

WHY MUSIC?

Written By

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FADE IN:

INT. JOSEPH'S HOUSE - DAY

A pile of dirty dishes and plethora of clothes share the floor of a small studio apartment with walls covered in rock posters. JOSEPH, a 23 year old college dropout and a strong believer that there is no life without music lies on the floor.

JOSEPH

Hey Siri. What time is it?

SIRI

It's 12:32 PM

JOSEPH

(Under breath)

Better get up.

SIRI

I'm awake and ready to help!

JOSEPH

Oh, Shut up.

A montage of JOSEPH lazily getting ready plays.

EXT- WALGREEN CORNER - DAY

The 24/7 Walgreens. JOSEPH stops himself and looks up at a sign on the sliding glass door reading "Jobs! Always open!" JOSEPH notices the sign and smirks.

INT- WALGREENS - DAY

STANLY, in his early 70's with a large turtleneck and glasses stands idle at the checkout. JOSEPH walks towards the checkout counter.

JOSEPH  
Stan the man!

STANLY  
Ah. I thought I saw you come in.  
How are we doing today Joseph?

JOSEPH grabs some M&M's

JOSEPH  
Not too bad old man. How about  
yourself?

STANLY  
Oh you know how it is. Another  
fantastic day!

JOSEPH  
Well... Wait you don't like it here  
do you?

STANLY  
That's right!

JOSEPH  
Stanly... You are aware-?

STANLY  
(Chuckles)  
Aware that I have the worst hours  
on the planet and I work at the  
most boring place in the world.  
Yes, yes I know.

JOSEPH  
Oh gosh, Stan. I hope you're not  
losing it already.

STANLY

Oh, Get outta here ya punk. You're holding up the line!

JOSEPH looks behind and there is a line of people behind him.

JOSEPH

Right. Sorry! I'll see you tomorrow!

CUT TO: INT. JOSEPH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

JOSEPH puts some pasta in a pot as it sits on the stove to cook. He goes to play Liquid Sunshine by John Cameron on the turntable. JOSEPH hums.

JOSEPH gets inspired by the melody and rushes over to his bass. He begins to fill his apartment with the succulent sounds. Joseph stands up and straps his bass around his shoulder. He decides to take a solo.

A loud (BANG!) is heard form the exterior walls of the kitchen.

JOSEPH'S NEIGHBOR

(Through the wall)

Will you shut the hell up! Jesus what is wrong with you? No one wants to hear that shit!

JOSEPH slumps back to the chair dejected. As he plucks little strokes on the bass, the stove boils over. JOSEPH runs over to the starch covered stovetop to turn it off.

JOSEPH

No,no,no,no,no, come on!

He checks the pasta and it is far from al dente. Quickly lifting the pot, he burns himself. Pasta everywhere. He looks up quickly to curse his neighbor.

JOSEPH

You asshole! You goddamn  
inconsiderate piece of crap! I  
hate you! Why do I even live with  
you? Why do you even try to do  
anything! You just fuck it all up!

Eyes drop to his reflection in the pot.

JOSEPH

You just fuck it all up!

CUT TO. JOSEPH sitting on the floor, It's now  
2:00 AM. He goes for a walk taking his bass with  
him.

INT. STANLEY'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING 2AM

STANLY begins his morning routine. A montage  
plays of him making toast, getting dressed, and  
driving to work.

EXT. WALGREENS - EARLY MORNING 5 AM

STANLY pulls into the parking lot and sees JOSEPH  
sitting outside with a small crowd of people  
listening to him play bass.

STANLY

What are you doing out here this  
early?

JOSEPH

Couldn't sleep.

STANLY

Right.

STANLY walks inside.

INT. WALGREENS - EARLY MORNING

STANLY

Take a seat.

JOSEPH hesitates to come behind the counter

JOSEPH

Are you sure i'm allowed?

STANLY gives him a look that says "Sit your ass down."

JOSEPH

Okay.

JOSEPH goes behind the counter. He sits down and almost immediately STANLY slaps a name tag on him reading "Sarah".

JOSEPH

Do I really need to wear-

STANLY

Shut it will you!

JOSEPH

This is stupid.

JOSEPH resists the urge to argue and he begins to breath.

JOSEPH

I guess I snapped last night. I'm 23 and I have no direction in life.

STANLY

Come on now.

JOSEPH

I just don't know what I want, you know? I love music but how am I supposed to live off that? Can I balance that lifestyle? I wanna be famous but I don't wanna skip-

STANLY

Look, you need to just take some time. Start small.

STANLY starts to restock cigarettes on the back wall.

JOSEPH

Mom's every paycheck Stan. I can't take them any more I'm an adult now, like a real adult.

STANLY

Well let me tell you something kid, your father and I never did anything productive till we were about your age; but you're right, you could just feel like crap, not have a job, and have your mother support your siblings, you, and herself. Or you could get a job? Hell you could even work here!

JOSEPH

Stop, no! There is no way I'm going to work here, it sucks!

STANLY

Joseph you're father was my best friend and he treated me like family. I've worked here for more than 50 years and you have the nerve to come in here and tell me what it's like!

JOSEPH begins to get up.

STANLY

Where are you going?

JOSEPH

Look old man you clearly have lost it. You're trying to convince me that "Walgreens" is my kind of lord and savior.

JOSEPH begins to pack up his stuff and head out of the counter.

STANLY

What I'm saying is that tiny apartment is all you have ever known as an adult. Ever since you got kicked out and moved across the hallway everyone else moved on you never shut your mouth!

JOSEPH slams the nametag down on the counter and begins to leave.

STANLY

Joseph you know how many times you stormed out of here and came back the next day like nothing happened? I do. Now, get back here, put on that name tag, and listen to me god dammit!

JOSEPH turns around and waits at the door for STANLY to say something more to make him stay.

STANLY

You need to get it together. You love music so much! That's great! But, Please just commit to something! You're mother would want you to do the same.



JOSEPH

Why are you talking about mom?  
What do you mean?

STANLY

Come here.

JOSEPH puts the name tag back on and comes behind the counter.

STANLY

I talked to your mother, on the phone. She's ready to cut you out.

JOSEPH

She told you to talk to me?

STANLY

She's done paying for everything  
I'm all you've got left.

JOSEPH

So, really you're asking for me to work here?

STANLY

Yes.

JOSEPH

I mean... I guess.

STANLY

You guess! I ought to Sma-  
A young couple interrupts at the counter. The girl puts a box of condoms on the counter.

STANLY

(At the boy)  
You two having a good night?

BOY  
Yes, Sir.

STANLY picks up the box of condoms and look at the kids.

STANLY  
I.D.?

The boy pulls out his wallet and begins to show ID. They all begin to chuckle at his stoned nature.

STANLY  
I'm just joking with you kid. Get out of here.

The boy's cheeks begin to blush as his girlfriend pulls him out of the store.

STANLY  
Thank you, come again! (to Joseph)  
You guess! You start today.

JOSEPH  
What!

JOSEPH looks at the clock and it is already 9:00 PM

JOSEPH  
Oh shoot! I just remembered I got to get home and practice.

JOSEPH begins to pack up his things. He puts the name tag on the counter.

STANLY  
Hey!

JOSEPH

(Leaving)

Thank you so much for the pick me  
up!

STANLY

Joseph!

JOSEPH runs out the store. STANLY opens his  
office door. He looks at a picture of JOSEPH'S  
father and him posing outside a general store. He  
looks at the Bass that Joseph left, back at the  
picture.

STANLY

(Chuckles)

He'll be back.

INT. JOSEPH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

JOSEPH is seen cleaning the whole apartment. He  
stops and stares at the stand where the bass  
usually stands.

JOSEPH

(Frantic)

I did not. No, no, no, come on.  
Dammit.

SIRI

I don't understand.

JOSEPH

Oh, shut it!

JOSEPH grabs his shoes and runs out of the  
apartment.

INT. WALGREENS- NIGHT

JOSEPH slumps into the store out of breath and puts the "Sarah" nametag on. Stanly watches him with a grin. JOSEPH walks up to the register and looks behind him at STANLY.

JOSEPH  
Thank you.

THE END