake narrows his eyes.

JAKE  
Your office is close?

BARRY  
(nods)  
Just around the corner.

EXT. PUBLIC TOILET - DAY

Barry leads Jake and Lucy up to the entrance of the public toilet. Jake and Lucy still have a hold of the bag.

JAKE  
(annoyed)  
This is your office?

LUCY  
It's undercover, you know.  
Disguised.

BARRY  
That's right.

INT. PUBLIC TOILET - DAY

Barry takes the cocaine package out from the bag and goes into one of the stalls.

BARRY  
You just wait out here.

JAKE  
Don't be long. I'm serious.

BARRY  
Only a few seconds.

LUCY  
Just let him do his job.

Jake shakes his head as Barry goes in and lets the door to the stall close shut behind him.

JAKE  
(to Lucy)  
This is bullshit and you should  
know it.

LUCY  
And if it is poison, you want to be  
responsible for killing people.  
Terrorist poison?

Jake thinks about this, then shakes his head. Looking sheepish, no, he doesn't want to be responsible.

CUT TO:

Inside the stall Barry wastes no time cutting open the cocaine package, and snorting as much as he can. Can't get enough. Snorting it and eating it, he's in heaven.

CUT TO:

Jake and Lucy both have their ears pressed to the closed stall door.

LUCY (CONT'D)  
Excuse me. Sir?

JAKE  
Hey! Open up.

No answer. Jake takes out his kitchen knife and uses it to open the door.

Barry is on the floor, collapsed. Nearly all the cocaine is gone and Barry has stopped breathing, though he does have a huge smile on his face.

LUCY  
I guess it really was poisoned.

Jake takes the rest of the cocaine and flushes it down the toilet.

Lucy starts to perform CPR on Barry.

JAKE  
I shouldn't have wanted to sell  
those drugs. I was stupid. Look at  
what they've done.

Lucy is smiling happily as she continues to pound on Barry's chest.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
 (to Lucy)  
 Are you OK?

She looks up at him smiling.

LUCY  
 (excited)  
 Are you kidding? I've always wanted  
 to save a life. Wait until the  
 church leaders hear about this.

Now jake is smiling with her.

JAKE  
 You know, this would make a really  
 cool video. Do you mind?

LUCY  
 Not at all.

Jake turns his phone on, aims the camera on himself.  
 Recording as Lucy continues with the CPR.

JAKE  
 (rapping)  
 Yo, yo, yo. Lil Jake here with Mad  
 Lucy D. Performing CPR, whilst I'm  
 standing here with mad rapping  
 skills. She's saving his life  
 whilst I'm rapping about life.  
 Bringing him back from Hell. Living  
 with my parents is hell. School is  
 hell...

LUCY  
 (smiling at Jake)  
 You're good.

JAKE  
 (gives her a thumbs up and  
 continues)  
 Drug's are bad, living a life so  
 sad. Lil Jake is here to teach you  
 all about life. Good life. Hard  
 life. Bad life. It's all about....

**FADE TO BLACK**

**THE END**