

## Father

LL Cool J

I swear to tell the truth and nothin but the truth...  
so help me GOD  
I just felt like tellin the story of my life  
Felt like, maybe somebody could be inspired, you know?  
We all feel pain, we all go through things  
But it's time to overcome all that

If your plane crashed in the water and everybody died  
would you drown on purpose or try to survive?  
I was born handicapped my arm wouldn't move  
They called me a cripple pops caught an attitude  
Beat my moms smoked lye drove trucks  
My moms had a miscarriage, he didn't give a fuck  
He sniffed some coke, come home  
Beat up on my moms cause she's talkin on the phone  
Come on

(all I ever wanted)  
All I ever wanted  
(all I ever needed)  
All I ever needed  
(was a father)  
was a father  
(that's all)  
That's all!  
(all I ever wanted)  
All I ever wanted  
(all I ever needed)  
All I ever needed... was a father  
(was a father)

Moms got tired of the beatings said, "Yo, we got to go"  
Packed up her bags we bounced out the do'  
She said, "I ain't takin these whippin's no mo'  
I wanna live to see my little Todd grow"  
I remember tear drops on my pops face  
Lookin down at me standin on the staircase  
Handsome brother with a smooth goatee  
Makes me wonder why he act so ugly, you feelin me?  
(I'm feelin you)

My pops got drunk when me and my moms bounced  
Swigged some Jack Dan', sniffed up a ounce  
Grabbed the shotty left Long Isle for Queens  
Possessed by a demon... a devil it seemed  
I was too young to understand the risk  
when your moms come home off the midnight shift  
She turned around heard the shotgun click  
My pops said, "You think that you could leave me?"  
He blasted my moms in the back  
She fell down screamin I can't forget that  
My grandfather tried to close the do'  
He got shot ten times in the stomach yo, for real

My head was spinnin, I had never seen blood  
Four years old, this don't feel like love  
Anyway, pops dissapeared

Grandpops and moms healed up over the years  
This therapist got up in her head  
Led her to believe without him she'd be dead  
You know, they fell in love with one another  
Everything seemed right that's word to mother  
until I started gettin beatings everday  
Sometimes for going outside to play  
Late at night on my knees I'd pray  
a young child, wishin the pain would go away  
Dad where was you when he made me strip  
Beat with belts like a slave with a whip  
Kicked me down steps outside in the snow  
Punched me in the chest stomped me out on the flo'  
That's just the tip of the iceberg look  
It's too long for a song but perfect for a book  
Word is bond, that's real baby