

# Power

Royce da 5'9"

(You want what for Christmas?  
Hell no  
What chu mean this is all we got?  
That's it?)

It's Christmas time in the Montgomery home  
Daddy's actin' all crazy again  
Momma got herself a bloody nose  
Daddy slapped her in the face again  
Why they always gotta fight so much? Damn!  
Momma face swole  
Me and my bro in a panic state  
If that's the case, yo I can't just stay around this  
Everything was fine, we just had dinner  
We got all the He-Mans  
Battle Cat, Adam and Cringer, even Castle Greyskull and Snake Mountain  
Now we sit and listen to y'all argue about how y'all planned this day  
And y'all just admitted to us Santa fake  
So Kid Vishis just ran away poutin'  
Now I gotta go and console him  
He wasn't nothin' but a spoiled little boy then  
Little naive with an innocent cry  
All he ever wanted to do was fit in with us  
And y'all bought him a pair of fake Timberlands and put in a real Timberland  
box  
I never forget them boots, they was called Rugged Outbacks  
Momma went and found them at Payless and made us promise not to say nothin'  
Then Pop came in like he ain't know nothin' about it  
Like, "Judy you gon' send that boy out in public like that?"  
"He'll be just fine, these kids ain't 'bout to be looking down at his feet f  
or no treat"  
And she really meant that  
Meanwhile, this little arrogant nigga called himself stuntin' on me and Greg  
with him talkin' about, "where your Timbs at?"  
But he was too young to detect sarcasm so we was like, "nigga, where your Ti  
mbs at?"

It's Thanksgiving in the Montgomery home  
Greg just came in here drunk again  
Now Momma tryna cover for him, she afraid my Daddy gone punch him again  
Why you gotta get drunk so much? Damn!  
I wish you would just stay where you was at instead of coming home all rude  
and disrespectin' our father  
Follow all the rules and shit, man  
The mood done switched me and Vicious playing Connect Four  
Our Favorite movie just came on the tube and it's ironic it's Bloodsport  
And I'm looking at Frank Dux and shit, thinkin' you should split  
Before Daddy come down these stairs of this basement and see you wasted  
But he just cut me off like, "That nigga ain't gon' do shit"  
But the truth is he couldn't whoop my dad even if he was sober  
I know 'cause he tried once  
Ended up unconscious, a broke arm and a tooth was chipped  
My big bro got a lot of emotional problems  
He feel that we was all abused as kids  
He saw Momma get dragged down all kinds of stairs like a ragdoll when he was  
two  
And this is back when Daddy used to sniff cocaine, poor thang

He had to be subjected to this when he gets drunk  
He gets to losing it  
He gets the illusion that he gon' protect us all from the Big Bad Wolf  
Stand up to him and prove some shit  
But all he really doing is stressing Mom out  
Gotta her goin', "boy you know your daddy up there asleep  
The food is ready, why don't you stop making all this noise and let him stay  
sleep?"  
The Turkey's done in the Montgomery home  
Dad has just been awakened again  
Greg is making all kinds of noise  
Daddy's on his way angry again  
"Who is that making all that God damn noise?  
Greggy, get up here!  
You been out there drinking again?  
What the fuck I tell you about coming in my house with this disrespectful sh  
it?  
Nigga where the fuck you don' been?"  
I'm thinking to myself Greg please don't say nothin' stupid, man  
Every time my Daddy in his drawers and he standing in the hallway mad at som  
ebody, I swear to God he got the same strength as Superman  
My brother turned around and just walks in the kitchen  
Without even givin' an answer, with his back to him like "I ain't gotta talk  
to you nigga"  
"Nigga, you don't hear me talking to you?"  
Next thing my brother did is something that when it comes to my father is so  
mething you just don't do  
He looked him right in his eyes and he asked him, "what the fuck is you gon'  
do?"  
My father hit him so hard his body hit the stove  
The oven door hit the fucking floor  
The turkey fell out the oven whole and landed near the stairs  
Now Daddy standing over Greg talkin' 'bout, "Nigga, you ain't hurt!  
Get up, get up!"  
And here come Vish' talkin' 'bout, "Dad, I don't think he gon' get up"  
Then Momma went damn near hysterical  
She called the police, the police came  
Neighbors is all in the street watching the cops takin' my father out in han  
dcuffs  
Damn, man that shit was real embarrassing  
To all my friends I grew up with or grew up fatherless  
I know through me you live vicariously  
I want you to know that we ain't know better than you and yours  
We all needed therapy  
We care about each other more than we care about if anybody understands us  
What I'm tryin' say is "fuck you!" and Happy Holidays from the Montgomery fa  
mily

Every man reaches that point in life  
Where he don't want to make excuses no more more  
Life took me on a rollercoaster ride  
I've been up I've been down all the ribbons and my daddy came  
Took me on highs  
Turned around and then took me on lows  
Oh  
Then I think about it  
I use that shit as fuel  
Then I changed it into "power"  
Now can't you feel it?  
Can't you feel it?  
That I'm a grown man with "power"  
Yeah, let me hear you say yeah  
If you was raised in a strict home like me

Felt alone like me and it gave you "power"  
Ooh  
You can do it too just look at me  
See I'm a grown man with "power"  
Yeah, everybody say yeah  
If you don't know the meaning of abusive  
You've been through so much ain't nothing nobody can do to you  
Now can't you feel it?  
I'mma run away  
This is how I became  
A grown man with "power"  
You can do it too  
If I can do it  
Use this "power"  
I was a runaway  
I was a runaway  
There ain't nothing you can do to me  
Do to me

"When you were a child growing up with grandad and granny  
Did you really feel like grandad was a good father to you?"  
Absolutely, absolutely. All my friend's daddy's was walking out on them left  
and right. Y'know he never left us, he was always there for us. Y'know there  
were a lot of things that happened that I didn't understand. Maybe I might  
not have answered the question the same way when I was a teenager, but I un  
derstand and appreciate him so much more now: as a man. Y'know 'cause he tau  
ght me respect and discipline and consequences for your acts. So yeah of cou  
rse  
"Do you think his approach as a father really shaped the type of father that  
you are today, or do you in some ways think it had negatives to it, and if  
so, what kind of negative traits do you try to avoid having as a father righ  
t now, to me?"  
When you have your own you'll understand