

**TAPE # LY 44**  
**Ling Young**  
**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**  
**PROJECT REBIRTH**

01.01.21 PICTURE UP ON SUBJECT

01.01.21 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) Rained like, 361 days. It was raining

JW: You were on a cruise ship?

LING YOUNG: Yeah, but when you get in the port, it was pouring. Of course, I don't remember having that kind of problem.

JW: I remember buying a raincoat.

01.01.46 LING YOUNG: Yeah, but the last time in '98, yeah, but I didn't have any problem. (~JW~) But this time, it's like, it was raining. It was cold. Let's say this way. It was okay. We still enjoyed it.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: How are you doing?

01.06.04 LING YOUNG: Well, this year, not a great year, okay. I told you last year my father is very sick. (?) And my mother has a little dementia. That doesn't help. Okay, she's imagining things. She's making up things. And she's just go a little crazy. When she's go crazy, she's out of it.

01.06.29 Uh, the day before, first of all, a month before my father die, he went in the hospital. He has a lot of complications. So when I went in the hospital, I had asked the nurse to try to help him. You know, because after surgery, you cannot go. So they were trying to help him out, but it must be very painful. So he was really cursing the heck out of me. So he almost start saying that he's not (~JW~)

JW: Why?

01.07.00 LING YOUNG: I'm the one who asked for the procedure. Because he was so miserable. After surgery, you know, you have to go. If you don't, it just like, clock up there. And (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.07.37 LING YOUNG: Just gotten to a point that he was really, I guess he's not himself. He was really cursing me out. How could I do this to him? I'm his daughter. How could you be so cruel, and you want to kill me. It was on and on and on. So it got to a point is, I cannot really sit there because I might just upset him.

01.07.57 Just by seeing my face sometime, I upset him. That's how my whole life. 'Cos I'm the oldest. I get the blunt. So for the last, for the following month, I really did not go see him that much because I'm afraid, I don't want to trigger off his emotion. Unfortunately, one day, I decided, you know what, I'm just gonna have to do what I have to do. So I use my cousin as an excuse. He came from Florida. I went to visit him. But the same day, my mother was going berserk.

01.08.28 She was yelling at my father, screaming and (carrying?) right in front of his face. It's just like, she didn't care what was going on. She just wanted to get it out of her system. And he was (very embarrassed?). And that same night, he coughed up blood, went to the hospital. But he had been so many times. No one call us, so he left lonely. And now, China tradition,

when you die, if nobody's around you, that's not good. Okay, so technically, not one immediate family was there when he die.

01.09.01 Almost. My mother left about 8 o'clock. He died at 9 o'clock. But supposedly very fast. That's what I was told. At that time, I was having a party for Marge, my home health aide. I have to cancel that. But I want everything be done quick. And since I'm the only one that could read Chinese, I got to do everything. So he die on a Monday. We bury him on Monday.

01.09.32 Now Chinese (?) funeral normally takes about two weeks, sometime. Because of his sickness, of the dialysis, it change color on him. So I want to be done as quick as possible. 'Cos they, I don't want him to look like kicked-up, when you know, when you lay down. Lay him out. So this whole week it's just back and forth. Then you got to buy clothes for him. You got to buy this for him. And there's so many things the Chinese tradition do.

01.10.00 I have to take care of that. By time I'm done, I think I almost passed out. Because everybody's trying to help, but they really don't know how to help. Like, I would have to put the obituary. I have to do what, 'cos I have to do read and make sure the name is right and all this other thing. That took a big toll on me. Okay. Not because no one is helping. Just couldn't help. My mother's lost. Neither my brother could read or write, so I got that done.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: You lost your dad.

01.12.03 LING YOUNG: Yeah, that was hard. That was very hard because, because he was a perfect man. No problem. When (?) Ritchie got married he was looking great. And just say, within three months, he had aneurysm. Then next thing you know, they found out his whole arteries are clogged.

01.12.28 Then he has, he lost three-quarter of his kidney function. So he suffer about a year and a half. And just watching him like this, it hurts because it's no life. Because you really talking

about is three days dialysis. The day he comes back, he look like he's in real bad shape. And then he feels a little bit better. But that day when he feels better, my mother's driving him crazy.

01.13.00 And I just see him wasting away. I couldn't do too much for him. And his wounds are always open, 'cos they had these big thing on his arm when they put the dialysis in. But that was disgusting. He went through that. He was doing okay. But then finally kind of like, towards the end, he kind of gave up. 'Cos you know, when my mother's driving you crazy, there was not one peaceful day.

01.13.31 So he didn't want to do it anymore. So he is the hospital couple time. For an infection or some kind of failure in his vein. So he had quite a few surgery after that, too. So if you ever look at the picture when he, when Ritchie's wedding compared to picture afterward, it was an overnight, he aged 20 years. That's how my father is. So I guess that day, the day before he died, I think he's embarrassed, my father's kind of man that's like, very proud of himself.

01.14.11 And the, my cousins, actually my aunt, she, he actually despise her. For my mother to say that in front of them, it must've killed him. So the same night, he coughed, he coughed blood. He went in the hospital. It wasn't a big deal because it's happened before.

01.14.32 So no one call us. So by the time we find out, it was too late. So we kind of all felt guilty about it. Then of course, right after that, I got to go through all this other thing

JW: How are you doing with the guilt now?

01.14.53 LING YOUNG: Once in awhile, it still comes up. But then you say to yourself, well, things happens, okay. You can't control when a person's gonna die and, but I do feel guilty because I didn't see him for a month. The only reason I didn't see him, because I'm afraid if he sees me, he act up. And I don't want to cause him any pain. So that was kind of killing me. But every time when he sees me, he start acting up. Like, that I was gonna kill him.

01.15.30   That I, I don't know why I have to do it. But as you know, you have surgery, you don't go, your whole life is, your whole system is shut down.

JW:   What do you mean?

01.15.48   LING YOUNG:  You know, like, if you don't go to the bathroom, (~JW~) your whole system almost shut down.  Especially with him.  His veins are all clogged.  Clogged to a point that when they did a little, when his leg was all clogged, they actually had to put a metal in to clean it out.

01.16.03   That's how bad his veins are clogged.  Don't forget, he was, he started smoking when he was very, very young.  Like, a chain smoker.  Plus he drinks.  So everything just went in one shot.  Also, I guess taking care of my mother took (?) a big burden on him.  And he just went downhill.

JW:   You described him as a?

01.16.27   LING YOUNG:  He's a very strong and very healthy man.  That you would never even think that things would happen to him.  He never had any problem.  It's not, I mean, he coughed because of his smoking.  But he never had any problem whatsoever.  He never, he was never really sick.  I don't think he even had a cold.  But boom.  Just knock him out.  Almost like as overnight.  Richard got married in August.  I think by, before December, he was already completely different.

01.16.59   So it took him about a year and a half to suffer.  And going through three days dialysis is not the greatest thing on earth.  Plus then you have blood clot.  Plus then you have put a put a stent on your leg.  It just, you name it, he has it.  And I think when he die, it might be just a stroke.  I'm glad he went fast.  That's one thing I'm glad about.  That he didn't have to be hooked up with ten million different tubes and everything.  And then stay for a month or two.  Of course, my mother's driving my crazy now because she wasn't there.

- 01.17.30 She was there that night. But none of us knew about it. And my brother said, let's go home because I have to pick up, he has to pick up my niece. The minute she got home, maybe half an hour later, they called that he die. So we all got up, we all went to the hospital. I mean, you know, he was peaceful. He didn't look like, in pain, so (PAUSE) that helps a little bit. It's not like when you see a person die like, they look like a mess.
- 01.18.02 He looked very peaceful. So that's why I wanted to be done within a week. I want him to look at least like himself. 'Cos I know when the Chinese funeral, when they do a body, by time you're ready, you don't know who the heck it is. That's how bad they do certain things. So I told the guy, I kind of know the guy, my cousin knows the guy very well. I said, do me a favor. Don't put too much makeup.
- 01.18.30 The least as possible. At least he looks real. So when I saw him, he looks good. (PAUSE) Except the last day, he start turning black. 'Cos of the way he is. 'Cos he did warn me, he said, he's gonna turn color. But when the first day we saw him, he looks great. He looked just him sleeping.
- 01.19.01 So we kind of (?) I think, but unfortunately after a couple days, these things start expanding out. So he was very uncomfortable. But we fix it up and everything. So everything went out well. Unfortunately, my mother believes in this fortune teller. And I know she's lying. Telling her all kinds of story that my father's not home. My father's having an affair. So she's in the la-la land.
- 01.19.29 Matter of fact, she came with me this morning. And she's very weak now 'cos she's in last days of her chemo. Actually no, they won't give her chemo anymore. 'Cos the tumor's not even, it start growing. It's not shrinking anymore. So I don't know how long I'm gonna have her either. So, but it take the thing from her. I mean, out of nowhere, she could go crazy. And she just, just like, she gets (wired in two?). Unfortunately. We took her over last week.

JW: She was with you this morning?

01.20.01 LING YOUNG: Yeah. She came, 'cos my brother dropped me off. (~JW~) And they were gonna go to Chinatown 'cos she has a sister going to Chinatown. And after that, she insists with me to go to a fortune teller with her. (~JW~) Which I will do for her, okay.

JW: What's that like?

01.20.15 LING YOUNG: Oh god. They come up, they bring up the death. They start talking to you. I mean, I heard one on the tape. If you hear the tape, you know the lady's lying. I mean, they cry. I mean, 'cos when you're talking to her, that means you that you could be talking to your father, who was dead. Or you could be talking to my grandmother, who's dead.

01.20.36 And they were crying and they were, they both were like, you thought they were gonna die. And that's how they get her. And she keep on telling him, telling my mother that he's not home. And he's flying in some other place. And he's very unhappy.

JW: In the afterlife?

LING YOUNG: Yes. And that, so she's going crazy, okay. And (~JW~)

JW: She was going crazy with that when he was alive, right?

01.21.05 LING YOUNG: That he, because she think that he's having an affair with next door neighbor. It's all in her mind. How the lady's sneaking through the door. I mean, they sleep in the same bed, okay, 'cos they couldn't go up and down anymore. They were sleeping in the living room. So she keep on telling her all these thing. So one day, I kind of make a phone call, assuming I'm a friend of my mother. Actually a friend of my, of us.

01.21.30 I said that, first of all, the beginning, she said, she was very nice 'cos she thought I was giving her business. And when I started talking to her, I said, you know what? Have you been seeing a lady, you know, that's coming to you and asking you about advices about, you know, about her husband's death? She say, yeah. I say, I want to let you know, she's not all

well. She's very, very sick. I think that you should stop doing it. And she got real nasty and hung up on me. 'Cos she knew now, right now.

01.21.59 So today, if I'm gonna go, I'm gonna see what the hell's, what she's doing. Because I want to give her peace of my mind after she's gone. Because if she keeps it up, I will report her. That's how I'm gonna do it. Because I don't know you remember, couple, either a month or two months ago, they caught a lot of them in Flushing. Or Elmhurst. They all fake. They all hang around the Chinatown park, Columbus Park. For a couple hour, they tell you what's going on. I mean, I said to my mother, it's not that you shouldn't believe it.

01.22.31 But you can't believe everything. Especially when you go in, you kind of give her a little bit of what you're doing. And they know what, you feed them into the thing. And they use it and they tell you what's going on. And so now my father's still very unhappy. And my father now is going all over, go all over the world, going back to China, going back to here, going back to there. The only thing he did not go is to have dim sum. So we're supposed to do so something about that.

01.22.58 I can't even describe to you what my mother is thinking.

JW: It's hard enough in this world.

01.23.04 LING YOUNG: Yes, exactly. And now she's thinking about what my father's doing afterward, that he's not behaving. I'm like, okay. But you can't even answer, either, 'cos once you answer her, it's the wrong way, she gonna go crazy. She snap and then that's never-ending. And with her tradition, she wouldn't have come live with me. She has to live with my brother. Which is okay. My brother's ten minutes away. So what I've been doing is like, every day, I take her out a little bit here and there.

01.23.30 Like yesterday, 'cos she's bored, so I said let's go to Philadelphia, just have dinner. It was a long hour trip. But you know what? It keeps her away from trouble. So I took her out. And today, we gonna take her out to Chinatown. That's the reason why my brother drove me.

And Donald's home doing the yard. So today, afterward, I think I might have to go to the fortune teller with her. Which I don't mind going today, 'cos I want to see what the hell she's doing. I really want to know where she's coming from.

01.24.00 Okay. If I have a chance, I will warn her if she keeps it up, I will do something about it. That's what I'm gonna tell her. But let's see how it goes.

JW: What's the tradition about being with someone when they die?

01.24.28 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) In China tradition, let's say your father, your mother or anybody, any elderly person die. You want your family to be around you. That means that you are sending him away, sending him to heaven with everybody surrounding you. My father died alone. That's like, a big burden on all of us. So that's why my mother's still complaining that if my brother didn't have to rush home to pick up my niece, at least she was there when (?) he's gone.

01.24.59 That's the whole purpose of it. Like, my father in law, I don't ever tell you story. My father-in-law was dying. My mother-in-law died first. Okay, we were all there. My father, it was the first vacation ever in my whole life, since I known Donald. I went for a couple days to stay with my girlfriend in Atlantic City. I was there one night. I got called back 'cos she was dying. We came all the way back. She waited for us, then she die. My father-in-law, we got a call from the hospital about 1 o'clock in the afternoon that he was going.

01.25.32 We ran over there. All my kid ran over there. We couldn't find Richard. Do you know that he waited and waited. Finally, I even went to the school look for Richard, because he was down in the basement, tin the library. He couldn't get my signal. The minute he found it, he rush over. He flew over to the hospital. That was like, 10 o'clock at night. In the meantime, his face was facing the wall. 'Cos he saw all of us already. He was waiting for Richard.

01.25.58 The minute Richard walked in and call him Grandpa, he turns around, open his eye. He close it. That was it. He just waited for Richard to come. If you didn't see it, you would not

believe it. And the nurse keep on saying, why he's not going. He's almost like, dead. But he just refused to close his eyes. I mean, like refused to just go. The minute Richard call him, say hello, he turns around, was gone within a couple minute. And I guess it's like, subconsciously, you're not ready to leave.

01.26.30 And Richard is kind of his favorite. So it's like, wow. I mean, I hear story from other people. I don't believe it until I see it. When I saw my father-in-law, I said, yes, that's what happened. So he did complain. My father did complain that no one's around him. Quote, unquote. I don't know how true it is. The lady who's been telling my mother. Which is true. No one was there. But I did ask the nurse.

01.26.59 She said that he was just about to get up to go to the bathroom and just, boom, it just killed off, just like that. So he probably had a heart attack. But he went fast. 'Cos he was suffering. He was really, really suffering. It was like, what's life? You get up in the morning. You're in pain. You go to, you go four or five hours dialysis. You come back. You can't even move. You have a fever. Next day, you feel a little bit better. Then the following day you're going back again. So it's like, he couldn't really eat.

01.27.29 He couldn't do anything anymore. Of course, he still smokes, which he's not supposed to. But he's like, almost 80 years old. You stop a man almost 80 years old to stop what he's doing for almost like, 60 some-odd years. So we kind of like, let it go. But (~JW~)

JW: You started to say, you wake up every morning and you to (~ovlp~)

01.27.56 LING YOUNG: You go to therapy. (~JW~) No, not therapy. You go to dialysis like, three, four hours. You're there almost a whole day. You get home. You lay in bed like you're almost dead. Then you feel a little bit better next day. Then now you have your wife complaining and complaining, complaining all day long. Then next day you go back again. That's really no life. Even my mother's life, it's no life. She used to stay home by herself. And she's, all day long, she does have no hobby. That's the bad part. At least my father

reads the newspaper, watch TV a little bit. My mother has no hobby whatsoever. So all she does is think.

- 01.28.31 When you're thinking and you go into deep thinking, you start going crazy. She would actually wait at the window, watching next door coming and go outside and start screaming. So lucky they don't understand it. 'Cos if they ever catch up with her, she'd be in jail. Or she'd be in a mental institute. That's the biggest problem. That's (?) what his life is. It's no life whatsoever.
- 01.29.00 So Saturday and Sunday, one day or so, my brother would take him to Chinatown. But he's so frail. He could hardly walk. Now if you look at the picture, like, between a year and then, let's say, six month, compared to what he was six months later, you'd be shocked by what he looked like. And one thing funny about it is when Julia got married, he was in the hospital with a fever, infection, you name it, he had. But he had the will, he was gonna go to the wedding.
- 01.29.30 Because he want to show that he was there at the wedding. So I asked the doctor, is there any way you could sign him out for a couple hours? I promise to get him back. I figured I'd just let him show up and leave. Do you know that somehow he got his infection out. He was (?) able to let someone touch him. He wouldn't let anybody touch him. They got the infection out. They got the fever down. He went to the wedding. He sat there for the whole wedding.
- 01.29.58 That was like, a miracle. Make me feel great. 'Cos I know that was something he was to do. 'Cos I went back to doctor. I said, is there any way you could just sign him out? He said, I can't take that responsibility. Which I don't blame him. You know, if you sign him out, if something happen, what happen the family turns around and sue them? But somehow, my other brother works in the hospital. So they did the infection, his fever's gone. They were able to release him.

01.30.27 And he was at the wedding. I figure it was one hour or so, so I say, you know what, I tell my other brother, I say, if we couldn't stay an hour, once he get introduction done, because you're supposed to introduce your parents and grandparents, then just take him home, 'cos I don't think he can handle it. He have to sat there, throughout the whole wedding. That's how much he was determined. That was in October. And of course, back and forth again with his problem.

01.31.00 I know he's not happy. And he's just frustrated. Because he's in pain. And then dealing with my mother is another issue. I guess his last year was just, I guess it was miserable, okay. He did say that if I turned 80, I don't care what happen, I'm not doing it anymore.

01.31.28 But he didn't have a chance to go through that. At the same time, my (~JW~)

JW: How old was he?

01.31.36 LING YOUNG: He's 79. The bad part is my father-in-law die at 79, my mother-in-law die at 79. My father die at 79. Almost before their birthday. So weird. None of them made it to 80. My father only miss it by a month. So everybody miss it by a couple months. So kind of weird.

01.31.58 Why not 78, why not 80? But got to be 79. It's like a weird number in my family. I don't know what it is. So then at the same time, I want to see my godfather. My godfather's 97 years old. He also in dialysis, but he's not going through the machine. He's just taking pills. I said, I got to go see him, I got to go see him, I got to go see him. But then my father, something happen to my father. We're not, tradition, we're not allowed to go to somebody's house. (~JW~) Yeah.

01.32.31 Immediate family is not allowed to go visit anybody within the first 30 days. You cannot do that.

JW: So once your (~JW~)

- 01.32.39 LING YOUNG: My father pass away, for next 30 day, I'm allowed to visit anybody. So I didn't go. Then when, actually, almost a month, I miss him by one day, he die the day before.
- 01.33.03 My godfather. So it's like, oh, why couldn't you just wait one day, you know what I'm saying? 'Cos after that 30, what happen, we have a dinner after 30 days. After that dinner, then I can start going anywhere I want. And now my godfather is (?) Catholic, so am I, like, we don't believe in that kind of thing. But there are other people believe in it, so I don't want to make a big deal out of it.
- 01.33.28 So I didn't go see him. So my father's 30 day was up in, I forgot what day was it. And he die the day before. (?) No, take it back. He die a couple days before. So I can't even go to his funeral. So I got upset about that.
- JW: You were close to him?
- 01.33.50 LING YOUNG: Oh yeah. I was, I know him since I was 11. He baptized me in 1959. Actually, no, it was my godmother with my, did my baptism. So you talk about what, 40 some odd years? So we were very close, okay. And no matter what I do, I'm very important to him. So I didn't get to see him. But at least I did went to see him a couple times before that. And I said, I'm gonna go, I'm gonna go, I'm gonna go. But I didn't have a chance, 'cos everything's going on. By time I'm ready to go, he's dead.
- 0134.29 So that didn't hit me too well. Then, 'cos it's only one day difference. If it was a week, I could live a little longer, but one day, you know what I'm saying? 'Cos his funeral was Saturday. But Saturday was my dinner. So I couldn't do that. And the funeral was early in the morning, so it wasn't like it was afternoon. At least I could still do it, 'cos I would have had the dinner already. Or lunch, whatever you want to call it. So that was that. That was all in April.

01.35.02 And then my surgery's in February. I have a plastic joint here. Plastic joint here. It didn't do a damn thing. (LAUGHS) But I expected it. He say he want to try it. It is a little bit better. At least now I'm like, straight. Before it was like, crooked to a point, I can't do too much. When he said he was gonna put the plastic joint, I knew kind of like, say to myself, I probably have it for a year or two. At least I could, you know, have my hand back for one year or two. I don't expect it to be long-term.

04.35.34 But unfortunately, my scar is so bad, it really didn't do anything. I mean, he tried his best. It's not his fault. But I'm so scarred up that it just (shrinks?) right back. So.

JW: How does that work?

01.35.47 LING YOUNG: What happen is he put a plastic joint here. The plastic joint should be like a little triangle. Little triangle. So the plastic supposed to help me bend back. It really didn't do too much. It was doing okay when they had physical therapy. They about bend me almost like, 45 degree or so. But once you stop, this is it. So it doesn't really do anything.

01.36.09 So he had a joint here and joint here. But 'cos of my scarring, it's not doing anything.

JW: Your hope was what?

01.36.17 LING YOUNG: At least moving it a little bit. But it didn't do anything. It made it straighter, though. I would say. At least I could grab something like this. Okay, before it was like, crooked. You really can't get into it. So it's better than nothing, you know what I'm saying. I can't ask for too much.

01.36.33 He did open all the spaces here for me. 'Cos before it's so close, you can't even do anything. So he did open the space. He's a great doctor. And he try his best. But I knew that in my mind, I figured out, I got nothing to lose. I'll try it. Because it's not a major operation.

01.36.59 It is a major, but in my part, he's not taking any skin. If it's skin graft, I would never do it. 'Cos I can't take skin graft anymore.

JW: Why?

01.37.08 LING YOUNG: 'Cos no matter what I do, my skin graft does not take. That's my biggest problem. That's why the doctor don't know what to do with me. They have never seen a case like me. I mean, you could have all kinds of burn, all kind of problem. Mine just don't take. Just like this hand is about 12 times. You name it, I have.

01.37.28 Everything that works for anybody else, does not work for me. That's how come my doctor from burn, from the burn unit is so frustrated. He has seen so many cases. He had done so many. He even had the thing called Integra. It worked for everybody. But it won't work on me. Something's rejecting.

JW: What do you think it is?

01.37.49 LING YOUNG: I think it's infection. Because what happened, mine is a thermal burn. Thermal burn is very different from the normal burns, I understand. Thermal burn is baked in. So there, that's the reason why when I have my arm right here with infection, it was so bad that every time I take a shower, it smell.

01.38.08 I couldn't understand why. The infection was underneath in between so many layers. Then start popping out little bit at a time. It got into a point it was so bad that I in the doctor's office like, four time within ten days. Every time when it does it, you could be like, a little tiny little thing. I could wet a whole 4 x 4. This is how much, a 4 x 4 is like, a little sterilized pad.

01.38.33 It could be a little, what, like, half the size of a dime, a quarter the size of a dime. That little spot, I could wet the whole 4 x 4. That's how much junk is in there. It was like, inside within I don't know how many layers of skin. So he was actually operating on me about two inches

wide. Maybe like, inches thick. I have a big fat hole in there. And it takes about two months to heal.

01.38.56 Before that heal, something else happen. It gotten to a point, it was so many times, he decided forget it. We're gonna go in and take the whole thing out. That's what he did. And since then, I haven't had too much problem. Because it's really smell after you take a shower. I'm saying like, why am I smelling so bad? It's like rotten food. I know I cleaned it very well. It's no reason to be smelling. It's from underneath. Then everything start coming up. And that's why he decide to take this whole thing out.

JW: What happened on 9/11 to cause that condition?

01.39.37 LING YOUNG: Yeah, what happened was, what he said was, everyone had, you are, there are many layers of skin within yourself. Okay. When I got burned, there must be a lot of chemical or whatever, foreign substances inside my body. And when I got to Cornell, I remember I was the first batch there.

01.39.59 So they cleaned me up. And then they graft me. But not realizing the things are deep inside of me, which you don't know until later (?) afterward. So that thing's been staying there waiting to come out, to bust out. And that's why after years, it start coming towards the surface. But it's not right in front of the surface. It be like, little bit at a time, it comes up and it start creeping up into the top. It will start out with like, a little pain. Then you touch it. Oh wow, it hurts.

01.41.31 Then the next thing you now, it turns black. When it turns black, you know something's not right. Once you turn black, you can't move. You just like, stiff. That's why, my hand could be like, stiff like this for the lousy little tiny spot, I will not be able to move my hand. Then next day, you gonna start seeing, you touch it, instead of being hot, it's hollow. That's the time to come out. And when it come out, it's like a water fountain, okay. That one I could do myself, 'cos it's tiny.

01.41.05 'Cos I'm so used to doing all my wound care. But once it get to like, about two inches wide, you can't do that anymore. So I would be doing it on an outpatient basis at the doctor's office. He would have to take the whole thing out. By time he's done, I have a big hole. All right, that's done. Couple days later, I have another one. So it was so many time, I think I have about eight of them at his office. So he decided, this is it.

01.41.30 Take this whole thing out. He grafted me. Of course, the graft didn't take too well either. But it's still better than what I used to have. 'Cos what he did was, I have this whole piece right here. He kind of cut it and just pushed the skin together. So therefore, I'm a lot better right here. And after that, he did a lot other of the same kind of procedure. Because my scars are about a quarter inch thick. And had a lot of cleavage in it.

01.41.59 And it's, and I can't clean it. So he did all that, too. Infection-wise, I think I'm pretty good so far. Until something else happen. 'Cos you never know what's gonna happen. But this major problem, I took care already.

JW: How many surgeries have you had this year?

01.42.19 LING YOUNG: This year, I didn't have much. This year, I only had one. Because I have, my major one is last year. I don't know how many I have last year. Tons of them. My major one was.

01.42.33 Actually this one is a major one, too. They put two joints on me. But, except they didn't give me any skin graft. And also I insisted to have my cast off after couple days. See, no doctor understand why I insist. My (?) skin is, if you put a cast on me after a couple days, it will rot. You have to air out. So finally, he's accepting my (?) point. So he's, surgery always normally Thursday and Friday. That's how he does surgery.

01.43.08 I count my days. By Monday and Tuesday I'm in his office, he likes it or not. He has to take this whole thing out. I said, I know you don't like it. Okay, but if you don't take it out, you're wasting your time 'cos my grafts gonna die. And it's gonna be all rotten. So the last couple

surgery, he does it my way. I said, I know you're (?) the doctor. I know you know best. But I also know my own skin.

01.43.32 So since then, I'm having a little better chance. So five days, I'm taking this thing out. Then you can put it back on. I just have to air out that little moment. Like a half an hour or so. Just air it out, let him clean it up. Then we wrap me, or re-cast me again. Then I'm okay. If you wait for ten days, forget it. It would never work. So.

JW: That surgery took place when?

01.44.01 LING YOUNG: This surgery took place February 9. I think you taped it. (~JW~) Yeah, yeah. Yeah.

JW: And your father died when?

01.44.10 LING YOUNG: April. But after surgery, I have very bad (?) problem. My whole leg across here, I was in severe pain. I can't get off the bed. I cannot get off bed. I literally have to almost crawl out. That have such severe pain. He has no clue what it is. So Marge and I kind of think about it.

01.44.29 It's just, it's so evenly strapped out, it could be from the strap I was in when I was in surgery. Yeah. I know, it's weird. But it's like, evenly strapped. Almost like the size of the strap right across. It's exactly the same spot right here. Then my back is shot completely. I cannot get up. So they couldn't figure out what it is. Okay, fine. So that kind of gone away a little bit after a couple months. But then this part, it won't go away. This one little spot won't go away.

01.45.00 So he gave me a cortisone shot. That makes it worse, 'cos he gave me like, 15 shots. Or more. He gave me a couple of the Novocain. Those needles are big. (LAUGHS) (?) I'm in pain already. By the time he finish putting me the cortisone shot, I said, I'm still in pain. I

walk in there, I walking, I'm like, limping. That didn't help. So as time goes by, it helps a little bit.

01.45.29 But then I can't walk as much as I wanted to anymore. If I stand up, I got to sit down. That's why I'm back on my cane. Thank god I'm not back on my wheelchair. Once in awhile I can walk a little bit longer than usual. Once in awhile, I cannot walk period. So that's kind of weird. Or I could be sleeping. Next day, next morning, I cannot get up. My whole back is shot. I literally cannot get up. So.

JW: What's the day like for you?

01.45.58 LING YOUNG: Oh man, it was really, you can't get up, it's like, wow. What's gonna be to me? I literally have to like, slowly have to almost move myself up and try to crawl out. That's not good. Okay. Because all this thing happening, also dealing with my mother's not easy because you don't know when she gonna go crazy. You can say one thing, she will just like, just zoom. It just explodes. So we're very careful when we're saying.

01.46.29 I'm trying to take her out as much as possible. I mean, if you look at her now, she look, she's almost look gone. That's how bad it is.

JW: So sometimes you can't walk and you're on a cane now?

LING YOUNG: (?) .

JW: How do you feel about that?

01.46.56 LING YOUNG: Kind of backward. Just like, everybody say, well, Ling take one step forward, it takes two step back. I'm used to this thing. I'm not very unhappy about it. I'm not crazy about it, 'cos now you (?) and now you can walk around with your cane. But I'm not afraid of using it. It's not like I'm, ashamed of using it. But I want to, at least I'm

comfortable. If I walk a little bit, I can't handle, I say, wait, you guys just have to wait. So I will sit on the cane.

01.47.26 All I need is like, a minute or two, just to sit down. 'Cos if not, if I stand now, I still got the itch, okay. And just like when I take blood. I try to explain to the nurse, you cannot put the, what's the thing that you call it. I don't remember, the rubber band. (?) So you cannot put that on me until you get everything laid out to the point is, when you're ready, all you do is find my vein and stick it in. Sometime they get insulted. I say, you don't understand. When you don't do it that way, when you wrap me up, my blood goes down.

01.47.59 It turns black. And then it completely numb. And it will be so itchy, I could kill somebody. That's how itchy it is. Some nurse understands it. Which is great. Some nurse will say, oh, no problem. If they so, so good, they don't need to put the rubber band on me. But that's how I am still so active. Matter of fact, like Dr. (Bauer?) said, I cannot understand why after five year, you still very active.

01.48.29 Because if you put a pin near here, my blood will squirt out. My vein is all on the top.

JW: What does that mean?

01.48.37 LING YOUNG: Means that I'm not mature at all. My skins are not mature. So all the veins, all the blood vessels right here. So (?) if you put a needle hole in there, the blood will completely come out. It's not like just little dot. It just shoots out.

01.48.58 According to him, 'cos all my blood vessels still on the top. That's why I'm still so red. Even my leg. Every where's still so red. Everybody's color's already gone. But my color is still very red.

JW: Will you continue the surgery?

01.49.14   LING YOUNG: I'm having another surgery in beginning of December. 'Cos my eyes is (pulling?). So he's gonna do a little bit to release right here. I have a couple more. Hopefully that's it. I told him that I don't want to do too much. My hand is done.

01.49.28   I'm accepting my (?). You know what I'm saying? My face, I don't want to do it unless I have to. But because my eye is (pulling?), it will get worse. So I might as well do it before it gets really, really bad. I'm not looking to look good. I'm looking to make sure that if I want to talk to you this way, about two minute, I'm done with you. 'Cos it will be so painful that it's (pulling?) that I cannot move.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

01.50.00   END OF TAPE

**TAPE # LY 45**  
**Ling Young**  
**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**  
**PROJECT REBIRTH**

02.01.07   PICTURE UP

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW:   What about your left hand, no more surgery?

02.02.05   LING YOUNG: No. I won't do it anymore. That was my last straw. Because I have accepted (?) the way I am. Okay, I did it for, I did it for one reason. I said, maybe I do have a chance to get a more function out of it. I even talk to the doctor. I said if it works out, fine, if it doesn't work out, I'm not blaming anybody. 'Cos I know the way I scar.

- 02.02.30 So when it came out, when I was in the operating room, he's like, he get 90 degree. Yeah, but when I'm like, knocked out, you could do anything you want. Okay. I have six months of painful physical therapy. It gotten to a point is, it doesn't work. So I did talk to him. I said, well, this is it. Okay? We have to accept the fact this the way it's gonna be. He said, yeah, I know. It's your scar tissue. I said, I understand that. I'm not blaming you. At least you gave me m my space. At least you made these look straighter. It won't be like, at least I could maybe be more functional.
- 02.03.04 I'm happy what it is. I can't ask for more, okay. I'm still very frustrated when I can't do something. But you know what, I learn to accept it, okay. I say to myself all the time, I could be worse. I could be like, lost my finger. The reason why I never, I didn't lose any of my fingers is because I was not burned. I was just cook.
- 02.03.27 People who got burned had lost their fingers. I mean, totally lost, 'cos they burned it off. 'Cos the cartilage is very, very soft. You lose it. I know people who lost their ears. I know people who lost their nose. So it's like, I'm at least I'm in one piece. And if you really don't know that my hand's not moving, you really don't know about it. Okay, so I accepted the fact. I told him, I'm accepting the way as is. It will get worse, but you know what, I worry when time comes.
- 02.03.58 I'm not having anymore, I am not having any more surgery on this hand. 'Cos arthritis is gonna kill this hand soon. But you know what, people have worse condition than I am. And the, the thing that really make me turn around is the burn conference. The (?) society burn conference. I went to one of them about 2002 or three. That turned my attitude completely different. 'Cos I, before this I never know what burn is all about.
- 02.04.28 But if you see some of the patient who's been burned and you have to say to yourself, I'm very, very lucky. I mean, you can be so disfigured that you don't even know that was yourself. So since then, I look at myself at a very different attitude. I can say to myself, I could be worse. I could be like one of the other lady who has no more fingers. No ears. Or

the face completely distorted. Because at that time, when I went, that was when the Maryland nightclub got burned, some of the patient were there.

- 02.05.04 I mean, they look, they were like, really disfigured. And they were happy. They were like, just like normal people. I mean, you see people with no leg, no arm. They were just as happy. So I said, what am I complaining? I mean, I have other problem of my own. But if you look at them compared to yourself, you just have to say to yourself, thank god I'm in one piece.
- 02.05.27 So my life, actually my life changed completely. I don't, before 9/11, I worry about a lot of things. Now, I take one day at a time. I don't go crazy as much. And if I do, of course, when I go a little crazy because everything just built up on me, uh, I have a few attack when things happen. It just, boom, it just happens. (~JW~) I mean, this couple weeks, it's not good for me, of course.
- 02.05.58 One of the worst was when was when the London airplane, they were gonna bomb the airplane, that's the first thing Donald said to me. Don't watch TV today. Well, you can't say that to me. When you tell me not to watch TV, then you want to see what's going on. So okay, I didn't watch TV. But all you do is turn the internet on, bloom, everything's right there. I really didn't read the story. I didn't really go into detail. I didn't do too much about it. I tried not to think about it. I guess subconsciously it's in your mind.
- 02.06.28 So we had a meeting that day, because I told you we have a meeting every Wednesday with the (?) 9/11 survivor. We kind of discuss a little bit about it. It didn't do too much now. Then two days later, I'm sitting down doing just, just doing my little paperwork, preparing for the, making sure the reservation is right for the trip. All of a sudden I'm sweating. I said, okay. I know I went through my menopause already. But it happened many times ago, when I get attack.
- 02.07.02 I said, okay. Doesn't sound too good. Next thing I'm shaking. I said, all right. This is not menopause, okay. So I went and took one of my pill. Well, it didn't do anything. I'm also

gonna take half. One didn't do anything. So that was it. You can't be taken these. I said, shut up. Don't bother me. 'Cos I'm really getting like, my heart start pumping. My heart's about to jump out of my body. I took two.

02.07.29 Okay, fine. I have to take two. I'm tiny little bit better, but I'm still very, about to bust. So I said, (?) start calling people who were in my group. No one was home. I said, oh god, no one's home. Now Donald saying, I don't understand. What seems to be the problem? I said, Donald's saying, you never gonna understand 'cos you're not there. You're not gonna understand what I'm going through. I don't care how much a family member supports you. Unless you're there, you don't know (?). Just leave me alone.

02.08.00 So I finally call Bob The Fireman. We call him Bob The Fireman. I said, how are you doing? Not good, he said. I'm (?) doubling my medication. Now next thing you know, I'm start crying. Not just crying, crying. Just like, zoom, just like a river. I'm over there talking to him. Not, not for long. Then after that, I'm continue doing it. Then I said, this is it. This is crazy. I should not be feeling like this.

02.08.29 I call my doctor up. My psychiatrist. Actually he was on the way to (?) Louisiana. No, actually he's in Louisiana. The day he was flying to Louisiana, that's the day when the thing happen. He didn't know it was going on. He was at the airport. His wife call him up and says, do you know what's going on? He said, no, what's going on? He said, well, this is the, this is what happened in London. And she said, the minute you get there, I want you to call me.

02.08.57 So, but he was also with the Homeland Security. He was the trauma some, head of trauma. He's into everything. I couldn't help it. I think it was like, I don't know, 10 o'clock, whatever it is. I said, I don't care. I'm gonna call him up. 'Cos I'm going crazy. So I call him up. He call me right back. When I, 'cos I don't call him at all. If I call him, I must be desperate. 'Cos one time I wanted to call him, I even explained to him, I really wanted to call you. But I didn't want to disturb you. He said, well, next time, you just call.

- 02.09.30 So when that day come, I just decided I couldn't handle it. So I call him up. And (?) I explained to him what happened. He just tells me, well, it's gonna happen a lot more often. Okay. Just try to calm down, try to distract yourself. Do something else. And try not to think about it. I said, but I'm not thinking about it. I'm not even thinking. Okay, my mind is completely blank. It just happen. He said he understand. But he said, just try and relax.
- 02.10.01 And do something else just to distract you. And of course, he tell me, it will happen more often. But just try to learn how to deal with it. But I guess because I talked to him, I felt a little bit better. And I guess the pill kicked out. And he said, what do you take? I said, well, I took two pills. He said, you could be sleeping for the next four days. I said, well, unfortunately, if I'm lucky, I sleep for half a day. I don't. Because we don't sleep.
- 02.10.30 But with my pills I take, another patient took half of it and he was knocked out for the whole day. But I'm so immune to every single medicine, nothing works on me. So I was awake. It (?) didn't hit me. I didn't fall asleep. So I was laughing. Next time I saw him, I said, you know I took two. It didn't do a thing for me. And he was like, I guess nothing works for you, right? I said, no, nothing really works for me. So, uh, but I felt a little bit bad afterward. But then still, everyday, you have different things.
- 02.11.01 Your mind just pops up something. And (~JW~)
- JW: You're really sensitive to your body?
- LING YOUNG: Yeah.
- JW: Can you tell me about that?
- (OFF CAMERA REMARKS)
- 02.11.26 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) all of a sudden just sweat. Completely just out of control. Like you just came out of a bath. Then next thing, my heart is stop pumping, okay.

Since 9/11, my heart beat's always irregular. That's why every time I go for a surgery, I got to get a medical clearance. 'Cos my EKG's always something wrong. Not wrong. It's always like, abnormal. Matter of fact, just had my physical checkup, they wanted to call me back. But they won't tell me over the phone. So I don't know what that's gonna be. I just have a, have a, another test. That's not normal. So everything's not normal with me lately.

02.11.59 So I'm going, that's why my whole calendar's booked for this couple weeks, just for doctor's appointment. That also I feel like, like I said, my heart beats is going crazy. (?) shaking. It happened before, but not as bad as this time. Then I took a pill. One pill about 20 minute. Doesn't work. I said, well, I'm taking another pill. And Donald say, no you can't. I said, just leave me alone. I don't care what it is. I'm taking two pills. So after two pill, when I talked to Bob, it still didn't work.

02.12.29 And that's why I decided to call my psychologist. Because nothing seemed to calm me down. And none of my kids are home. That makes it worse. So there, that's why Melissa's gonna stay home with me tomorrow, okay. And thank god the boss understand, 'cos she really had no time. Because she's a, I guess she's a good worker. And they understand. So she stay home with me tomorrow. It just happen.

02.12.59 Just like, there's another thing, funny thing about it. 'Cos it's, everything's just within these couple month. I went for my physical checkup. What happened? I walk into the nurse's office. There's a 8x10 right in front of my face and the 8x10 right next to it on the other table. (?) That was my partner when I was working, he die. And that didn't do any good for me. Okay. It just (~JW~)

JW: What do you mean, your partner?

02.13.26 LING YOUNG: I work for Revenue (Crime?) before, okay. When we go out, we had a cigarette sting. Means that we went out to stores and make sure that they are selling cigarette with the stamp on. That mean they pay tax. So they're not bootlegger cigarettes. I went out with him. He's investigator. He's like a police officer. I'm the auditor side. So we went

together. We were in Harlem, matter of fact. We were in Harlem. That was his territory. And it's funny 'cos I work with him a lot, but I never went with him alone. So we were like, whole day together.

02.13.59 We were (at?) 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Broadway. We're gonna go to lunch. And we didn't like the waiter. We came out of the store. Next thing you know, we got three cop cars shooting from different corner. Jumped out of the car, on top of the police car. And holding the gun, telling the guy, freeze and don't move. Here I am, ducked into the thing because I don't want (?) to be killed. It was like, on the corner. I turned around, I lost him. And (?) I'm completely nervous. I said, where did he go? He come back. He said, I said, where did you go? He said, I went to see what's going on. I said, you out of your mind? All (?) the cop, the guns are pulled out on top of the thing and you don't know how dangerous this other guy was?

02.14.43 Somehow I think this guy ran over a kid or something like that. And they were like, the cop cars are from all over directions are kind of like corner him. But they all jumped up on top of the cop car and, with the guns out. And he went there. And I never forget the story.

02.15.02 But he was always a funny guy. I mean, he was always good. And so we were pretty close, okay. Then when I went there, I looked at his picture. Then I saw another picture. And I kind of lost it. So I found out, I said, who is he? I mean, who, why is his picture here? That happened to be his girlfriend's office. I said, that's all I need to see. Okay.

JW: The picture was a partner who died in the WTC?

02.15.30 LING YOUNG: Yes. That was his picture right there. Right smack in front of my face when I walk into the office. And then I turn around, it's right in front of my face. It's a 8x10.

JW: Same guy?

LING YOUNG: Same pictures. (~JW~) That didn't hit me very well. Okay.

JW: Explain that again.

- 02.15.51 LING YOUNG: What happen is a lot of time things just happen to you, to trick you off. When I saw his picture, it just brought back so much memory. And it just lost it right there on the spot. And I didn't see her, okay. I understand that she went through a lot of hell during those first couple months when he die. He is the kind of guy that spend most of his life after work to set up a (?) basketball scholarship so the kid would not be running around Harlem doing nothing.
- 02.16.26 He would sponsor this whole thing. Almost, I think he almost put his whole salary into it. Sponsor the whole basketball teams. And from there, there were scholarship to go to school. So he's trying to get those kid from the street, just to put them in good use. And that's his whole life. Unfortunately, when he die, he didn't get anything out of it, because he was still married. I think. I cannot quote him on that. But they haven't been together for years.
- 02.16.56 So I guess this is his girlfriend. And just when I saw the picture, it brought back so much memory about (?) him. 'Cos he was a crazy guy. He used to make us laugh. He was someone that just nut in the office. And because the experience I have with him that day, you know, I said, I'm going to Harlem. I said, is it okay, you know? Like, he said, hey, you with me. You know, it's my kind of people. Don't worry about it. It's 'cos like, every corner you see, it's like, hi, Clyde, how you doing? I said, oh, I guess it is your territory. I wasn't afraid, okay, but just like, when you hear the word Harlem, (and then you're gonna say?) oh my god, what is it? Now it's just so changed. You would not even believe what it used to be look like.
- 02.17.38 So that was an experience with me maybe because I was ducking down under the car. Here he is, going in the front line, see what's going on. That's the kind of guy he is. He was. And uh, because he, the reason why I think he die, he was a fire warden. He would have make sure everybody's out of the building. He probably was helping somebody else. If he miss it by one minute, you're it.

02.18.02 I don't remember they find him or not, but the picture just remind me of so many thing that happen to me when I was with him working. So that didn't do too well. Just like when I was, couple years ago (~JW~)

JW: What happened when you walked in the office that day?

02.18.20 LING YOUNG: I just went a little nutty. I came out. I was just, I lost it. But I didn't want to start making a scene. So I kind of sat down. I didn't say too much. I asked little questions about how she's doing, things like that. And then I went back second time around, she's not there again. And I'm going back again next week. Hopefully that I can see her. I guess give me a little comfort if I see her, give her a hug or something like that. So I'm hoping she's working Monday. Or Friday next week. Because that's when I'm gonna be in, at the medical office.

JW: Why would that give you comfort?

02.19.00 LING YOUNG: I guess it's like, I know what she went through, okay. She probably doesn't know what kind, how he is with other people. How (?) he connect with us. 'Cos I don't think we, I don't think many of us know her. That was the thing. So I don't think she even talked to anybody about him. Because I don't remember she join any of our functions. So if I, just like someone call me up, like, my (ex-boss?) who died, when they, the sister called me up from California to find out what happened to her.

02.19.35 I did explain to her exactly what happened that day. She was alive. She was going down the stairs. So to her, because she knew exactly where she was, and she probably died real quick, it gave her a lot of comfort. So I think maybe if I talk to her and give her what kind of person he is to us, maybe make her feel a little better.

02.19.57 And that's the reason I'm doing it. Not to be to show that I know him, whatever. Maybe I could just tell him what a wonderful person he is and how we miss him. Maybe that would give him a little comfort. 'Cos I don't think she know us at all. And that's the only reason

why I want to talk to her. Not to bring up any memory or anything like that. Just to say how kind of good memory we have with each other. And that's something that I think I wanted to do.

JW: Do you often want to do that?

LING YOUNG: Yeah, I do. I do. Like (~JW~)

JW: Why?

02.20.31 LING YOUNG: It's just like a feeling that you want to do it. It's also like, maybe it's for my own sake, too. Because I saw his picture. And at that time, I wasn't working with him anymore, actually. I left the place about a year before this happen. But we see (each other in the hall?), we still talk. And we still like, making jokes. Like I say, he's a very funny guy. And he's the type of guy that nothing bothers him, okay.

02.21.02 He spend all his time doing this scholarship, basketball scholarship. I think his father took over. But he's an older man, it's not as easy. But he has all the energy in the world. I mean, he would be like, seven days a week doing this. And which is a very good cause, what he's doing. So uh, after he die, I don't know. I don't know that anybody took over. I know his father took over, but it's not the same thing. It's not a young kid that's have all the energy. He ahs all the energy in the world.

02.21.33 And maybe I will talk to her about that, too. Maybe I could even contribute or something. I don't know. Okay, I want to do something to help her. If she is still involved in that kind of thing.

JW: Why does that help you?

02.21.50 LING YOUNG: Make me feel good. Make me feel like I have done something. Also make me feel that maybe I could help her ease her pain. I'm only thinking. It might not do

anything. You know what I'm saying, it might not do anything at all. But it, it's just going through my mind. I just hope that I don't make it worse. So that's why I'm like, waiting as should I, shouldn't I, should I, shouldn't I? But I guess until, I don't know until I actually see her face, okay. When I see her, things might completely change. You know, you could plan everything you want to do, but at that moment, things just go some other way.

02.22.29 Okay, that's been on my mind every time I'm going to (?) the medical office, it's in my mind. It's the first thing I ask is, I think her name's Melvin, Marvin or something like that. So every time the minute I first, I get in, I say, is she in? And no, she's not in. I said, oh well. Second time around. This is the third time. So if I don't see her the three or four time, I said, maybe it's not meant for me to meet her. But I don't know what I want to do. And this is all in my mind. I'm thinking about all these things.

JW: Do you believe in meant to be?

02.23.05 LING YOUNG: Yeah If it happen, it happen. It doesn't happen, doesn't happen. That's how I see it. If it happens that we were meant to be together to talk about it. If it's not meant to be, that means that something's telling me that we should not be together and we should not meet. Because like, twice in a row already, and she happened to be off that day. I went different times, too.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.23.58 BREAK IN VIDEO

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.26.18 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) When I first came to the United States, I was in Hell's Kitchen. Remember that, 48<sup>th</sup> Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenue? Now it's completely different. I mean, down at 48<sup>th</sup> Street. Now they are turned into condos and co-ops and stuff like that. Used to be like, pretty bad.

02.26.34 I mean, you'd be sleeping and somebody's like, in the back yard trying to steal your pants. That was pretty, you know, different. But yeah, basically very pretty, but you did want to, you need more than one day. You can't just do it in one day. I just gave them a taste of it instead of, everything's like, (?) rush. (~JW~) But this time when I come back, I'm like, like half-dead.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: My grief over my mother's death is what prompted me to do this project.

02.28.23 LING YOUNG: That's exactly, a lot of time that's how I feel, too. I said, when my father die, we went through a year and a half with his sickness. And we get sadder, sadder every day, when you see him getting worse and worse. At same time, my mother, there's nothing we can do anymore because it's actually gotten to a point that she cannot even take chemo. Her tumor just grow and grow and grow. Matter of fact, we were even trying to think about doing a procedure which is only in China so far. It's hypertension, oh, I can't even remember that, the, the name. It's a special thing that's gonna be, like, a machine that actually hits right at the tumor itself. It shrinks it.

02.29.03 And my brother was gonna take a chance of doing it. 'Cos since we have nothing, we can't do anything anyway. It's not that it's gonna give her so much more life. Maybe give her a little bit more of a livelihood, okay. I actually emailed the, the company. I still haven't heard from them yet. And I even called China to talk to the people. And she knew that I sent the email. But so far, I have not heard anything. So far, they're only offering it in Shanghai, and Beijing in certain hospital.

02.29.32 Donald has a cousin whose in-laws is one of the top doctor in Shanghai. He actually was in United States. He went back to Shanghai. So I'm trying to get some kind of information on it. Uh, I might try it. If that one works out. Unless it costs me a million dollar, then we can think about something else. I don't think it will be that expensive because it's in China.

02.29.56   It's been a week already and when I call to China, they did tell me that they got my email and some doctor will call me back. I mean, write me back or something like that. I have not heard anything from them yet. So I'm gonna give them another couple of days. I will call again. Just to get the feel of it. It just like, you know what, if there's a chance, I'll take it. Unless my mother cannot fly. It's almost a 20-hour flight.

02.30.29   You know, but we're gonna try it. If that, is this is what we can do. 'Cos there's nothing else we can do anymore. And she's just disappearing day by day, okay. And mainly the one makes decision is me and my younger brother. The older one is very, too involved, 'cos he works in a hospital. He's too involved, I think, with my mother, and my father's sickness, I think, drove him over the edge. He's so nervous. He's so protective.

02.31.00   And he think that if there's a liver transfer, they're gonna give it to my mother. Not understanding, she never make it out of the table because she has so much complications. So, but if this machine could just burn or shrink the tumor for a time so she won't be in such pain, I think we're gonna take that chance. That's provided we will have the chance to do it. Because she's already spread out to her liver and everything else. I'm not so sure they will be able to do it. But if they shrunk her tumor, she might be more comfortable.

02.31.31   'Cos the tumor is actually blocking a lot of things. 'Cos she has colon cancer. So we're thinking of all kinds of thing. Then my brother also said that he might, he think that there might be one or two hospital in the United States are testing it. So we really gonna look into that to see. Not that it's gonna be doing anything, but at least I could say to myself, I try, okay. When she's not with (~JW~)

JW: Is that because of your father?

02.32.09   LING YOUNG: Yeah. It's like, if we could have done a little bit more for my father, see, I don't know too much about medical things. Like, I'm dealing with my own thing. I'm running back and forth. I don't really have time to really like, try to deal with it. In the

beginning, I was dealing with the bills. Finally, I gave it up. I said, I cannot handle all these thing. You know how insurance paper is. It's crazy. It's like, she would go to Sloan.

02.32.31 Portion of the bill is doctor. The other portion is hospital. If this one doesn't work out, they mix it. And they crisscross. I'm like, I'm going crazy. I said, I cannot handle it. So I kind of put it in a file. I said, I gave it to my brother. Here, you take it. I can't function. It's just no way I could try to follow up on it. I don't (?) have the energy to say, I call A, A tells me to call B, B tells me to call C. And next thing, I'm calling back A.

02.32.59 I would spend a whole day on the phone for one lousy bill. And I still don't know what I'm doing. Because my mind is not functioning the way I used to. I can't get the things together. So I finally gave it to him. He took care of that. That was like, about two and a half years ago. I just couldn't handle it. It was just too much for me to handle. I guess I'm trying to do whatever I can.

02.33.28 I mean, once in awhile, my mother just drive me real, you know, just drive me completely insane. I would just say, okay, I'm not gonna discuss with you anymore, 'cos I'm wasting my time. I will hang up on her. I feel bad, but because she's getting me that uptight to a point that I'm gonna have a nervous breakdown if I continue listening to her nonsense. 'Cos she's just talking about nonsense. She has no idea what she's talking about. She don't, I don't think she even had any clue what she's talking about.

02.33.57 You could say something to her right now. Two minutes later, just like me, I would say, what did I just say? I'm going through that. 'Cos I will be saying something and I would say, Marge, what was I talking about? I don't remember what I just said two second ago. And that's been like that for years already. So I'm trying to concentrate to see if maybe, because Marge is only working two days a week now. So I'm just kind of stuck. But thank god Donald's home now. Because I do faint once in awhile. And I don't know when I'm gonna faint.

02.34.31 And that's my biggest problem. I have no idea when. I could just, boop, like that. They don't know why (~JW~)

JW: You could do that right now?

02.34.39 LING YOUNG: I could just do it like that right now. Without even knowing it. So I have to have somebody home all the time. So that's the reason why I had five days before. Not because I need somebody right there on the spot. You just don't know when I'm gonna be knocked out. If I'm knocked out, who knows what's gonna happen. That's my biggest problem.

02.34.59 And not too long ago have I a head concussion. I fell. Okay. And when I fell, I hit my cheek. When I hit my cheek, there was like, two knives went right through my head. I mean, like, sharp knife went right through. Oh, that pain was so severe. They checked me out. Nothing was wrong. They can't find anything. No matter what they try to test me, they don't find anything. Until later, two years later, then everything start happening. That's the weird part about me.

JW: When did you start fainting?

02.35.33 LING YOUNG: Oh, it's been like this for years. Since day one. It's just how often it happens. See (~JW~)

JW: Is it happening more regularly?

02.35.41 LING YOUNG: No. It happen maybe a couple times a year. But you don't know when. I also have vertigo because of this, too. But I know how to take care of the vertigo now because in the beginning, I didn't know what to do. I would get up. I would fall right out of bed. And the whole world just spins. Okay.

02.35.59 At that time, it was right from the beginning, I went to Kessler and this physical therapist actually knew what to do with it. So she taught me how to move, if I have that kind of problem. So once I know that I'm coming up with it, I will know how to take care of it. So I wouldn't get to the stage that I would actually have the vertigos. That lasted me for like, a year or so. It happened to me once or twice. Maybe a couple more, couple times after that. But I knew, but I know what was going through.

02.36.30 So I stopped what I'm doing. I will not just fall off the bed and completely going crazy. But I do have my dizzy spell. I do have my fainting spell. But you don't know what, it just happen just like that. Without no, any reason (~JW~)

JW: No explanation?

02.36.45 LING YOUNG: Nope. Nothing wrong with my brain. I don't know what happened. I mean, I have CAT scan. You have, I had, when I had my face, I fell on my face, they gave me a CAT scan. They get a, get another another, I don't know what else they did. They didn't show any sign whatsoever.

02.37.06 No blood clot or whatever it is. But that lasted me for awhile. But that's even before I have the, all this dizzy spell anyway. That just made it worse. And that's the only reason why I have a home health aide. Not because whatever. Of course, she does a lot more thing for me. Just in case I faint at that moment and no one's home, hey, you gonna find me dead home.

02.37.32 That's the only thing. That's the only reason why workman's coming at me, fighting me on the home health aide. Because of that reason. And so far, no one can explain it. Let's say this way. Anything happen to me, no one can explain it anyway. It's just (LAUGHS), I just go through a lot of tests. But everything will come back negative. And they cannot explain why it's causing all this problem. Just like my skin. They cannot explain why am I still so active?

JW: And your weight?

02.38.03 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) I'm (?) losing way too much. I know I have steroid before. But why am I losing like, 30 pounds in like, three months? They still cannot, 'cos I can't eat. I will be like, get up in the morning. I might have a cup of coffee. I could be all day without anything. Just like that. It's just like out of, after the second, last surgery, everything start happening.

02.38.29 I can't eat. I'm in pain. I'm more edgy than ever. And next thing you know, I say, gee, my pants are kind of loose. Now, you don't weigh yourself all the time. I said, wow, I lost a couple pounds. That's great, you know. Next thing you know, I'm constantly losing, constantly losing. So I figured out on the cruise, I ate a little bit. Oh, I must've gained a couple pound. Came back. Not an ounce. And I was eating pretty regular, too. I had breakfast, lunch and dinner.

02.39.00 You feel that you gain a couple pound. I know my brother gained ten pounds. I did not gain one ounce. And I'm still losing. So I'm like, okay. I'm eating a little bit. Not like two months ago. I don't eat at all. But it's, no one, they can't explain why I'm losing. So now they took the liver test 'cos of all the medicine I'm taking. Maybe something has affected. I'm going for my, I got a liver sonogram back. The bone density. You name it, all the tests that a human body could take, I'm taking. So far.

02.39.36 I haven't gotten the result back yet, because the doctor said he need to see me. I said, that's wonderful. I have a (mamograph?) done. He wanted to see me, too. I said, that's wonderful. They don't tell you over the phone. Every test I've taken so far, they want to talk to me. But I don't know what it is yet, 'cos my appointment is not until 18.

JW: Are you nervous?

02.39.59 LING YOUNG: Am I nervous? Yes and no. 'Cos the way I see it, if it happen, it happens. I'm saying it. When time comes, I don't know. (LAUGHS) You know what I'm saying? Because when I came home, we had bad news. Donald's good friend, very good buddy, very healthy. I mean, like you never think that anything would happen to him. I didn't know he

was a chain smoker, but still. He has stomach cancer already spread all over him. And into the lymph node.

02.40.27 I'm like, you got to you know, you got to be kidding. This is a person like, the healthiest person you could ever think. He might be a little overweight. I mean, but not very overweight. Had a little tummy. But all of a sudden just like that, overnight, he's like, that means he's almost gone. He can't even take chemo anymore. He gotten to a point that it's on the lymph node. Spread all over his body. Into the liver. Into everything. So I kind of called him up because I heard about this test, this hypotension or whatever it is in China.

02.41.00 I kind of talked to him. He said, well, I talked to the wife. 'Cos now he is on a strict diet. Some kind of a diet that he has to go to bed at 9 o'clock. I think that's almost like an herbal thing now, not any traditional medicine. So I heard about this hypotension uh, tumor reducing thing. She said, well, you know what, do you have religion? I said, yes, I do. I said, what do you mean? She go, well, the way we feel is, we very happy. We're gonna be spending as time that we can.

02.41.31 And we live day by day. And when God want us, he want us. I said, well, that's nice to talk that way. I said, I'm not too sure when it comes to my turn, I will say, well, let God take care of me. I don't think I would be that great of a Christian in that respect. Because if you tell me I'm dying, I'm like, okay, what am I gonna do next? But she's just like, I guess she's very good. She's calm.

02.41.58 She says she's happy. And they're not thinking too much about it. They just taking this routine herbal whatever medicine they doing. Because there's not much they can do. So you could talk about a couple weeks, a couple month, who knows? 'Cos he's almost like, gone almost.

INTERVIEWER: Has your attitude about death changed since 9/11?

LING YOUNG: You mean before and after?

INTERVIEWER: Did you get more religious about 9/11?

02.42.41 LING YOUNG: No, I was always Catholic. I wasn't a good Catholic, that's about it. Okay, I'm always Catholic. It's just that I don't go to church every single week, okay. (LAUGHS) Shouldn't say that. My daughter became Catholic. Okay, actually before 9/11.

02.43.03 Do I think about religion a little bit more often? No. About, little bit more but not as much. I should be.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think about God?

02.43.12 LING YOUNG: Yeah, you do think about it, okay. So a lot of time I say, God put me back on this earth to do, for a reason. See, if I wasn't around, typically what it is, is a couple of years, I think that place would be a mess. First of all, I got everybody's money. That's number one. They don't know who's who. If I died that day, they gonna be in total mess. That's why afterward I gave everything back.

02.43.33 I said, I'm not handling it. First of all, I don't have the energy to handle it. Okay, I don't really don't want to mess up the account. I don't want to do anything. So I gave it back to everybody. I say, you guys are doing it on your own 'cos I can't handle all this accounts. I used to be more upset about things that, if something bothers me, I could not sleep for days. Now it comes in, it fades out. I don't really think about it until it hits me in my face, that moment. Then I might blow up.

02.44.02 Other than that, I said, if I can't change it, this is the way it's gonna be. Just like if I have problem with my in-laws, my two daughter-in-laws, I don't say anything. The only, if I would say something, no, slightly different, I would say something, but indirectly. Now I just keep my mouth shut because to me, it's not worth it. 'Cos I see my mother go through what she went through.

02.44.31 I said to myself, I would never be my mother. 'Cos she likes to know a lot of things. And she wants to be like, a little in control. I am a control freak. There's no doubt about it. That's what my daughter tells me. But I don't tell you how I feel. I will be complain to other people, So-and-So's not, not doing what they're supposed to. They're not respecting me the way they supposed to be. But I would never say in front of your face. 'Cos to me, it doesn't help. If I say something, let's say, to Richard's wife, what am I gaining? I'm gaining an enemy.

02.45.03 So first of all, I'm not married to her or married to my other son's wife. That's their problem. See, the old me would take it into my problem. Would eat me up. I might not say anything, but would eat me up. Now it doesn't bother me. 'Cos I don't think as much as I used to be. My mind is kind of blank. Unless it hit me right there on the spot, I got to do it. I got to deal with it.

INTERVIEWER: Is that because your mind really is more blank?

02.45.30 LING YOUNG: Oh, it's really blank. I don't have anything in my head. That's the reason why I don't understand why that day I freaked out. 'Cos I wasn't thinking about it. I wasn't even reading about it. I wasn't doing anything that's related to it. I was just playing around with the uh, with the reservation. It just, boom, it just hit me.

INTERVIEWER: Planes?

02.45.49 LING YOUNG: No. It was just like, well, maybe I was doing the plane tickets. But it wasn't, I wasn't thinking, though. I was just figuring out, oh my god, is this the right reservation number? I just making sure they're matching the name, the seat numbers are correct. Now that's a major job to me.

02.46.04 That's like a big job compared to what I don't do anymore. And it just, boom, it hits me. Just like out of nowhere. I don't know whether I was doing the plane or I was doing the excursion.

I don't remember what I was doing. It just gotten to a point, I got to stop right that moment 'cos I was so edgy. I couldn't even handle it anymore. I just, I lost it.

INTERVIEWER: Did you consider canceling the trip?

02.46.28 LING YOUNG: Oh, I knocked myself out. (LAUGHS) I don't take my sleeping pill until I get to the plane.

INTERVIEWER: Did you think of not taking the trip?

02.46.36 LING YOUNG: Oh yeah. We thought about it, definitely. Matter of fact, one of them chickened out on me. Okay.

INTERVIEWER: You thought of it or they did?

02.46.45 LING YOUNG: Well, actually at the beginning, all the way from the beginning, we didn't think that he was gonna make it anyway. Okay, that's the (fire marshal?). But I did it anyway. Okay. Yeah, we thought about it because Alison, which is (?) mother, said, Ling, what do you think? I said, I don't know.

02.47.02 I mean, there's 24 of us, you know. It's not there's just one of us. Everybody paid big buck to go there. So I said, I don't know. I said, what do you think? I said, well, I don't know. So it's just like, back and forth. But if we cancel, man, we all gonna lose a lot of money. You're talking about the cruise, uh, the, the airline tickets. You're talking about big bucks. So they, Alison and I said the same thing, said, you know what, if it happens, it's gonna happen.

02.47.30 Because the same thing happens my girlfriend from one of the 9/11, she went to Puerto Rico to help her father, 'cos her father fell down. Not to really help 'cos she really can't do too much herself, but she got to be supportive, mentally supportive there. She got up. The TV was on. Then the mother just shut it off. She said, Mom, what's going on? Said, nothing, nothing, nothing. That's the day she's coming home. And she turned it on and said, oh my

god, that's the day she's coming home. Within one day, the rest of all the London people, they're gonna blow up the plane.

- 02.48.02 She said, okay. Now she has to come home 'cos she been gone like, three weeks. And her husband's home, but they both were burned. So she said, God, if anything happen, just let me go real quick. Like, she don't want to be like, hanging like she used to be, like, with the burns on. It's like, if it happen, just let me go quick. That's how she feels. And we were all worried about her. Everybody's calling each other see how she's doing, with Eddie. I was afraid that Eddie's gonna freaked out.
- 02.48.30 And finally she's home. Then once she's home, Eddie sends her email, Grace is home, thank you. Everything's okay. And we just kind of like, something just lift off our shoulder. We feel like, wow, you know, like, relief. 'Cos she didn't get home till like, 2, 3 o'clock in the afternoon. There was a lot of, you know how you bring your foundation, 'cos she didn't know about it. They stop all the liquid product. Then she was saying, they saw liquid foundation, she say, you not gonna take that away from me, right?
- 02.48.59 So they kind of like, put it in the luggage. So she came home, but she got stuck like, two, three hours at the airport. As usual. And that was the same day that my psychiatrist was going to Louisiana. So, so kind of a little bit, I guess maybe everything like, everything that I care for happened to be at that position that day, I guess. And then thing happen afterward. And I guess everything just built up in me and maybe that's how I explode. I don't know why. But we were thinking about not going. But then Alison and I, we're the main one that talking about it.
- 02.49.32 I said, gee, if we're not going, Alison, you're gonna lose big bucks. 'Cos she was taking her family with her. I said, and I'm taking my family. I said, wow. That's big money (LAUGHS) we're talking about. But that's something I had thought about it since right after I came home. I thought about it, to get this group together to kind of like a get-together. Like a reunion of all the people, which it would be like, Jim (Devery?), the fire marshal.

02.50.03 Mary Jos. I kind of added my doctor and my nurse at the end, okay. My doctor actually had left Cornell. That's why I was able to do it with him. If he was still working at Cornell, I couldn't do that.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

02.50.19 END OF TAPE # LY 45

## **TAPE # LY 46**

**Ling Young**

**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**

**PROJECT REBIRTH**

03.01.07 PICTURE UP

03.01.08 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) (?) permission slip, because what happened is, I turn down the other lady. Okay, I gave him interview. Then I thought about it, I said, I'm still on workmen's comp, I'm on disability. Quote, unquote, all they have to know to do, say I went to Alaska. That might kill my whole case and I would have come out with nothing.

03.01.27 But your thing doesn't come out till 10 year. By then, let's pray to God my case is closed. (~JW~) Okay. That's the reason why I had the interview and Richard said, are you crazy? I said, you're not even done. What happen they decide to use it against you? You lose everything you, you work for. I said, you know what, you're right. So I kind of feel bad that I didn't give it to the girl. But then I also said, you know what, if I'm doing this project with you, I don't want this thing to expose all over the place anyway. So I kind of like said sorry, I can't do it. So I, so Richard kind of knows that we do not give permission, nor my family give any permission for you to use this in any of your articles.

03.02.07    So I guess she got upset. But you can't have it both way. (~JW~) I don't want to lose everything either, okay. That would kill me. That's where my income coming from. So (~JW~)

JW:    You've said you didn't know when you were going to take a vacation.

03.02.33    LING YOUNG:  Yeah, that's true. But I did it. I was forced to go to Texas. I told you about that.

JW:    Tell me about the evolution of going to Alaska.

03.02.47    LING YOUNG:  It was in my mind all the time. That I want to thank them. I want to take them. I want to do something for them, for all those people that put me together. Got to remember when I first came home, I was a mess. Okay, a total, completely mess.

03.03.04    It wasn't with this particular group, I don't think I would be where I am today, okay. like, Dr. Bauer has been a godsend. He is the kind of guy that's very dedicated to his work. He was so frustrated with me that one time, I want to get rid of him to a point because he was so unhappy with me. Only because he was so mad 'cos I messed up my hand with another doctor.

03.03.28    So he really got mad at me and then he was like, kind of cold. So I got really upset 'cos I'm kind of attached to him. So I even went to the director saying that I want to change my doctor. And then at the end, I felt so miserable that I was gonna change. So I finally sat him down. I talked him. I said, you know what, I said, you've been pretty cold to me. I don't understand what I did wrong. Said, well, because I'm very frustrated. And uh, and then you went over and get somebody else do your hand. What did they do?

03.04.01    And didn't they, like that. (?) It was, I'm like, wow, you used that kind of word. And he was right. He was 100 percent right. This was a special doctor and special orthopedic and everything. But he really messed it up. He fused my finger without telling me. I was thinking

about suing that guy, but then I said, what am I gonna gain out of it? Headache? I'm not looking for the money. I'm looking to say that, you know what, you should take some responsibility, because he make me go through the point I lost my nerve.

- 03.04.33 Because he didn't listen to me. He refused to listen to me, what's wrong with me. And also because he doesn't know me. When I complain about pain, that means I am in pain. I don't complain. He ignore me completely until the point I lost my nerve. And that's why I was kind of mad. And then he was very mad at me because now here you are, you go away from me. Go to the specialist, guess what happen? Nothing else happen. Made it worse. So he was kind of mad at me.
- 03.05.00 So we had a one-to-one talk. After that, it was over. Back to normal. Unfortunately, he left Cornell last year. So therefore, I could build a relationship with him because he's not my doctor in, per se anymore. And that's why I took him. I (?) asked him to go. I also asked one of the nurse to go. It was a fun group. I felt safe. Well, first of all, let's go back to like, I planned it. I started planning this thing. I said, we got to do this together.
- 03.05.30 And Alison said that, you know what, her son-in-law's been talking about an Alaska cruise for many, many years. I said, why don't we try to think about doing it. But this been going on since right from get-go. I was thinking about it. I never just do it. I never really like, started the planning until like, sometime last year. And everything started it. Of course, I have an agent doing it, 'cos I couldn't do all this work. There's no way I could do all this paperwork.
- 03.05.59 'Cos all you do is tell them the name and he does everything. And at the end, he just give you a booklet and you're done. If I have to do it myself, I would never, I never pull this off. I did the plane tickets, though. Okay, so, but try to put everything together, put people in the same room, and then because you're not in the same room, somebody came in afterward and they won't change your reservation. You have to stick someone else in another room. It just is crazy. And so I decided, I said, why don't we go to Vancouver for couple days, 'cos I was at the cruise before.

- 03.06.33 I said, maybe you could see Vancouver a couple days. And then we go on a cruise, because this way, you relax a little bit and then go on a cruise and then relax. Like I said, this been going around in my mind for many, many years. I finally put it into action sometime last year. I think sometime in May, I think. I'm not too sure. You got to book the cruise very early, if you're talking about big room. Otherwise, you never get the good room.
- 03.07.00 So we're working with, I was working with Alison, 'cos she has her family. I got my family. And I brought Marge into it. I brought my, Dr. Bauer and Maryanne into it. and Mary Jos. I think you saw the group picture, right? Yeah. That's what I said, I (?) had to ask for permission. And everybody had a ball. Unfortunately, Dr. Bauer went back with a big stomachache. I don't know, he must've caught something in the, at the airplane or whatever, or somewhere. So he's still very sick at home.
- 03.07.29 Poor guy. Talk about plane. I was forced to take the plane in 2004. Because in Chinese tradition, since I'm from the boy's side, I'm supposed to meet the girl's parent. I was dreading that plane ride. So what do I do? Knock myself out. So (LAUGHS) I don't wake up until I get to the airport, get on the floor. And make sure I take my pill the minute I get on the plane.
- 03.07.59 'Cos you're like, you know, you're like, a little shaky. So I got, once I got off, I'm okay. 'Cos I'm not in there anymore. So I did that in August of 2004. Then I had to go back again, 'cos he has two weddings. Last year, in October. So that wasn't too bad 'cos I went with Mary and his cousins. There was a whole bunch of people. Wasn't just me and Donald and Junior.
- 03.08.29 So I did okay with that. Like I said, the only time I didn't like it when I went down to Florida, I was awake and, with the skidding, well. My heart just went off, okay. So I was okay. So I say, you know what, I did it twice. Maybe let me just try it. But it's a five hour. Five hour, over five hour going. So I said to Mary, what do you think, you know, 'cos she hasn't, she been a little bit, but she hasn't really done too much, either. I said, what do you think?

- 03.08.56 So we talk about it. I said, you know what, we're gonna be all together. I said, I have my burn doctor. I got my nurse. I have my home health aide. I got my family. I said, if anything happen, they got to take care of me. (LAUGHS) So it's like, if I have an infection, he's right there. I have a nurse who's taking care of me. I said, it couldn't be that bad, right? That's why I did it. And it turned out to be okay. You know, but at the plane, I'm knocked out, as usual. That's how we go, that's the only way we gonna go on a plane is to, not to take the pill. Don't go to sleep.
- 03.09.27 The minute you getting on a plane, you put your sleeping pill, double the dosage. Knock yourself out. By the time you get there, you're almost half there already. So we did it. And the cruise was a lot of crowd. You get a (?) little cramped up. But since we had such a great group, I didn't, I kind of like, I didn't see anybody around me except, except them. If you asked me what's in the back, I wouldn't, I would not be able to tell you who was in the back of me. That's how much, that's how I phase people out. Technically, I don't see my surrounding anymore. I don't.
- 03.10.00 It's kind of funny, but I don't. Like, you could have like, 100 people around me. If I'm only focused on my group, this is all I see. I do not see my surrounding, which is not good, because if somebody come and trying to kill me, I wouldn't know the difference. So I was just with my group, that was it. We had fun. Like I said, we went on a helicopter ride. It was like, it was a little, it was raining. So it was a little like, okay, I'm up there, okay.
- 03.10.30 And I didn't have my pill. It was all right. It was a little scary, but I handled it (a little bit?) pretty good. And then we went whale watching. That was bad. It was like, raining, pouring. So I said, okay, I stay outside a little bit. But then I couldn't take it. I came back. Then we went, then went a little shopping. 'Cos only stay in three port. That was the only thing. The three, like, the first three days, sailing.
- 03.10.59 You don't do anything except stay on the ship. And then the last day's also sailing, so technically you're seven day was only three day you really out in a port. And the funny thing

Uh, found out was, when I went in '98, when I went, it's beautiful days. And I found out, Alaska has a rainy season. They said, actually the week we went was one of the better days. It was pouring. Okay. But we had fun. And we could do anything we want during the day, but nighttime, we said, we're staying for dinner together.

03.11.30 During the day, everyone could do whatever they want. But nighttime, we're together. So, and I asked for permission to put our table together. So that was a great thing. So all 18 of us were together. Except Alison's family, because it was too many. There were seven of them. So they had a separate, but we were right next to each other. So my family, my brother, Dr. Bauer, Maryanne and Marge and her husband, everybody's all one table.

03.12.01 And Melissa brought her friend, too. And that's the one that took all the beautiful picture. She took really nice pictures. And she's crazy. So she's (?) very fun. So we had a nice group. Even my nephew is laughing. Which is like, very rare. My (?) little nephew. You can never get him, he was smiling through the whole trip, which was so rare. 'Cos he also had fun. So make me feel good. And I'm so glad that I pulled it off. That's another thing. It was like, wow. I did something, I did something major.

03.12.33 It did make me feel really, really good. That I could actually be with the people that actually helped me throughout this whole ordeal. That's why it make me feel good. And I'm still like, very content, what I did. And everybody had a ball. That's the main thing. And every (~JW~)

JW: Were you worried they wouldn't?

03.12.57 LING YOUNG: If they wasn't, I don't think I would take the cruise. It's not a cruise that I would want to do again anyway. We did it one time, I think it's enough. Actually. But I know people like, people talk about it a lot. So I say, you know what, that might be a great cruise 'cos it's kind of relaxing. It's not like you're jumping from like, a Caribbean cruise. Let's, say, like you're jumping from island to island. This is just three day at sea. You see the glacier. And you get off the port. You do a little bit of thing. And just calm. Not like, rushing to a beach and trying to do all kinds of water sport.

JW: What did you see and experience?

03.13.3 LING YOUNG: Well, you really can't smell too much or hear too much, 'cos it's pouring. (LAUGHS) Everybody really excited about the whale watching, okay, because you know, once you see all, everybody just shift to one port and then, it's funny. The captain was saying, 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock, 12 o'clock, 9 o'clock. And everybody's jumping from one (end to another?). But then you better know where's the front of the ship. Because if you turn around, you in the wrong end.

03.14.03 So everybody's like, running from one end to another. And we see, we saw a couple of whale. Matter of fact, that (~JW~)

JW: You whale watched on the big ship?

03.14.13 LING YOUNG: It was like, about 100 people, I think. (~JW~) But you see like, everybody zoom, on the one end. One o'clock. Everybody went to 1 o'clock. It was 3 o'clock, everybody run to the 3 o'clock. It's just like, people jumping back and forth. It was funny, okay. We didn't see too much.

03.14.29 Matter of fact, I think I saw more the last time I went in '98 then this time. This time, you actually saw the actual whale. But not a whole body of it. You saw like, a little bit of the back. And you saw the tail a little bit. The last time I went, I absolutely, we were just far away, but it was a very clear day. So we got beautiful whale picture of the tail. But this time, you know, you see them, but it's not really like, you know, clear, because it's really pouring.

03.14.57 It was so bad that the wind was gusty. That's why I couldn't stay outside. I was weatherized. I'm not getting myself sick. So I went inside. But the trip was very amazing, because it was something that you were never gonna do. That, first of all, you never want to take a kid with you. Believe me. Okay. It's a waste of money. Waste your time. You got to wait till the kid

at least, they know what's going on, because Alison took his grandson, which is five months old. They have no idea what's going on. They pay full fare. It's not because you're a two-year old or five-months old.

03.15.33 You pay full fare. The only thing she got away with is the baby was five months old. She pay half a airplane ticket. That's the only thing she got away with. And the excursion, because they under certain age, they don't pay. But other than that, she paid big buck for her family. The helicopter ride is very, very interesting because you couldn't have everybody in the same group. So my brother went first.

03.15.59 But because it's same company, while he is getting on, we're getting off. So we took picture of each other. Then when we found out about that, so when we getting on the helicopter, we know Mary Jos was coming in. So we kind of like, we took picture of each other. So I don't know who has that picture. I don't, I (?) know probably I have it. Or maybe somebody else's camera that Anita hasn't developed yet. That was fun. And it was exciting only because I want them all together, but we couldn't.

03.16.32 But then I got to take the picture while they're coming off or getting on. So that was a good part. That means we were there, to take each other's pictures. Of course, they wouldn't let you take the group picture 'cos of, hey, get in and get out, you know. This time was a lot nicer, because there was (?) a guy, a taller guy who could actually tell you what's different part of the, what's in here, why is it, why this has, why this piece is, I don't know what they call it.

03.17.00 A blue hole. Like, water is like, about 30 feet deep. You actually hear the water running. It's like a blue little hole.

JW: What?

03.17.07 LING YOUNG: It's the glacier. Somehow, it's like, like this garbage can. It's like a little (swivel?) thing and you can actually hear the water going. He explained a little bit of

everything. He answer questions. Last time we went, the guy just dumped us and you're on your own. Just like, just don't, make sure you don't walk around where the crack is, 'cos if you fall, we're not saving you. It's 300 feet down. That was it. But that time was a lot nicer. It's clean.

- 03.17.30 You actually see the whole glacier like, blue and white. Because after eight years, I think everything just kind of melted and filthy. So you saw like, you saw like, almost like, a dirty floor. But you still see the blue crack, if you remember seeing some of the picture of blue crack. The glacier was exciting because while you're watching it, the ice start coming down, too. And you hear like, a big boom. I didn't like that one. Only because that remind me of the bombing.
- 03.18.01 So okay, once I saw that, said, I'll see you later. 'Cos I saw once already. I don't have to see it again. But everybody really had a ball. Everybody really, really so excited about it. And then somehow somebody found out it was my birthday the next day. I got a box of something from the ship. And they gave me a little surprise birthday party. That's where you saw those pictures. And they all gave me a speech. (LAUGHS) It's like, I think it's on tape.
- 03.18.31 Almost pretty sure it's on tape. And my nurse, you're not gonna hear a word she said, because she was so choked up, okay. Alison spoke. Mary spoke. It was so funny when Mary spoke. 'Cos she said, when the building collapse and we're going out, and now don't forget, I don't drive, okay? I never know really what direction is where, even though I was in Manhattan so many years to go and audit.
- 03.19.00 She said that, which I don't remember, she said that after the building collapse, Chinatown has a lot of traffic, you know, when you're on Park Row. She said, with all this problem, she told the driver, you can't go that way. It's a lot of traffic. Go that way. I said, Mary, I have no idea what you talking about, 'cos I really don't know where I'm going. But somehow, somebody tells me, someone must've tell me what to say or something like that. I actually told the guy not to take certain route. She said, man, Ling was in control even at that moment. (LAUGHS)

03.19.32 It's like, I don't remember all this. I really did not remember. And for me to even say it, that's even weird because I really don't even know Manhattan myself, that FDR is one end, Westside Highway is on other end. I really don't know the area. I only know it now because I've been going down there five, over the last five years. If you asked me five years ago, I couldn't tell you where's where. But she said I was telling the guy where to go. I will say someone is holding my hand.

03.20.01 Just like someone's holding my hand to come downstairs. So I said, okay. I guess, 'cos she told me all this. I said, Mary, I don't remember any of this. She says, oh no. She said, you were in control. You just tell the guys that, don't go that way. There's a lot of traffic. Go the other way. I said, okay. (LAUGHS) So she kind of said that I was kind of like, I mean, I know she's said it to me a couple times, but I don't remember. But when she repeat it again that day, it was kind of funny. I said, yeah, I guess I'm a control freak. (LAUGHS)

JW: What do you mean, someone's holding your hand?

03.20.34 LING YOUNG: Yeah. It's almost like someone is holding my hand but telling me what to do. Because it would not be me telling people how to go. Because I don't know the direction. Direction, I'm almost like a moron in directions, okay. When I, many years ago, when Donald was driving, I would read the sign on the opposite end. After awhile, I said, Don, I said, wait a minute, what are you reading? That's on the other, for the other side of the traffic. I'm very, very bad in direction.

03.20.59 So for me to even tell someone how to go to Cornell, first of all, I don't even know where Cornell is. That's number one. I didn't even know Cornell existed. That's how much I know. For me to even tell the guy where to go, that's kind of very weird. If I know the address, I say, if I know where Cornell is, or if I know, even know what hospital I'm going, I could understand why I would say do it this way. But I have no clue where I was going. And I actually tell the guy where to do. So that was like, a little, kind of weird and kind of like, spooky.

- 03.21.34 It's the same thing like, how Mary heard my voice out of all this commotion. It's just like, it's not meant to be for my, I guess it's not my time. Mary and I said, maybe it's not our time. That's the reason why we're here. So I guess I could use that as part of faith. Which I do believe because I could have been dead so many time during that part.
- 03.21.59 Because when I, when the plane hit me on the 78<sup>th</sup> floor, I definitely would have been dead. Everybody was almost dead. Except a couple of us. But not many people made it out either. Like, all my coworker, they never made it out. Who was alive who but never made it out. Coming down the stairs, out of nowhere, Welles found the stairs. And out of nowhere, in the needle somewhere, the fire marshal picked me up, walked downstairs. And then I was supposed to go to triage station. I didn't go. Walked outside. Walking outside, with all this thing going on. Mary's laying in there with the mask on.
- 03.22.31 She heard my voice. Next thing you know, I'm in the ambulance. And then I was telling her to go. It's like, it's just like, step by step. I could have died so many, so many times. So somebody was almost like helping me out. I don't know how it happens. But it happens. So you called that fate. I guess so. I guess I'm not ready. So within these couple years, I did a lot more than, I did took care of a lot of things.
- 03.22.59 So if anything happen to me now, I think they pretty set. They know where my records is. They know who's money, I gave back all the money, so I don't have to worry about anybody else's money that belongs to this one or belonged to that one. And I also told my kid, I'm very color-coded. Okay, everybody is color-coded. So all my things is in one cabinet. I told them, if anything happen, this is where everything is. Anything colored is upstairs. Anything that's backward, I have things.
- 03.23.29 There's only one file cabinet. I have a cancelled check since 1969. (LAUGHS) Because I believe in cancelled checks. I don't believe in a lot of things. I throw a lot of my bills. Cancelled check, I have only because about ten years, no, it wasn't ten years ago, my father-in-law die in '97. My father-in-law die, they said I didn't pay my insurance.

- 03.23.59 I said, whoa. His life insurance. Whoa. Wait a minute. I actually found all my cancelled checks. That's the reason why I like my cancelled checks. Like, the bank now, they don't give you cancelled check. They give you images. I said, no, no, no, no. I don't want your images. The images only shows the front, doesn't shows the back. The back's very important. Who endorsed the check. I said, I pay you to give me my cancelled check. I want my cancelled checks.
- 03.24.26 And if you talk about 27, 30 years, it's about two shoebox. It's not, doesn't take much space. But that helped me tremendously. If I have something wrong, I have my cancelled check. I don't like to pay online. I don't like to do certain things. Only because I want a black and white. I guess it's an auditor, the auditor part of me. So when we go audit, I don't want to see your copies. I want to see the actual statement. I want to see the actual checks. 'Cos the check, the endorsement tells me, you're telling me the truth or not.
- 03.25.00 It's almost like if I make out a check to cash, I want to know who endorsed it. That's how we find out are you doing the right thing or not. I guess that's why it's part of me that built in there. That's why I kept them. What else I was saying?
- JW: What other memories do you have of the trip?
- 03.25.27 LING YOUNG: Mostly good. Except Ritchie drove me nuts. Because he think I was (?) being a little protective. 'Cos I want everybody to be comfortable. Since I (?) started this thing, I want every, because they don't know too much about the Alaskan trip. 'Cos I went there before. So I have no, I have a little knowledge of it. I want to make sure everybody get the best out of the whole deal. 'Cos since the, you know, like, like certain thing I want to pay for. Okay, I want to make sure of it.
- 03.25.57 And I guess Richard kind of got mad at me because I want to try to do too much at one time. I'm driving myself crazy But see, he doesn't understand that that make me feel good doing it. I feel like I accomplish something. Seem like it's a big task that I actually accomplish. But

I guess he doesn't understand that, so he got mad at me. And he wasn't enjoying the cruise himself. But the last day he came, because he knew it was my birthday. So he showed up. Other than that, he slept the whole week. Which is good for him 'cos he hasn't been rested at all. So that trip was kind of good for him.

03.26.31 He just rested. Of course, at the end, he said, sorry, but you know what? You ruin the whole trip. But to me, many years ago, I would have get me upset. Now, you don't want to join us, sit home. That's how I feel. Of course, Donald get a little crazy. But we did a lot of things together. We go to shows together.

03.26.55 Of course, the excursion, we did it together.

JW: Did Don have a good time?

03.27.02 LING YOUNG: Oh yeah. He took a lot, he takes tons of picture. He got all excited about everything else. 'Cos one of the member didn't show up. And uh, he was upset. But I try to explain to him rule is rule. Okay, the same thing, you know what I'm talking about, rules. There's certain rules. It's the rules. If you cancel within a certain day, it's too bad, you lose the money. So he try to think that that should have been exemption. I said, exception, I said, there's no such thing as exception. Rules is rule. It's written. It's black and white. You signed it. You knew about it.

03.27.34 So he thought that since we have such a great big group and we always cruise with them before, they should have some courtesy. But comes to money, there's no courtesy and you know it. Okay, once I got rid of the room, they sold it like this. That cruise was 100 percent book. 'Cos I figured out, my brother's very cramped. And Richard's with me in the same room. I said, maybe I could take that room and give it to them. The answer is no.

03.28.01 In order for me to get that room, I got to lose Richard's money. Lose my two nephews' money. And then pay 6000 (?) for the room. I said, you're out of your mind. So I didn't bother. And the room was so much smaller than the cruise ship I used to take. Very, very

small. If anybody want to take Royal Caribbean, do not take the Serenade to Sea. That, all those four ship. Because that balcony room when I order it, with the past cruise I had, you see all the way down.

03.28.27 This one, you have like, a six-foot flat panel right in front of you. You can't see nothing down. So Donald was real upset. Unfortunately, that's how they built the ship. But we didn't know about it, okay. The cruise ship are not really telling that. It's kind of misleading. Obstructed view to them means if you look outside, you see the ocean, that's good. That's no guarantee you have to, you could go see down. So in a way, they're kind of misleading. But in a way, technically, they're not.

03.28.57 So it depends how you look at it. Because we cruise before, we know how the balcony room's supposed to look like. We pay extra money for that. You want to see the view. And you want to be able to see down, say, when they dock, you be able to see all the way down. You can't see that. So he was very upset about that. But there's nothing you can do. I mean, there are a lot of people complaining. Because anybody who had taken a cruise before on the balcony, you're not supposed to see a rooftop. Like, one of the ladies said, I didn't pay all this money so I could see somebody's carport.

03.29.28 Which is exactly what you're really seeing. A big six-foot, seven-foot white thing right in front of you. That's pretty, pretty far out that you can't see. Other than that, he took a lot of picture. He (?) was having fun. Except once in awhile, when he gets a little tension. Because of Richard.

JW: But you've wanted to go away for a long time?

03.29.51 LING YOUNG: Yeah, been five years. I mean, going to Texas not a trip, not a trip-trip. Going to Texas like, to meet the parent, Hello, goodbye and see you. Okay. The second time around, it's just the wedding. I go, I went there like, the wedding was Saturday, I think. I went there like, Friday. I don't know Friday or Saturday. I don't remember what it was. But there's nothing to do because you have to have rehearsal dinner. Then you got to, then next

day is the wedding. Then it's over. You go home the next day. So it wasn't, that was a time when they had the hurricane, too. Wiped out uh, Galveston in 2005.

03.30.29 Yeah, 2005, it was a big hurricane or tornado, whatever. So there's really not much to say. And that was Katrina. That's right, Katrina, too, at that time. So you got all the Katrina people there. And gotten so bad that you have police coming in around midtown to try to take care of everything. 'Cos my whole hotel was actually maybe more than half was Katrina victims. But they were loud. They were very rowdy.

JW: Did you father's death precipitate your wanting to make this trip happen?

LING YOUNG: Well, this actually was before my father's, yes, before my father's death.

JW: Did the fact that he was dying have an impact?

03.31.15 LING YOUNG: You know what, I look at life this way. If I don't do it now, I might never be able to do it. And I was thinking about it for so many years. And that's why I put it in action last year. But that time, I wasn't doing that bad. So that wasn't me having any, but then I already started the planning already.

JW: What gave you the courage to do it?

03.31.36 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) I think about it, I think about it. I never put it in action. 'Cos always something I wanted to do. But I don't know how everybody feels. So I finally talk to Alison, because, and then we discussed it among each other. And uh, we said, yeah, let's do it. Because a lot of people didn't fly. Haven't flown yet, since 9/11.

03.32.00 And I said, yeah, let's go ahead and do it. And we just went and boom, we just did it. And then uh, I asked my brother to join us like, a little bit down the line. 'Cos he (?) has been taking care of me all my life, okay. He has been supportive. Mentally, financially, all my life.

So that's why my life is so nice and easy. I decide to take him. But uh, but then once you plan, you don't do anything else anyway afterward.

03.32.32 'Cos everything is done already. Once you book it, you put the deposit, there's nothing to do until like, you don't get your paperwork until like, a month beforehand. So there was really no planning between when my father's really betting bad or whatever, there was nothing to be done. 'Cos already planned already. Like I say, you have an agent, you don't do anything. He just asked you for money, that's about it. You know, when the time comes, like, I think 60 day before and you got to pay the rest. That's all you really do. You know your room already. You know who you're staying with already. And that's it.

03.33.04 And the ticket, airline ticket, we didn't start getting airline ticket until like May, May or June. 'Cos you want to wait until the last minute. And that's the max I really did. Other than that, there wasn't, there was a lot of planning, 'cos there were so many of us. Making sure who's (?) room. 'Cos I want to make sure also I got the room kind of like mingle.

03.33.28 'Cos I want to make sure all my, all the people that's coming with me are going to the welcome back party. See, we are like, considered one of the old timers. We have cruised many times before. So they all went in with me, just to sit down, relax, have a glass of champagne. So I got them all in. Actually, I was asked to be, to dine with the captain. I refused it. Because I was only one invited and Alison wasn't even invited.

03.34.00 I cannot see myself just going and leave the rest alone. So I said, thank you very much, I appreciate it, and that was the end of that. And he was, well, why don't you want to come? I said nope. I'm here because I'm with everybody. I don't think that I should leave just to be with the captain to, to what, to feel important? I said, no. You guys are more important. So I stuck around. I didn't want to go to (?) the dinner. What else?

JW: Did you feel good to be invited?

03.34.31 LING YOUNG: Yeah, well, you know what, because somebody, actually, Dr. Bauer went and told the captain about me and I think Jeff (Crowder?) told about me, too. So they wanted me at his table. But I didn't feel right to be at his table when the rest of us are not there. Like, Mary and my doctor, all those people not there. So I didn't want to be participating that, I don't feel like I'm that important to be (?) at his table while the rest of my people are not there.

03.35.02 Now if he invite all of us, yes. Or even just part of us. Let's say my doctor and all these other people who, if they didn't invite my brother, or my, or the other one, I understand. I might have joined them. But if you just invite me, the answer is no. That's how I see it. I had a wonderful party, but didn't phase me.

JW: Was the trip emotional?

03.35.28 LING YOUNG: Oh yeah. Like I said, at the end of the day, uh, when they gave me the party, they were like, all choked up. (LAUGHS) Like, we're all like, crying. It's like, it was very different. Okay, like I said, since my doctor no longer my doctor, per se, there's no conflict of interest. So, I mean, he could say anything he wants. So I mean, I haven't seen the tape yet. 'Cos I don't, I forgot who has it. But it was fun. They tell me exactly what I, who I am.

03.36.00 With that's how I am. And like I say, I'm a control freak before. (LAUGHS) I was that day. Now it's like, don't bother me. As long as it doesn't affect me, don't, do not bother me 'cos I have no, I don't have the patient, I don't have the energy. I don't have the know-how to do that anymore. And I'm very surprised I even pull off this thing. So hopefully in the near future, I will do a little bit more. Okay. If I overcome this, I'm gonna try to overcome a little bit more.

03.36.29 But unfortunately, 'cos since I'm still with the case, I don't know how they feel about it. That's why I don't really discuss it too much. I did talk to my psychologist about it. I said that this is a big step.

JW: Why is it a big step?

03.36.45 LING YOUNG: Because I haven't done anything that, to say out of my shell to do something. Like taking flying, okay. As of now, there's still a lot of people in my group does not fly at all. They wouldn't even go to New York City. See, I didn't have a choice. I was faced with it. I had to go to New York City. So I am okay with it.

03.37.06 There were a lot of people in my group that's not go in the city. When you mention New York City, the answer's no. Just like, 9/11, I would not come to the city. In my mind, I still cannot get over yet. Especially next year's gonna be worse. Next year's is on a Tuesday. We already discussed that already. We've been discussing already. It's like, it's haunting us now. Oh, it's really haunting us next year. Even though it's a whole year away from us, but it's haunting every one of us.

03.37.37 Because it's a Tuesday. (~JW~) Oh, yeah, 9/11's on a Tuesday next year. And it's haunting us. And (~JW~)

JW: How does that look?

03.37.52 LING YOUNG: It make us feel like it's happening again. Because it's the same day, okay. It's a Tuesday, I don't know how beautiful next year's gonna be. But just the day, 9/11, on a Tuesday, it's bugging, it's really bugging us at, completely. We try not to talk about it. If once in awhile when somebody just blurt it out, and then everybody just kind of like, quiet. And we're not very happy about it. Like, tomorrow, probably what we gonna do in the morning, since Daniel's coming late, we might get together. Just to sit down, you know. 'Cos there's only about eight of us so far now left.

03.38.32 We might just sit down, just chill out. You know, just being together. It's, the reason why is, like I said, no matter how good your spouse or your family is to you, they still don't understand how, how we feel personally. But with the people, with this group, we know

exactly how each other feels. And we understand so much more, no matter how good your family is to you.

03.39.01 So that's why we get together even sometime without the facilitator, we get together. Like, last Wednesday, one of the survivor left and moved to Arizona. He came back. And we wasn't having a meeting. I said, you know, that's pretty bad. Why don't we just have a meeting? But let's have dinner at my house. So we just order out.

JW: You're a leader, aren't you?

03.39.24 LING YOUNG: Kind of. (LAUGHS) They call me Mama Ling. (LAUGHS) If I don't do it, they all like, sitting there like, duh. I said, okay, let's do it. (LAUGHS) What will happen is, I am kind of in control once in awhile. Just like the taxes. (?) It was still in my mind for years. I says (~JW~)

JW: But there's a difference between being in control and being a leader.

03.39.53 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) I kind of like make it move. I just say, you know what, he came all the way from Arizona. We just can't just do to a diner, you know what I mean. So I said, why not just order food. I order food. We'll all come in. And we sit down. 'Cos at least you're home. You're more relaxed. You're not at a restaurant. You could be rowdy, you could do anything you want.

JW: Is that how you were before 9/11?

LING YOUNG: I was a lot worse

JW: Worse is different than being a leader.

LING YOUNG: I think that I'm always like (~JW~)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

JW: You have qualities like my mom.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.40.53 LING YOUNG: I'm gonna do the right way. I don't try to go away from what I'm supposed to do. If I find something that's not right, I won't do it. So I'm not, so that's, therefore my conscience always clear. You know what I'm saying? If I'm supposed to do something I'm supposed to do, at least I did it. Just like my parent, my parent have been miserable to me all my life and I really mean miserable. Only because I'm the oldest. And then I just found out recently that because when I was born, I don't know how true it is, once I was born, number one, I'm a girl. I'm not a boy. You got to remember this is back 50-some odd years ago. We're not important.

03.41.32 If you look at the family tree, you never see any one of us in there. I actually have a book that's over 200 years old. All you see is the men's name in it. Who you marry, who's the spouse is is not included in the book. The only name you gonna see is only the male. Which is pretty sad. The book is about this thick. Over 200 years of my village, okay. But you don't know who marry who.

03.42.00 You only see the men. So what am I trying to say now? Oh god. So like, all my life, I don't understand why my parents like that to me.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.42.21 LING YOUNG: I didn't know how it was. I found out that the reason why is when I was born, my father had kind of had some kind of bad luck. Like, he lost a lot of, I don't know what he lost. He lost something. So I got blamed for it, okay. Which I never knew why my parent treats me that way. I kind of brush it off because I figured out, you can't choose your parent. So a lot of time, I just keep it, I keep it to myself. The only time I ever think I ever

blew up was, I was in such pain after surgery. I mean, in pain. I was like, normally I'm not that much in pain.

- 03.43.01 Once I take the medication, not that bad. But I was in, because this, but this part was really bad 'cos they took out the whole thing. I have a cast that weighed probably like, 20 pounds on me. My father called me and start screaming and carrying on about something, I don't know what I did. Or I didn't do. So finally I said, I says, you know what, no matter what I try to say to you, you not gonna believe what I say or even listen to what I'm gonna tell you. I said, I'm in pain. And I hung up on him. And I must've did it once or twice, even three times or more.
- 03.43.33 After 9/11. Before, I would just listen and listen and listen. Maybe I argue a little bit. But I never have hang up on them. But since then, I say, you know what, I'm not taking this anymore. I haven't done anything. I could be sitting home at my house, and my brother and his wife had a fight and it's my fault. 'Cos I should go and tell them not to do it. I said, this is not the old age. It's not the old Chinese tradition that if you're the eldest, you could tell them what to do.
- 03.44.00 There's no such thing. You can't even tell your kid what to do. How am I gonna tell my brother what to do with his wife? But my parent doesn't understand that. My parent never understand that everybody have their own life. They on their own. I am not in a position to tell them what to do. But they think I should have the right, since I'm the oldest, I should tell them what to do. I should know what's going on. I should uh, be aware of what's around them. I said, no, I can't do that.
- 03.44.28 First of all, they gonna tell me mind my own business and none of my business, which is true. This is the American way. However you want to call it. But they still living in the old time, 60 years ago.

JW: Did you injuries make you feel it was time to take care of yourself?

03.44.49 LING YOUNG: Not really. Not until recently.

JW: What made you stand up for yourself with your parents?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.45.11 LING YOUNG: Because I was, my whole life, I was used to it. So really didn't faze me that if it happens. Okay, it just, that's how, it's, that's normal. It's normal life. I get blamed for everything that happen anyway. So I just takes it in. I get very upset. I used to get very upset. Sometime I couldn't even sleep (?) because of that. After 9/11, I do get very upset.

03.45.33 But I don't go crazy anymore. I just kind of brush it off. But when I'm in such pain and you call me and start complaining, complaining, and I can't even get a word in, I finally said, wait a minute, this is nonsense. So I hang up on him. And just like my mother. Now my mother wasn't talking to me before 9/11. For no reason. I swear to god there was no reason. We took a trip to Hong Kong.

03.45.58 At 2001, in April. I got to the hotel. And we're trying to use (?) the phone to call. But Hong Kong hotels are horrible. You can't call out. If you touch the phone, it's 30 bucks. You don't have to get through. But then we switched room between my father and me, so therefore, when my kid called, the phone went to my mother's room. She came upstairs and tried to tell me. But I was on the phone trying to get through with them. So I said, I'm busy. That's all I said.

03.46.30 She went off the wall on me. Now my cousin was staying with me, 'cos he's staying with me in the same room. If she didn't see it, if anybody, if I go and tell anybody, everybody would say I'm lying. Because how could that happen? You got to do something stupid to trick her off. I didn't do a thing. And Donald and my cousin like, shocked. Because if I tell anybody, people think I'm crazy. There's no way in hell your mother would do that to you. She went berserk. She was gonna kill herself.

03.47.01 She was gonna jump off the window. She was completely like, psycho. So I said to myself, well, my brother pay all this money for me to be here. I (must?) try to enjoy myself, right? So from there, we went to Thailand. You know, during the whole trip, she would not talk to me. Okay, then on top of it, she did not want my father talk to me.

03.47.28 And when my father talk to me for one second, she gave him hell. I said, okay, I said, you know what, my brother pay a lot of money for me to enjoy myself. I want to try to enjoy myself. So I kind of like, she's on one end. I'm on another end.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

03.47.45 END TAPE

**TAPE # LY 47**

**Ling Young**

**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**

**PROJECT REBIRTH**

04.01.06 PICTURE UP

04.01.10 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) After we came back from Thailand. Then she had an anxiety attack at the hotel. She was like, jumping, you know, all over the place. And I was gonna go next door. And my sister-in-law came and said, don't go. She's cursing you. I said, okay. I step back. I didn't go. Because I don't want to, 'cos when she's in that kind of problem, I don't want to cause any problem.

04.01.34 That's why I try to step back. So I step back. I felt like, I feel like crap, but I had no choice. And Donald say, I think you should see her. I said, Donald, you don't understand. If I go in now, I could kill her. 'Cos she is like, outraged with me for whatever reason she's outraged

with me. So we came back. That was in April. From April to September 11, we did not talk once.

04.02.01 That's how bad it was. It gotten so bad that she refused to discuss, even talk to me. She refused to have my father talk to me. And I have not done anything. I said, if my cousin, and Donald did not see what happened, they must've think that I have said something nasty to her or whatever reason. But that's my mother to me. That's how my mother is all the time. The whole thing is my mother is very jealous of what is happening to me now. As a parent, you think you'd be happy. But I guess she's always a very unhappy individual.

04.02.32 Like, I take care of my brother's finance. So I know (~JW~)

JW: What do you mean, jealous?

04.02.37 LING YOUNG: Like, what's, how my life is. My kids very good. Okay, no doubt. I mean, you know that my kids are very supportive. And they're very chummy with me. But my mother's always a cold person. You can't even go near her to give her hug. And at those days, we don't do things like that anyway. We don't hug your parents. It's be like a very, it's a big deal. If you ever hug your parents, something's wrong.

04.03.00 That's how we would grow up. Just like when my, when I first came to United State, my teacher loved me so much that she took me to the World's Fair and she's like, go kiss your grandma goodbye. I'm like, huh? It's like, (LAUGHS) what are you talking about? I didn't know that's a thing. 'Cos we don't do such thing. So through our whole life, I don't think she were ever hugged by her kid or whatever reason, she was never close to us.

JW: When did she first talk to you after 9/11?

04.03.29 LING YOUNG: When 9/11 happened, she came and visited me. Then everything just okay for awhile.

JW: What was that like?

04.03.37 LING YOUNG: I don't remember, because I was kind of dazed off. I was completely dozed off. But she was like a normal mother. Like, whatever happened before, it didn't happen. Just like she was just there. Like, whatever happened before, the six months that went by that she hadn't talked to me, that kind of just went out of the air.

04.03.57 So we were okay for awhile. Of course, once in awhile, she gets pissed and then she wouldn't talk to me for a couple months. It's just like this all the time. So it's not something new. But since 9/11, I was in the hospital for five weeks. She (?) almost come in everyday to bring me food, okay.

JW: How did you feel about that?

04.04.20 LING YOUNG: I don't know, because I never had that kind of attention from her. But then I was like not all there anyway. So I really don't know how I feel. 'Cos I was drugged up most of the time. So (LAUGHS) I'm not always awake. Like, so many people had saw me, they come visited me. And I don't remember a thing. I know I have flowers like, out to the doors. Throughout the whole nursery, I mean, the nurse's station. I mean, they had no room for it. First of all, we're not allowed to have flowers. I think the whole floor was full of flowers. As you know, I have a lot of friends, okay. And that's how much flowers I got. I was like, oh my god, you know, like, the nurses said, are you still having more?

04.05.01 I said, (?) would you please don't send flowers. They not allow it. And that kind of stopped a little bit. But still people come, because anybody hears about me and just, there goes a big flower. They don't give me tiny one. They give me this huge big thing. It was funny 'cos I mean, every day, I say, well somebody's got to take this home. So every day the nurse are taking some flowers home. But I still have tons of them. But they, but good thing about Cornell is, you all have a private room.

- 04.05.29 So they always have a bed for whoever stays with me. So I was 24 hours have somebody staying overnight with me. So I was never left alone. Even as of today, I'm not left alone. 'Cos I'm not really ready. Once in awhile, when Donald goes out for an hour or so, because of my, the way I, I feel dizzy, I make sure I do everything I'm supposed to do and I just sit down, watch TV, or I just stay right in front of the computer and not to move because if I get up in the wrong way, boom. Here I go. Happen a couple times. I don't know when it's gonna hit me.
- 04.06.00 So I'm very careful with myself. With her, it's like back and forth, the same thing. Like, once I get a little better, back to normal, she gets mad at me. She gets, then she's okay. But I always have to take the first step. I figured out you only have one sets of parent. If you don't call, it's gonna stay forever. So I always use my kid as an excuse to visit her. So I make it my business, especially when I find out she's dying, Richard married because of her.
- 04.06.30 They wasn't gonna get married until like, this year. So they got married. But then I make it my business at least once or every two weeks, I want them to go visit her. Visit my parent, okay. That was like, a thing that when I call for it, you guys are going. And so far, my kids are very good in that. Except one. But let's not discuss who it is. But I just said to them, we gonna go visit Grandma such-and-such day.
- 04.06.59 Now the bad part now is Richard is the president of the EMT. The volunteer EMT. Oh yeah. He got himself into that. He started working as a volunteer. He said, 'cos he want to give something back. That was over two years ago already, or more. Then he became the president almost a year already. And they want him to run again. 'Cos he very strict, as you know. He's like, rigid. He doesn't let any go by. So, and that's a dirty job really nobody wants. It's true. 'Cos who wants to be, disciplinary somebody who's smoking (?), 17, not supposed to smoke.
- 04.07.35 So he has to be like, write a report. (?) suspend him for a week or two. And all kinds of nonsense. Plus he's traveling. Matter of fact, now he's in Seattle. For his work. I think he's

back today. So he's very involved in that. But you have to give 40, 40 hours a week. Plus if you have a meeting, there's another day gone.

04.08.00 So technically, you're almost like, half your time is there. If you think about it, so he normally does like, a Friday night that he doesn't finish until Sunday night. But then your whole life is gone, in a way. So he's (?) he's not very happy about that. But he loves it. So I kind of said to her, just leave him alone. Sooner or later, he gives up. I guess once you have kid, you really can't do that kind of hours anymore. So he's doing very well with it. He loves it. He really loved that job.

04.08.29 It gives him the sense of satisfaction, I think. That he's doing that kind of work.

JW: He's a helper.

04.08.37 LING YOUNG: Yeah. Also because he said that someone did so much for me, I want to give something back. And that's his attitude. I understand where he's coming from. But I guess his wife is more like, I want you to spend time with me. But it's very hard to explain to her that because of what happened to me, that's how he is.

04.08.57 But when he gets his temper, like Donald, woo, forget it. It's out of the questions. They both crazy. Imagine, I live with both of them on the ship. That was hell. (LAUGHS) That was no fun, believe me. That's the only time I had a hard time is I said, I'm gonna have a heart attack soon. (LAUGHS)

JW: What do you mean by, because of what happened to you?

LING YOUNG: Well, because he didn't want to be joining us.

JW: But explain to his wife that it's because of what happened to you?

- 04.09.29 LING YOUNG: Yeah, but I have to admit, he want to join the volunteer EMT. And because he loved it so much, and they want him to be the president. And next thing you know, of course he became the president. That's a job like, really nobody wants because you have to be in meetings. You have to take care of all the dirty work, you know. All the nonsense. Who wants to do that? Especially when you're a volunteer. You want to spend time something else. To do something else. But he's, plus on top of it, Richard's very organized. That makes it worse. You know, people just do it. Ah, just throw things around. No, he got to be like, specific. Everything got to be in order.
- 04.10.00 You know, he got that from me. So he spend more time than he should have. But I guess when you're newlywed, you want to be together, you know, all kinds of thing. That was the one main problem I had with Janine was because of her obsessive-ness of Richard. I did gave her, I did talk to her afterward, after they were to get back together, 'cos Richard begged me after 9/11, 'cos I didn't disapprove.
- 04.10.31 I just wanted them to give them self a little space. 'Cos they were like, wasn't breathing without each other. That's not a good relationship. When you's like, you can't live without each (?) other for one minute, that's not a relationship, okay. I see it coming. And I see all the problem coming. I talk to him, but he said, Mom, I got to make my own mistake. I said, well, if that's the case, then you do what you want to do. I said, first of all, when you do it, you're taking a package deal. Had a long talk. So he knew I wasn't too happy about it.
- 04.11.00 So they were doing it behind my back. I knew what was going on. Except he wasn't bringing her home anymore. That was like, almost three years ok? And 9/11 happened. And he's, that was like, I never forget. It was like, in November. Okay, that's before I got out of hospital. He said to me, Mom, you know Janine is very important to me. Can you reconsider? Now here you are, you're half-dead. You're almost dead.
- 04.11.30 And here's your son begging you, who's been there every single minute of your, his time. What are you gonna say? So I took her back. And everything just kind of came right, they kind of like just went right through with no complicated. But you know it was a little weird,

but it wasn't too bad. But one day that we were talking about it and, 'cos I got to get my piece of my mind out. I said, Janine, number one, I never asked Richard to break up with you. Which is true. Okay. I never said to him that you should not go out together.

- 04.12.00 The only thing I asked was, you two are so much together that you didn't give yourself any time to breathe. It's almost like, Richard can't even talk to anybody. It got to be her only. Richard can't even talk to a girl, then she'll get mad. That's how bad it became. So that's not a good. I said, I never tell Richard to break up with you. I only ask Richard to give you a, both of you some space. To give yourself time, some time to breathe.
- 04.12.31 And she say, yeah, you're right. So that kind of clear the air that it wasn't me that was stopping all this thing happening. I was just asking you guys to give each other some space. She turn out to be quite good. She's very respectful. But she's still very, too much like a little baby. Sometime it's like, aye, you know, like, this kind of thing. Like, when are you gonna grow up? And Richard's very hot temper. So sometime it's a little, you know, little click in there.
- 04.13.01 But so far she's very good. I mean, she very respectful. She always puts me first. So true or not, at least she's trying her best, okay. Now the other one is a little different. The other one is like, me, me, me, me, me, and me. And my poor son, well, he's an idiot because, you could say anything you want. He kind of like, if he want to do something, he ask for permission. You're 31 years old, okay, soon.
- 04.13.33 Yes, you should ask your wife about things. But if you want to eat something, you don't ask for permission. He make me feel stupid. Okay. Or he would blow up in front of, in front of the restaurant. I feel like an idiot. Here I am, with my son, Donald, and you as a couple eating, and you're screaming like a nut job. It doesn't look nice. That means also you're not respecting me. You're not respecting your husband.
- 04.14.00 But that's her. So I get to accept it. When she does it, I just tune her out. And when she needs me, that's Mom. When she doesn't need me, it's hey. (LAUGHS) Okay. You know

what, you, before, I would get real mad. I probably say something real nasty. Now I said, okay. But when I really get really, really uptight, then I will call my son up. I will give a piece of my mind. And he know I'm right. But he can't do anything about it. Unfortunately.

04.14.31 But I want him to be aware that we are aware of it. And matter of fact, Richard, and Melissa was a gonna give him a talk while she's out of town. I never had a chance. 'Cos I think he's happy, but then sometime I don't think he's happy. Because he (?) feel like an idiot sometime. When you're screaming and carrying on in front of people, you do feel stupid. You know, how would you feel like, your wife screaming, like telling everybody what an idiot you are.

04.15.00 And he's a very, very bright boy. As a matter of fact, he's the vice president with (SNP?). And some kind of operation, something. So he's pretty high up there. But sometime you're very smart in a certain thing, but you're not too smart in a certain thing. If you don't keep it under control, it's gonna get worse. But you know what? I decide I'm not living with the chick. I really don't care. But as long say you don't do it in my, in front of my face, I don't see it. If she does it in my face, I try not to see it.

04.15.32 Okay, I will just make believe I don't see it and go on another conversation. I would talk to Richard or talk to Janine. That's the best I can do. But she was very, very good in the uh, in the cruise. However, one of the girls said, how the hell your brother live with her? She's horrible. (LAUGHS) That's how she came across. Like, (?) like that. Now you can't do anything without she say yes.

04.15.58 Jesus Christ, this is 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> century. What's wrong? But that's my son. Hey. If he's happy, be my guest. That's how I see it.

JW: Talk about standing up for yourself more after 9/11.

04.16.17 LING YOUNG: Recently more because I decided, you know what? Life is too short. Okay. I used to take it in and I just don't say anything. And that would eat me up. Now if I decide I don't like something, I will say it, but not in a very nasty way.

04.16.34 Like my mother, since I know she's not all there, I yes her to death. Whatever she want me to do, I yeah, yeah, yeah. I yes her to death. Like I said, I'm Catholic. I don't do incense. But if she wants me to do it, I'll do it. I don't think anybody's gonna punish me 'cos I did what she wanted to do. I mean, she gotten to so crazy that she would have a setting for my, what urns and incense, for my father.

04.17.02 Now she listen to all this through the fortune lady. Then she have another set for my grandparents, my uncle. Near the kitchen table. So we brought the food. We can't eat them yet. Now everybody's starving. And I said, let's eat. They not finish eating yet. I said, okay. So I said, Janine, if you want to do something, just start stealing, because we're a long way before we eat. Okay. So (LAUGHS) it's like, it's a little crazy.

JW: She has a table set up with the food for the people who are dead?

04.17.32 LING YOUNG: Yep. But Chinese people do that. I know that for a fact. But this lady is telling her, you got to do this separate, do that separate. And then you buy some kind of like, paper clothing, paper money to burn so they could use it. Oh my god. It's like, then everybody, and because she told her that my father's not home. He's floating somewhere. So everyone has to stand in front of the thing, saying that our grandpa, our (?) father, whatever, please come home.

04.18.05 This is your home. Everyone have to say it. And then when Janine said it in English, I said, Janine, he doesn't understand English. (LAUGHS) She's like, but I don't know how to say it. (LAUGHS) But we're laughing at the same time because I think it's silly. But she make us, everyone do it. I said, shut up. Just do what she want to do. So then after we did it, we figured we could eat.

04.18.29 She said, not yet. We can't eat yet. I said, oh, okay, so, but that's two plate, you know, two (?) different sets. So while she's not looking, I said, go ahead, eat. (LAUGHS) But that's my mother And she believe it all because the lady is trying to tell her to do all kinds of thing. Matter of fact, after this, I might have to go with her. I'm gonna see what she's doing. 'Cos I made a phone call to her. I threaten her. And she hang up on me. So I want to see what she is. She swear to everything she said is right.

04.18.59 Now my father's all over China now. All over China. He's been in this place, he's been in that, he's been in this place. Like, he's like, visiting all over the place, except he will not come home. I'm like, okay. Fine. What else is next? So he, and then she insists every time he wants to come by, it would be that he's next door with the lady. So I'm like, I can't deal with this thing anymore.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

LING YOUNG: This is crazy things. Crazy Chinese tradition (?). It's crazy, right?

(LAUGHS)

JW: Are you following the Ground Zero site?

04.19.56 LING YOUNG: Oh, the site. Yeah, yeah, I do watch it once in awhile. Matter of fact, I was invited to this, some kind of ceremony, but I wasn't too crazy going down there into the hole and all this other (~JW~)

JW: Have you been to the site?

04.20.11 LING YOUNG: I have been to the site outside. Okay. When they still surrounded by a gate. The actual site now, now, no, I haven't been in for awhile. I don't even know what it look like anymore. Except once in awhile, I see the pictures. That's about it. And matter of fact, they have a ceremony tomorrow at Ground Zero, which I am not going. I told them that I'm still not ready to be there that particular day.

04.20.34 And that's the reason why I couldn't come out tomorrow. Technically reason is, I'm thinking about going through the tunnel, going through all these other thing. I'm not capable of doing it yet. Maybe one day, I will. Okay, as of now, I don't have the courage to do it yet. And I don't want to freak out that day. So that's why I, so far, for all the years on (?), for 9/11, I'm home. And the kids, most of the kids are not really home. Melissa take off tomorrow to be home with me.

04.21.04 And therefore, tomorrow morning, maybe we just have a little breakfast with our group. But I haven't decided yet, 'cos I'm not even thinking about what I want to do tomorrow morning yet. The site itself, I read a little bit about it. But I get frustrated because every day's a different story. They fighting about this, they fighting about that. So as of now, I don't even know what they're doing.

04.21.29 And yesterday, I read something about building three, they're gonna built, and I don't even know what they're talking about. I know seven is built. Am I correct? Are they renting it? People in there already? Oh. How much? How many?

JW: They have contracts for 80%.

LING YOUNG: Wow. Surprising. Contract. But are they, when is it supposed to go in?

JW: They're letting people go in.

04.21.55 LING YOUNG: See, that's the thing. Because sometime you're forced to go back. That's what I think most of my friends are afraid of.

JW: What?

LING YOUNG: Going back to the World Trade. See (~JW~)

JW: Are you?

- 04.22.08 LING YOUNG: If I have to work, I won't go back. Just like matter of fact, I came home the other day. Donald's cousin was going to Singapore on Singapore Airline. After they flew out, in the middle of nowhere, the engine caught on fire. Okay. They had to dump all the fuel. They went back to Newark. They were stuck there two and a half day for the plane to be fixed.
- 04.22.32 If that was me, I'll guarantee you, I would have cancel the flight. I would not go back on that plane. There's no way you could put me back on that plane. But they went. Okay. I mean, Singapore Airlines is one of the better airline. It wouldn't happen to me. Just like when I was going, I almost turned back, but Mary was there. We got on the plane. And the guy said, oh, we're gonna have to wait for awhile because we don't have no fire extinguisher liquid.
- 04.23.03 I look at her and she look at me, and I said, what? What do you mean you don't have fire extinguisher liquid? Okay, fine. We got off the plane. Wait about 20, 30 minutes or so. They got back on. And they still not moving. And I said, okay. Mary, I says, one more time, we're not going anywhere. Okay, because that means it's not meant to be. Of course, they flew.
- 04.23.29 After an hour, we left. But if that was the third time around, you wouldn't see me on that flight. That was it. (LAUGHS) That was like, three strike, you're out, you know what I'm saying? If I was on the Singapore Airline, I guarantee you I would cancel that trip. There's no way you'd get me back (?) on the plane that caught on fire. I don't care how you fix it. 'Cos that's like, an 18-hour flight or something like that, 16-hour flight. I don't remember how long it is. 'Cos everything is very shorter than what it used to be when I, many years ago, it would be like, 20 hours.
- 04.23.58 That's not true. 2001. I went back in April, with like, it was like a 16-hour direct flight from Continental. Wasn't a bad flight, 16 hours straight wasn't bad. Considering. But for me to take 16-hour now, let me think. (LAUGHS) You're trapped in there. You know what I'm

saying? It's like, you can't go nowhere. It's not like you're on land and you could just get off. You're like, god know how many thousands of feet up. There's nowhere to go.

04.24.26 So that's why this couple hours like, we got to be knocked out cold. And it worked out okay when I'm cold, you know. (LAUGHS) But I'm gonna try to do without it. I don't know how quick. Okay. I am gonna try to drive to Missouri to help one of my friends do something. I'm not doing anything. I'm just gonna sit there, watch my TV.

JW: What's your friend doing?

04.24.56 LING YOUNG: Actually, that's my doctor. Donald wants to help him with his house. Because he's great actually, for someone who doesn't know anything. But he knows there's certain tips that he wants to give him a hand on. So he, and so therefore, so his house you say, proceed with his life. 'Cos now he's so consumed with the house. 'Cos he wanted to do it for his parents. He want to finished it before he start his life. And if he doesn't finish it, it's gonna be a pain. Now he got so sick, I wouldn't be surprised he's in the hospital. I didn't call him today yet. That's how sick he was. 'Cos on his way home from New York to Missouri, he gotten so sick with three-day fever, 104, 105, when he went home, he was in the hospital for a week with (intervene?)..

04.25.38 So I think he got the same problem. So that's our next thing in between my surgery, see if I could squeeze in some time to do it. But I have so many appointments. So I don't know whether I'm gonna do that or not. But I have to do it in this month or two. But we're gonna drive down. I think. If not, then I have to think about two and a half hour ride. So haven't decided yet.

04.26.01 Have to recuperate from this one first, you know what I'm saying. Then my mother all of a sudden decide she wants to go to Canada. I said, oh my god, Canada. That's a eight, nine-hour drive. Okay. Now she's not that well. I try to do everything that she asks for. I kind of mentioned it. And she was all gung-ho to do it. That's why yesterday, she's so bored, I said,

let's go to Pennsylvania to eat. Just to get out from the place. It's about, over an hour ride from my house. Almost a little bit more than Chinatown.

04.26.30 There's nothing there. (Compared to?) Philadelphia's, Chinatown is like, a two, three street. So we ate. She was happy. She came home. And today, she's going to Chinatown. I know she's expecting me to go to that fortune teller, 'cos she been bugging me.

JW: You're expanding.

04.26.50 LING YOUNG: I'm, yeah, I'm trying little bit at a time. Also, because I'm trying to do it for my mother. I think because I'm doing it for her, in my mind, I'm not thinking about myself. Okay. She want to go to Boston, too. I thought, oh my god. This is a very long trip. Okay, 'cos my leg is not really that great. Unless I'm sitting in the front. My leg got to be stretched out completely. You sit in the second row, it starts going to sleep on me. So I said, maybe then we'll have to get off every now and the just to stretch out. 'Cos I don't want my leg to be completely conked out. So I said, well, let's think about it. She wanted to go to Boston.

04.27.30 There's a five-hour ride, right? From there to Boston to Canada, Toronto, I don't know, how far is it? Okay, I think you have to go this way and go back that way. I'm not too sure. Now, she's very weak. But she wants to do it. So I said, in order for us to go, Donald has to go and my brother has to go. They have to split the, split the driving. That's the only way we're gonna do it. So we'll see. But because of my appointment, I cannot even squeeze it until like, sometime in October.

04.28.02 'Cos I have my, oh god, I must have about ten doctor's appointment in these two, three weeks. So I planned to go on the 8<sup>th</sup>. I'm not too sure. That's the time we, but the way she is, you got to do it on a daily basis. We have no idea what she look like tomorrow. So that's why I want to rush everything in. Do whatever she wants to do. Before anything happen to her. If I didn't have like, six appointment in one day, I would have cancelled all those appointment.

04.28.31 But between me and Donald, we have about seven, eight, six appointment in one day. And then have another four appointment in one day. Because it was like, two of us together at the same place. I can't really schedule all these other thing. So that was my problem right there. 'Cos I, you, you reschedule four doctors, which is hard. It's not, and not just like, one appointment, I could just say, oh, forget about Dr. (Choo?). I don't have to see him today. I'll see him some other time. But when you have four appointment, four different doctors, it's not that easy. 'Cos this is with the local.

JW: Where are you in the healing process?

04.29.11 LING YOUNG: I'm actually pretty good. Except my leg. Like I said, I was doing great until after this last surgery. And all of a sudden, I started having problem with my pain. And then I started having numbness. And uh, and then my back is shot. It would be like, just like I was on a cruise ship. Must be the bed.

04.29.32 I literally cannot get off my bed. Get out of my bed. I have to like, really like, inch, inch, inch, inch, until I can pick myself on one end. And once I get up, I'm okay. It's when I'm trying to get up is the problem. I had that problem before. At home. But must be the bed is so, oh, I think that's a horrible bed. So lasted me about three days or so. Then I got a lot better.

04.30.00 Okay. It might have been because I was taking some other pills. Where am I? I would say I'm at least 100 percent better than first time you met me. I'm walking. Okay. I'm not, I don't have as many appointment anymore 'cos my physical therapy ended as of last month. 'Cos after six month, no matter how they crank me, it's not going nowhere. So I finally asked Dr. Choo, I said, is it going anywhere?

04.30.30 'Cos you just put, they just putting pain on me. It's not doing anything. And every time I move, it hurts. When they bend you, it really hurts. And I don't want to take pain (?) medication unless I desperately need it. 'Cos once I take it, all kinds of side effect I have. I

got my numbness once in awhile. But that's to be expected. Other than that, I'm just waiting for the surgery. That's when I'm gonna shave my head.

04.30.59 Oh, I have to, I don't believe in shaving half of it and half you get so hot, 'cos I'm very particular with (?) my hair. If I can't wash my hair, I go crazy. If you wanted me to have a week without washing my hair, I definitely gonna go crazy.

JW: You're gonna shave your head?

LING YOUNG: I'm gonna shave my head, yeah.

JW: What are you having done?

04.31.17 LING YOUNG: This part right here. 'Cos when I, like I said, when I look this way, it's pulling my eyes. And it's gonna get worse. I don't want to get to a point that I cannot move it anymore. It affects (?) my vision. Otherwise I will not have it done. That's the only reason why I'm having it done. He actually released part of it right here already. I'm a lot better what I used to before.

04.31.38 Before, this is how much I could turn now. At least I could turn this much. But you can see, it's pulling my eyes. He's gonna release this. But he can't do it in one shot. So he's gonna do a couple shots. Couple of times. So let's pray by the end of next year, I should be done unless something else happen. 'Cos the my (?) are healing okay. Once in awhile, you see a little here and there, but it's not a big deal. It's not like I'm bleeding anymore, that I cannot move.

04.32.06 My arm, actually did a great job. See? This was about inch thick. It's a lot of hole and you can't clean it. It stinks. So he did this. He did a little zigzag here. Did a little, and he did a little zigzag here. And my hand was like this. It's how my hand was. So after he did this, I could bend a little bit. As you can see, he took the good skin and pulled it over.

04.32.31 And he did this little zig zag. He did this little zigzag. There's a lot of little zigzag he did. And this piece right here was thick, thick. Like this thick. Right on here. That's for me, from moving. So I don't know what he did. He opened it a little, gave me a little crown here. So now I'm straightened out. So I can't complain. Okay. And I don't have this thing to clean up anymore, 'cos it's really so bad that you can't clean it. 'Cos you, no matter how you try to clean it, you can't get in.

04.33.03 So he did all that. So you know, I still have a little crack here and here. But it's not to a point that you can't clean it. Before over here, it's like a little peg board. IT's like a lot of, lot of dot with that little holes. And he took that off. I still got a couple, but nowhere near what I used to have. So I mean, he's a plastic surgeon. He's a hand surgeon. He's also into, now he's famous in facial reconstruction. Then he's a nerve reconstructions-ism, something like that. He has all kinds of title.

JW: Will you be finished with your surgery in a year?

04.33.44 LING YOUNG: I'm hoping. I'm praying. Okay. The only reason I don't do it in the summertime, because it's way too hot for me 'cos it's right on my face. Because you got to bandage me up. I'm gonna have like, just a whole piece to hold it. It's very, very hot.

JW: When?

04.34.02 LING YOUNG: I would say early December, I thinking. That's what we planned it. Because January, he has to go away. I don't know for how long. He (?) does a lot of speeches all over the world now, that's why.

JW: When will you be done?

04.34.16 LING YOUNG: Completely? Oh, I don't know. I don't know how many time he's gonna do it. I know my next one is sometime in December. Actually I'm gonna see him next week. I probably have a little bit more detail of when they gonna do it.

JW: But when will you be done with surgery in general?

- 04.34.34 LING YOUNG: As of now, I don't want to do anything else anymore. For my sake. Now it's just the face. So he did say there's a couple steps. So maybe a couple more. Unless something else happen. Other than that, I'm not doing anything anymore. I kind of gotten to a point, this is it. I got what I wanted already. Other problem is gonna stay for the rest of my life anyway. I am not, and you cannot help it.
- 04.35.00 My itchiness, my hive and all those, I just have to take Benadryl. And I'm taking a lot more of it than usual. I mean, I get hive, I get hive. Even to a point one time, this whole, right here, it's like a inch thick. That I got scared. 'Cos that's where my blood circulation is. It was so bad, to a point is, I took like, triple doses of Benadryl. 'Cos really nothing really work for me. So people are knocked out by 25 milligram. I have to take 100 milligram and I'm still like, I'm still awake.
- 04.35.31 So that doesn't really bother me too much. So I took it. Next day, it still hurt me. That's how bad it was. I even talk to Dr. Bauer. I said, I don't know why I'm getting hive. Almost on a constant daily basis, I get hive. And he looked at me like, no one can tell me why. I mean, people are still itchy. But people don't get hive like I do. That I know of. But I get hive every single day without fail.
- 04.35.59 Depend how bad it is. If it's so bad to a point when I see a raising, I better take my Benadryl. Because if I don't, it gets worse and worse. I try not to do it. I try to put those uh, itch cream. But if it doesn't work within a half an hour, I better take my pill. And that's the reason why my, I got a lot of tests being done. Because number one, they don't know why I'm losing all so much weight in one shot. So liver sonogram.
- 04.36.30 You name it, I have. Any test that you can think of, I'm having. All kinds of blood tests I'm having. I even have a scope through my throat. That came out okay. But the doctor gave me Nexium anyway, just to play safe.

JW: Are you in pain right now?

04.36.47 LING YOUNG: I'm not in pain. I'm just itchy. I'm like, and I'm starting to get a hive, hive. Okay. But it comes. You don't know when it's gonna be. It just like that. Or maybe I touch something that I shouldn't touch. And it just blow up.

JW: How do you feel about deciding not to do more surgeries?

04.37.11 LING YOUNG: Well, because this hand is about at least 12 surgery. And it's not going nowhere. The reason I agreed to do the last surgery with the plastic joint, 'cos I understand a lot of people had plastic joint and it worked out perfectly. In my mind, I said to myself, I give myself a last chance. I will do it.

04.37.30 It work, fine. I see it doesn't work, I'm not blaming you 'cos I know myself. So when they didn't, but he did gave me a lot of space in between. He did a lot of web space. Which helps me because I could, I just open my thing. I could grab thing a little bit more easily. When it first happen, I was bending pretty well. I could get like, about 45 degree. They were doing okay. But once, after a certain time, once the scar tissue started growing back again, back to square one.

04.37.59 So this is what, this is September. It's about seven months. And it's not, after six months, six months. Six months' physical therapy is a lot. I mean, occupational therapy, it's a lot. If it doesn't work in six months, I think just call it quit. So I did talk to, because my therapist said, I don't think it's going anywhere, Ling. Which I know (?) for a fact. So I, the last time I talked to him I said, what do you think? I said, we're not going nowhere with this. And I'm accepting the fact that it didn't work.

04.38.30 I'm not blaming you. I said, I'm not blaming you. I just have to say that this is my way of healing. So we stopped that.

JW: Why?

- 04.38.41 LING YOUNG: Because no matter how you gonna try, the scar tissue's gonna be there. And the scar tissue's gonna stop, stop me from healing. Stop me from having my joint moving. 'Cos it's so thick. My whole scar tissue surrounding. Especially this finger, it must be like, five, six times, with just this particular one spot. Especially after he fused my finger. That killed it.
- 04.39.02 He was supposed to release my finger. Instead he fused it. That's why I said I should have sued him. But then I said, he's one of the best doctor. No one's gonna be in my defense. And all they have to do is say, blame it on my scar. I'm gonna get myself so much headache. It's not worth it. First of all, I wasn't even looking for the money. I just want him to be aware that you can't just blow people off just like that. But it didn't work, so, so I didn't bother. Of course, Donald had a fit, but I said, Donald, you're not getting anywhere with it. Beside, you're gonna put me on the stand to do what?
- 04.39.35 And first of all, I don't even remember what I said two minutes ago. And the guy's gonna chew me because I say so and so. And then now I'm saying something else. Seem like I'm lying. But in the meantime, I don't remember what I said. So I said, I can't put myself through that. So that's why we didn't bother. So you know, what are you gonna do. Take it away as is. I'm here.
- 04.39.59 That's what I always say to myself. I'm here. I should be happy what I got. So I'm accepting it. Of course, at the same time, you get frustrated. Once in a blue moon when you can't do certain thing. 'Cos if I trying to kind to cook, I can't 'cos I can't hold the thing and try to cut. So Donald's trying to cook, which is a joke. But he's trying. We're trying hard. So you know. One day at a time. That's how I see it. I don't think about what's gonna happen next week or anything like that.
- 04.40.30 I say, we never know. You wake up tomorrow, you're great. You don't wake up, you don't know what happened. And that's how actually all of us think. We can't even do two days in

advance. You do plan what's gonna happen next week. You know your appointment next week. But we don't look forward to say, okay, tomorrow this is what we're gonna do. We know what we're gonna do tomorrow and this is it. But if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. So I don't know.

JW: You're just letting go?

LING YOUNG: I wouldn't say it's letting go. But it just.

JW: What would you call it?

04.41.06 LING YOUNG: Whatever happen happens. That's how we see it. We're not gonna go, there's no way of planning your future. Like, I planned my whole life. I had a future ahead of me. I was gonna retire 55. I'm gonna have a wonderful pension. I'm gonna do all the traveling, which I was supposed, I wish I was doing before 9/11. All this plan. I want to pay off my mortgage. Everything was planned. Boom. One snap.

04.41.29 Everything turns around. So therefore, what is there to plan? I can't plan. Like, I didn't plan my mother to be that sick. I didn't plan my father from a healthy individual to turn around, two, two days later, he's an old man. Like, 20 years later, 20 years older. So there's nothing to plan. Like, also between these couple years, there's so many people dying. Just like that. With a flick, click of a finger, they were dead. I'm like, okay.

04.41.57 So what are we thinking? Like, one of the survivor, one of his son committed suicide. Not, I think he committed suicide or he overdosed himself on uh, anxiety pill. 'Cos it was like, three boys. One that a kid got killed because they were playing around on the train track. So one of them tried to committed suicide. Okay. He went and visit him. Next thing you know, he went home, took the pill, he die. First of all, he came back from 9/11, he didn't die. Then he, then one of his kid die. So it's like, what's gonna happen to you tomorrow?

04.42.30 You don't know. Today I might be talking to someone and tomorrow he's dead. So it's so many things happen, actually there's so many death lately. It's like, scary. It's like, they're dropping like flies. And they're not even old. They're young people. So I'm looking at it and I say, well, I'm 54. I said, I might (?) not be here tomorrow, so why am I knocking my brain out? You can't plan anymore. I plan all my life. I have everything set up to be the way I wanted it to be. And one day, that dream was gone.

04.43.02 So I don't plan. I do still think about what I'm gonna do. I'm not saying that I'm not gonna say that I don't want to do such and such. But it's not like what I used to be. I would plan it. This is what I'm gonna do. This is, this month, I'm gonna take this trip. Or I'm gonna do this, I'm gonna do that. Anything I would do now would be like, okay, let's do this. And we just go ahead and do it.

JW: Is that healthier?

04.43.26 LING YOUNG: Is it healthier? I think so. 'Cos I don't have to worry about it. I don't think about it. If it happen, we'll go. If it doesn't happen, we don't go. Just like my mother all of a sudden, she said she wanted to go to Canada. I'm gonna try to make it my best to make, take her there. Do I want to go? No. (LAUGHS) I'm not crazy about it. Okay. I've been in Canada so many times already. But she said she wanted to go. And out of nowhere, she never want to go anywhere. She says, you want to go? I mention it, she said, yes, I want to go. I said, okay. And then we have to try to work it out with her. We take one day at a time. We're not gonna talk about next week. We're not gonna talk about two months from now.

04.44.04 Even I might make plans for two months later, I'm doing something. But I don't look at it until time comes. Just like this trip. I did not pack until the last minute because I don't know what happen. Anytime when I do something, I buy an insurance now, 'cos I don't know what's gonna happen to my mother. Okay. I learned that. I don't want to lose everything I paid for. I'd rather pay the insurance and lose the insurance. And then it happen, at least I don't lose every penny.

04.44.33 That's how an insurance company making a lot of money. That's why. (LAUGHS) 'Cos it's cheap. You buy airline ticket, it's very cheap. If you (?) don't make it, you don't lose the whole thing.

JW: Is it about expectations?

04.44.56 LING YOUNG: Yes. That's I, we decide we don't do that anymore. Like I planned this trip. Everything's working out perfect. All of a sudden, this guy don't want to go. Boom. Money's gone. Okay? Uh, I wasn't very upset. Only because I kind of expected it. But if I knew 100 percent in my mind, I would have done it differently. Okay. That was my biggest problem. I never planned a trip that big. Okay. I never knew how to do it. Unfortunately, it should, my agent should have let me know way back that when I book it, I should have bought insurance. I didn't know that.

04.45.29 If I'd have done that, I would not lose the money, okay. If I knew that he was like that, I would have used my miles to buy his ticket. The only thing I would lose \$65, not a whole grand. So it's like, when you add all these things because you don't think like you used to think anymore. And you don't think that this is gonna happen.

JW: Is that a bad thing?

04.45.51 LING YOUNG: I don't know if it's good or bad. Because I always used to be really much in control. Now it's like, people is controlling me. Event is controlling me, what I'm gonna do. Like, if I plan a trip next week (?), you don't see me packing like I used to be. Like, everything's all set, you know. Everything's ready to go within a couple of days. Now it's like, when time comes I'll do it. Like, you will see me the last second, I'm shoving things in. Before, I'm very prepared. I had taken a trip, coming back from Las Vegas, that's the time when I took like, eight trip in a year and a half. That's a lot. And I was able to do that with only my four-week vacation 'cos I know how to plan.

04.46.32 I'm a very good planner before. I came home about 9 o'clock in the, at night from Las Vegas. 'Cos I took my mother. No, actually I went with my brother. Next morning, 6 o'clock, I flew to London to see my son. (LAUGHS) It was like, two sets of clothes. Summer, winter. Came home, dumped that clothes, take the other one. (LAUGHS) That's how I used to travel. Then after that, came home from London, I went to Las Vegas with my mother that time. On February.

04.47.10 Then after that, in March, I went to Hong Kong with her. Okay, before, after Hong Kong, I went to San Diego and Las Vegas with my, Richard and Melissa. That was in, I came back 9/1 or 9/2. What happen a week later? Boom, 9/11 happen. And that's the same year I planned a trip to go back to China with them.

04.47.30 Let them see the village. I thought I was ready to go, 'cos what's the problem? You get cooked, you know, you cook, you get burned. I'm ready. Not knowing that you ain't going nowhere for a long, long time. So that's why what good is planning? I plan all my whole life. Everything's just whoop, it disappear. So I don't plan anymore. I will think about it. I might try to do something. Let's say I might, let's say I want to plan, plan to do something. But I will not hold myself to it, that this is gonna happen.

04.48.00 Not like before when I plan a trip I know it's gonna happen. Everything is all prepared. Tickets are bought. What I need to do, I'm gonna do. Now I plan it. When time come, that's when I'm ready to do it. Nothing in advance.

JW: Describe this year?

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

04.48.23 END OF TAPE # LY47

**TAPE #LY 43**

**Ling Young**

**JIM WHITAKER, Producer/director**

**PROJECT REBIRTH**

(Note: This segment seems to be out of sequence – time code hour number is 5, but DVD is labeled as first in series)

05.00.9 PICTURE UP

INTERVIEWER : (?)

05.00.42 LING YOUNG: Well, like towards the beginning of the year, actually well, like, starting last year, afraid my parent did not make Christmas. They made Christmas. And hoping they make Chinese New Year. They are very superstitious about making Chinese New Year. They make Chinese New Year. Then my surgery.

05.01.01 Then I have all kinds of problem. Then after that, my father die, then my godfather die. And then a friend die. It just like, to me, this year is just, everything just death and illness, including myself. Like me. I don't know what's going on with me. As of now, I still don't know what's going on me. It seem like a puzzle. And now I'm just dealing with the (?) day-to-day basis. To me, this whole year is strictly illness, death and I have no clue what's going on with me.

05.01.33 So I'm very confused now. To be describing it, I'm confused. I don't know where to turn or how should I, how am I gonna be able to know what's going to be next. 'Cos I still don't know what's going on. The trip (?) takes away a lot of tension for whole week. Actually ten days. That ten day, I kind of not remember too much of what's going on surrounding me. I

05.02.05 did call my mother, you know, every now and then from the ship 'cos they have internet. Other than that, I don't think too much, like I said. Even though I planned this trip, I didn't really have to do too much. Until last minute. That's when I went a little crazy because now

it's close. You're going tomorrow or you're going the next day. That last week, a little tense, okay.

05.02.32 And also, I just lost, again, I lost a recent friend again. Which about, she's an old lady, but I knew her for over 40 some-odd years. That's another one I was supposed to see. But I couldn't go see her because of my father's death. You can't go see certain people. Then at the same time, I was dealing with all my tests. So I couldn't find to go and Donald was with me like, six days a week. I couldn't go see her. And then she died.

INTERVIEWER: Donald's not working?

LING YOUNG: Now he's not. He's actually on unemploy now.

INTERVIEWER: He's not retired?

05.03.01 LING YOUNG: Not yet. (~JW~) Okay, so it was just so many things I wanted to do, I couldn't do. And everybody that I wanted to see before they die, I didn't do. So I got that little guilt trip on me that's playing around back and forth. If you ask me, to sum them up, I'm very confused. 'Cos everything just happened like, why this happen so fast, one after another?

05.03.24 I must have had four or five death this year. And it's only September.

INTERVIEWER: Are you learning anything from this?

05.03.48 LING YOUNG: There isn't that much on the outcome, but I do think of it like, after all these thing happen to me, especially with my son, and I don't know what's going on, and plus I found out like, you could be 40-some-odd years old, and all of a sudden, you're just dying tomorrow. Or maybe within the next couple weeks. To me, I want to take away as, if someone comes and tell me now, oh, Ling, well, you know what, you're dying.

- 05.04.07 I think I'd be upset, but I don't think I would take it as, I would not be as upset if I would have been couple years ago, okay. Because they gave me back my life a couple years. I did everything I wanted to do. I saw my kid going through, if anything happens to me, well, that's life. Things happen. Just like my friends died, okay.
- 05.04.33 Out of nowhere they just, whoop, you see them today, tomorrow they're gone. So you can see me today. Tomorrow I'm gone. So I don't really think too much about it. I, what did I learn from it? I'm gonna learn it one day at a time. That means you could be here very healthy today. Tomorrow, you be the most sickest person in the world. Just like I said to you, I just met this guy not too long ago. He was healthy. He was happy.
- 05.05.00 It was like, you don't see an ounce of something wrong with him. And now he's dying. Just like that overnight. So matter of fact, this year, I was out with the kids. I forgot what it was. Also this couple living around me. They skid on ice. She was head on. Now this woman is very active. Everything. Head on. Her head was completely crushed.
- 05.05.30 Now you could almost swear that she's gonna die. We were upset. We were worried, everything. She went through, (?) she got through. Just like that She was actually like, head on, crushed completely and her head was like, smashed. Her brain was bleeding. She had four surgery on her head. On her brain. She's not very well. I mean, she still needs speech therapy. I saw her at the mall about couple months ago. She was still dangling like, real nervous.
- 05.06.00 Then two months later, she was like, 100 percent better. So I haven't seen her for like, the last couple, two months already. I probably want to make a visit, 'cos she's only like, ten minutes away from me. So I'm looking at it, this is a very vibrant woman. Out of nowhere, she got this car accident and took her life away. Almost. And because of the accident, make him see things that, he used to be like, a real maniac. Unfortunately, my husband hasn't changed yet, so (LAUGHS)

- 05.06.30 I mean, it's like, just like yesterday, I said to him, you know, he's watching all these documentary. I said, Donald, when you hear me coming, be a little sensitive. 'Cos I cannot watch this these couple days. Unfortunate, the TV's right in front of my face. Okay, every time I walk through. So I make sure I make it very loud that I'm coming down, I'm walking, you know. So maybe you could just switch a little bit. So maybe next thing I'm gonna do, I'm gonna make him watch the TV in the other room because I don't hear it, I don't see it.
- 05.07.02 But this TV is right in front of my face every time I walk through. I just asked him, I said, just be a little sensitive about this couple of days, 'cos I don't know how I'll react if I see something I don't want to see. It's not that I try to avoid it, but I don't know when I'm gonna react to it, okay. So I don't watch this kind of thing. Just like we talk about the film that, Flight 93 and then this Nicholas Cage movie.
- 05.07.32 As a group, we were not happy with Flight 93. The only reason is, you're basing on something that you're not 100 percent is true. You're basing it on hearsay about what the conversation, you make up this whole story. Now this other movie, I didn't see either one of them. I could even see a little bit more because these are the two guy that trapped. I see it 'cos they alive. They came out and say something about it. You could put that into a movie.
- 05.08.00 I understand a little bit more because the person is alive to tell the story. When you're talking about everybody is dead and you only got based on the conversation, I don't see how you can make a movie. So we kind of got upset about that. But like I said, we talk about everything. Just like the plane, the bombing. We all freaked out. Just like, also remember the one time we had the blackout? The first thing that came down on our head is, okay, now what?
- 05.08.30 So everything would trick us up. A booming would trick us up. Trick me off, at least. That's the reason when I saw the (glazer?), it was very loud. I said, okay, I'm going back down. Just like firework, I cannot see firework anymore. That would definitely be a big no-no. I tried it twice. Twice I freaked out.

INTERVIEWER: See what?

05.08.52 LING YOUNG: Firework. (~JW~) That reminded me everything that happened that day. So now I know to avoid that. So I'm trying to, you know, I know where my limit is. I'm learning my limits. There are certain things I cannot do anymore. Even though I want to do, I cannot.

INTERVIEWER: You're learning limits, but you're also pushing out?

05.09.11 LING YOUNG: I'm trying. I'm trying to do a little bit more than what I've been doing for the last four years. So that's why I said this trip is a big step for me. (?) on the plane, the people. And all these things surrounding you. But I have everybody there with me, so in a way, I kind of like, if god forbid, it happened to me, hell, my doctor's there to take care of my skin.

05.09.34 My nurse will take care of my wound and my home health is there to take care of my other things. So I'm surrounded. Okay, there was not one minute that I'm kind of alone to do what I want to do. So therefore, I really don't have time to even think. But they're so busy. Everybody's always on top of you to doing something. So that's a very big step for me. And I hope that I will continue doing it. I don't know how (?) confused about it, but I got to go on with my life and try to do something a little bit normal, more normal.

05.10.03 But unfortunately, I don't think that way sometime. You got to be like, dead. You know, for them to give you your benefit. Just like my friend who went through as much surgery as I have. His hands are shortened. His back's completely gone. He had lung problem, the uh, breathing problem. They think he's lying. He's over exaggerating. This is what you're dealing with. When you're dealing with a government agency or a workman's compensation board, they try to not to give you anything as much as possible.

05.10.35 So they gonna find all kinds of loophole to kill you. Even though, now the one who doesn't deserve it probably gets away with it. And that's what this whole, you know, that's how the system works.

INTERVIEWER: Why are we suffering?

05.10.52 LING YOUNG: I don't know. That's the whole thing. The thing is, when we deserve it, why we having so much trouble? Like, he's having a lot of problem. Why is he suffering? Why does this psychology decided that he's exaggerating? And at the same time, when somebody else is, doesn't have ten percent what he has, she okay. Like I said, I'm not mentioning name. It's the same guy. Same doctor.

INTERVIEWER: But just this year. Why?

05.11.25 LING YOUNG: I don't know. Because it just happen. Like, today, I be sitting home, all of a sudden, you get a phone call. So and so die. Or you sit down. All of a sudden, you get a phone call. Oh, so and so is dying. It just like, it's nonstop this year so far. It's almost like, every month, I have, it's a different story, okay. Last month my friend die. I came back from vacation. I found out this guy is dying. Okay. This is September so far. Now what's happen in October, I have no clue. It could be my mother. You know, like, she's so frail, you don't know what happen.

05.11.58 So that's why I'm try to take one day at a time. Even like with my group, everybody's having surgery. Okay, if it's not this surgery, it's that surgery. Even my home health aide's husband's having surgery. One after another. It's like, everybody's not well. Seem like it's like, maybe before I wasn't aware of what's going on with me. Now, 'cos I'm home, I guess I get more news. It just like, every day's a different thing. I really don't really look at the news too much.

05.12.28 Especially now with these crazy things going on. 'Cos I don't want it to give me another attack. I don't need another one. So I try to avoid it. It's not that I don't want to face it. But I try to avoid it, so I don't have to go nutty again. 'Cos we are not getting, we're not doing too well. That's the problem.

INTERVIEWER: What about your age?

05.12.57 LING YOUNG: Oh, age never bothers me. I have no problem being old because that means I got there. When they say, people say, when you turn 50, you always, I'm oh god. I said, I have no problem with turning old. That means you live a lot of year. I look forward to be 65. I have no problem with it. I know there's a female say, oh my god, once you turn 40, now you're like, your life is over. No, age never did anything to me. Age was never my problem, was never a secret. Uh, never afraid of being old.

05.13.28 But I do think about death a lot more than I used to. It does occur to my mind of what happen if I die today, what would happen. That was never in my mind before, but I do think about it so much more than before. It's not that it's scaring me, but it just pops into your head. Oh well, if I die tomorrow, what would happen? That's the only thing would kind of like surface once in a blue moon. But I don't dwell on it and, you know, I don't think about it like, oh my god, am I gonna make it tomorrow.

05.14.01 I don't think about that anymore. I do come up like, well, if I die tomorrow, okay, this might happen, that might happen. But it doesn't sink in too much. It goes away right away. But I do think a lot about it. Especially this couple week. Everybody thinking about it. That's why my girlfriend coming home from Puerto Rico, that was the day when they were doing the arrest. She just say, let me go and let me go quick. That's how we get into a point, we gonna have to happen, please let it go quick.

05.14.34 'Cos we can't, I don't think we can ever go through another burn again. That's the only thing we wish for. Anything happen, just make it quick. Gone, done. And that's what we're wishing for. And that was like a wish. It's like, a death wish, but please. Let us go quick. So (~JW~) we don't want to go through this again. I don't think we could. If that happened to us again and we got burned again, I don't think we'd be the same.

05.15.01 There's no way we could be the same. So if it gonna happen, please let us go. Boop. Done. I'm out. What you don't know don't hurt, right? You're gone. So anyway, my father's lucky

because he's suffering. He's really in pain. Of course, we don't want him go, but you know what, he's in peace. He's not suffering anymore. I mean, he was really, really bad. It was like, this arm's no good. They put on this arm.

05.15.30 And his arm was like, his skin, he's skinny like me. Gotten to a point his arm is popped up this way. And it was disgusting. Then next think you know, he has, then he has vein in his leg. It wasn't life anymore. It was just, he was just suffering every, single day. And to me, that's no life.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

INTERVIEWER: Is that part of preparing ourselves?

05.16.04 LING YOUNG: No, not being morbid. I said to myself, 'cos the way I am, I could be to a point one day that I cannot move at all, okay. If I cannot move at all, then I cannot do anything whatsoever, I rather be dead. Because if you're not, let's assume you're a vegetable. Not a vegetable. That's if you can't talk anymore, you can't move, you can't do anything by yourself. It's almost like stand still. If everybody has to do everything for you, first of all, I'm causing, it's a big burden on everybody. Okay (~JW~)

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel guilty about that?

05.16.35 LING YOUNG: If I'm in that position, if everybody has to come and try to help me, give me, clean me up and feed me and things like that, I rather not be around. Because to me, that's a big burden. Okay. Of course, they send you to a nursing home, but that stinks there. I mean, nursing home is horrible. No matter how great the nursing home is, I don't care how much you pay for the nursing home, it's still not the same.

05.16.58 I hope I have enough money that I could hire help. That's the only thing I'm concerned with. And I hope that workman's still pays for my bill, then I'm okay. (LAUGHS) They don't, I'm in trouble. That's why (?) case is very important to me. That's why I wouldn't let them take

the pictures. Because of my condition, I don't know what my future holds. Until my case is closed, that they will pay for all my medical that are related to my injury, I don't really care about the (?) they give me. I do care because that gives me some financial background.

05.17.31 But my main thing is my medical bill. Because if it's job-related, other insurance don't pay for it. Then I'll be in very bad shape. That's why the, before the case is closed, it's very important to me that I have to be careful what I do. Like, I had a lot of free time. I can't even volunteer. That's how bad it is. I could go in a nursing home and talk to people. I can't even do that.

05.17.59 Technically, you almost have to be crippled. Which is sad. I mean, if, because I can't do my job, I could do other things. But once you could do other thing, that mean you're okay. And you can't get anything anymore. And that to me is sad. Why can't you let people out like us to go talk to other people? Maybe join some kind of a group to help other people? No. Can't do that. Unless the, unfortunately I don't drive. That makes it worse.

05.18.29 See, I don't mind going to nursing home, I don't mind doing certain thing, even though I can't do too much. I could do a little bit. Answer's no.

INTERVIEWER: (?) suffering?

05.18.40 LING YOUNG: Yeah. I know. And it's like, I'm useless. I feel useless That's how bad I, that's how I feel. That's why I want to do this trip. I feel useful. Wow, I did something. 'Cos I can't cook. It's not that I really can't, can't. Once I put myself in water, I bubble up.

05.18.59 Okay, there are people more handicapped than I am doing things. But with me, once I bubble up, I start getting hive. Once I getting hive, everything start happening to me. So why kill myself? That's why I don't do it anymore. What can I say?

INTERVIEWER: Where will you be in a couple of years?

05.19.20 LING YOUNG: Oh, I have no clue. I can't even imagine what happen next year. I have no clue. I hope that I'm still where I am now, as good as I am now. And then I'll be happy. I hope. But they tell me burn is not that easy. I will have arthritis. I have glaucoma. I could have other problem that I don't know about. Like, my girlfriend just found out recently that her eye in the backs are leaking water. So we don't know how severe our burn is. We could looking great now.

05.19.57 Two years down the line, we have no idea. Just like all the people coming out now with all the (?) respiratory problem. So I don't know. Just like why all of a sudden I can't eat? I have no clue. I just don't eat. Just like that. Just almost like today, I'll be eating like a pig. Tomorrow, just completely lost my appetite. And then continue like that for like, three months. Just like that. I try to force myself. Forget it. If I did, I want to throw up.

INTERVIEWER: Any empty nest syndrome?

05.20.33 LING YOUNG: I always feel empty 'cos I feel useless. You get up in the morning, you drink your cup of coffee. What are you gonna do next? It's like, okay, let me go in den and look at a little bit of stuff. Read my email. People always send me jokes. After that, lunch. After lunch, I watch TV. I watch a little soap opera. Then it seem like the day is gone almost. And then Donald comes home by 4:00. Then I go back to the computer a little bit. Next thing you know, the day is over. Then I say to yourself, myself what did I do?

05.21.04 I said, not much (LAUGHS) Because I don't do anything else. But the day kind of go by real quick. Next thing you know it's over. But I don't sleep until like, 2, 3 o'clock, though. So you ask me what I do. Not much. So if you ask me, did I help cook? No. Did I, I go once in awhile for shopping. I don't even do that too much anymore 'cos the kids not home anymore.

INTERVIEWER: What about that?

05.21.29 LING YOUNG: Well, that kind of empty, 'cos at least my, well, I have my daughter coming home. But I (?) she tell me what's going on at a job. She tells me what's going on. She still

call me twice a day just to check up on me. But it's not the same anymore. It's not like she come home and just complain and complain to me what happened today. This one's not doing good, that one's not doing good. But now since she move out, it's slightly different.

INTERVIEWER: Have you heard the term empty nest syndrome?

05.21.53 LING YOUNG: Oh yeah, it's kind of empty. Especially now, we try to watch TV together once in awhile. But then he piss me off and I'm not watching TV with him. (LAUGHS) We try, because we say, what we are gonna do together? It's only you and me. You know what I'm saying? It's only two of us in this big empty house. So I love to have friends come over. Come over, I got two bedroom. I have another study you could sleep in. So that's why when Doctor (Bob?) came in, he stay over there for a night. When Mary came over, he stay, she stay overnight. But now she's going crazy, poor Mary.

05.22.29 She, her mother, who was like, also not great, she, I would say, Alzheimer's, but she had dementia. She's really, sometimes she recognizes him, sometimes she doesn't. But they do have 24-hour care for her, which is great. She's happy. She don't know what's going on, but she's happy. And Dave's mother, Mary's husband, Dave's mother is 96 years old. So she's taking care of that. So she's running back between New York, Long Island and south Jersey. So she's running back like, back and forth like a yoyo.

05.23.07 She take it also one day at a time, too, 'cos (?) her arm got a (?). Once in awhile, she will hold it and sometimes she completely drops it. Just like me. I could be holding something. Next thing you know, it slip right off. That's the frustration part comes. 'Cos we can't do certain things. 'Cos I was very active. She was very active. We always into some kind of trouble. But now it's like, okay, sit down and shut up. And do what you need to do.

05.23.33 When I go on a trip, they all have to hold me like I'm like, impotent, okay. I have my chair. One of them got to be next to me in case I (?) I fall. Since the last fall, everybody kind of afraid because I hit my head. No, actually I didn't hit my head. My chin. But the chin went

to my head. So my doctor said probably because of the nerve just went right up. So I'm very careful with that.

05.23.58 But you know, I don't care how careful you do, you're gonna slide down. And I'm very clumsy. That's my biggest problem. But uh, it's not a good year, but I hope next year will be better. That it'll be calmer. There wasn't one good month for me that I was like, okay, nothing happened. Every month, if not a death, it's a sickness. So technically, that ten day gave me a lot of peace. Even though I call my mother, find out how she's doing. And she wasn't doing good at all.

05.24.31 She gets very upset. I saw her the day before. Like I said, I don't hug my mother at all because it's not within us. But I have to give her a hug because I felt a need to do it. She looked so sad. (PAUSE) So I just say, you know, when I come back, you know, I come back and see you. So when I call her, she sound like she's really not there. So we're so afraid that she gonna be gone while we're gone.

05.25.01 Thank god didn't happen. So the first thing we did was we picked her up the next day, we brought her back to New Jersey. And whatever she want to do, we do. I take her out to eat. 'Cos my sister in law don't like to cook. It's gonna cost me a bundle, but you know, how long you gonna be spending money on her? That's how I see it. Let's assume you spend another six month. So what? Big deal. I mean, I hate to go out every single day, because it's like, after awhile, how much food can you eat outdoors?

05.25.32 But we've been doing it almost every day. But costing me a bundle, but you know what, like I said to Donald, how many more time you think we're gonna be able to do it? That's not much more longer. If she's not taking any chemo, the tumor's growing and it's spreading all over the place. Just hope that she go quick. That's the only thing I'm hoping. Not to be in a (tube?) for like, a month or two.

05.25.58 So it's not like we're waiting for any day to happen. And that's not fun. 'Cos when you look at her, you say, wow, you know, she look frail. But she's only 75. She was very active

before, too. And you never know she was in her 70s. That's how good she looks. And boom, they gave her six months. Now it's over two years. So pretty good. And she's strong. I mean, when she was mad, man, she's good. I mean, she's (?) loud.

05.26.33 But now she's obsessed with this, my father's not around. So obsessed that I don't know what to do with her. So hopefully one day, something's knock the sense into her that maybe she just say, hey, life is too short. But I don't think so. My mother's always like that. And that's the sad part. And that's why I said to myself, I will never be my mother. So I'm gonna live my life the way as is. I will not be miserable like her.

05.27.00 I will not allow my in law bother me. That's also bother her, too, 'cos none of my nephew and nieces ever close to her. And all you'd be is like, just be a little nicer to her. She's on cloud nine. My kid doesn't count. Now that you know. It count, but it's not as much as the boy's kid. But if my brother's kid would be so close to her, she'll be on cloud nine. But none of them want to do that. I almost have to make them do it. Which is sad.

05.27.29 I would say, go, to the kids, like, go give your grandmother a hug. Other than that, they wouldn't, nobody would ever go say boo. But she's used to it. That's the only thing. My kids are very different. I make sure they do it. 'Cos that's respect. That's what I say to them. So, but unfortunately my (?) kid doesn't really count too much. I'm from the, I'm the girl. So, but we'll see. I hope next year be better.

05.27.59 We only got three more months to go. (LAUGHS) Four months. I hope no other bad news for the time being. 'Cos I don't know if I can handle too much more. But we'll see. Hope I only tell you good news. How's that?

INTERVIEWER: We'll be here regardless.

05.28.24 LING YOUNG: Yeah, I'm just so busy, that's why I never been emailing. I'm just like, running back and forth like a nut job. (~JW~) I been running like, if you look at my

appointment book, you'd go, oh my god. There's not even one or two days is open. That's how bad it is. That'll be okay. Okay?

INTERVIEWER: I'm sorry about your father.

05.28.43 LING YOUNG: Well, you know what, he's at peace. And I don't see him suffering anymore, so that helps. (PAUSE) Because he was really suffering. Between my mother and his sickness, to me, I wouldn't want to live either, be honest with you. 'Cos what kind of life you get? You get up in the morning, you go to (?), you're dying. Next day, you feel better. Your wife is killing you. It's like, it just like, that's no life.

05.29.11 It's not that I wish that he was dead, but at least he's at peace. He's not suffering anymore. He looks very peaceful when he die, so make us feel good. You know, just like he was sleeping. That's how good he look. And when they put him out, they did exactly what I asked for.

05.29.32 That helped tremendously. (?) sorry. So, you know, when life is gone, there's (?) suffering, I guess is a blessing. So my mother's not really suffering. But she's just out of control. That's worse. (LAUGHS) I mean, she's in pain, but she's really out of control.

05.29.57 It's like, can't control the lady. I'll see what happen tonight when I go with her.

INTERVIEWER: Maybe it's all part of it.

LING YOUNG: Oh god.

INTERVIEWER: Can't control everything.

LING YOUNG: You're right. Can't be control freak. (LAUGHS) Okay. Oh my god.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.30.55 LING YOUNG: Yeah. (~JW~) It's a very big step for me. Very, very big step. It helped me tremendously that uh, I did what I wanted to do. And I thanked the people I want to thank. So that make a big difference for me. Personally. I don't care about anybody else's thing. I don't care what my family would think about, I don't care. But for my own sake, my own sanity, I did that for my own sake. Makes me feel good. That's how it is. And I'm happy I did it. So that's what it counts. That's how I see it now. That's what count. I don't really don't care what anybody else says anymore. I used to.

05.31.29 But now I said, forget about you guys. I don't care what you guys think. (?) I think is right, I'm gonna do it.

INTERVIEWER: You must be proud.

05.31.37 LING YOUNG: Oh, I'm proud of myself doing it, yes. I am. I used to think about what everybody think. Now, hey, it's my way. Okay, I want to do it, I'm gonna do it my way. Which is kind of hard for them accept. But hey, too bad. That's how I see it. You don't like it, it's too bad.

INTERVIEWER: It's what the journey of life is about.

05.32.14 LING YOUNG: That's it. Because I can't please everybody now, see? The more I try to please somebody, the more trouble I get into. So you know what, let me please myself a little bit. That's why everybody's yelling at me. They says, Ling, can you just shut up and just think about yourself? I said, yeah, I am. I am trying. I'm really trying. That's (?) if you don't agree with me, too bad.

05.32.33 That's what I say. It's what I want. I don't want to hear it. Of course I still get the, you know, whole earful of it. But you know what, I'm tuning them out. And I'm happy, I'm so glad I did it. I'm so glad that my (home healthcare?) actually made it. 'Cos her husband wasn't gonna make it. He was having surgery, then he having the tensor unit putting in. They was

gonna have all kind of thing. The last second, he almost didn't make it. And if he didn't make it, I understand because he was going through this for like, four years.

05.33.00 But for the other one to turn me down was like, a little upsetting. He could have told me that way beforehand. But hey, things happen. It wasn't him, I wouldn't be sitting here, so I took it as a blessing. So that's how I see it. One day at a time. And one day I'm gonna visit you. I'm gonna take a trip. I'll make sure you're home first, though. (LAUGHS) That's another thing. That would be another trip.

05.33.27 Five-hour trip. (LAUGHS)

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.34.38 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) I always remember in the World Trade when you walk in, you see all kinds of trailer, you know they're filming. I saw King Kong, you know.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.35.16 LING YOUNG: (MID-STATEMENT) Then also, the other movie, I think it was Mel Gibson blew up (?). They made a second floor. They blew up the building. (~JW~) That was (?). Oh, we had all kinds of movie down there, you kidding.

05.35.28 Every movie you think of is there. Every morning you go in, you see this big truck, Dolly Parton.

INTERVIEWER: Lots of trucks and people standing around.

05.35.36 LING YOUNG: And then you know. The coffee thing is right there. It's on the side way. You know they filming. (LAUGHS) I know your drill.

(OFF CAMERA REMARKS)

05.36.34 ROOM TONE

05.37.42 END OF TAPE # LY 43