

# Kimberly Lee University of Texas at Austin

## - Dramatic

Mon, 3/2 11:45AM 10:18

### SUMMARY KEYWORDS

green, nail salon, korean, pak, really pretty color, son, tae, story, scarlet red, gossip, manicure, hands, hairless, maslin, car, worker, kim, weenie, speaking, gift

### SPEAKERS

Kimberly Lee

- K

Kimberly Lee 00:10

Thank you so much. Yes, please come again soon. Oh hi, Katie! Welcome, did you want your usual manicure? Ok, ok, sit down.
- K

Kimberly Lee 00:26









Today has been so busy I have-oh.
- K









Kimberly Lee 00:31

Oh this lady came in earlier and you know she asked for this scarlet red in a coffin shape. Yeah, she made this big deal about swinging her Gucci purse over her arm but when it came time to tip me it didn't even have enough cash. Oh you know it's always the fanciest ones. [cough] Oh no, I don't even make that many tips. I would
- K

Kimberly Lee 01:05

if I did though, I would give it

-  Kimberly Lee 01:08  
to my son
-  Kimberly Lee 01:11  
and then I'd use the rest to buy a car. You know, I love those little cars the smart cars?  
They're so cute. (Speaking in Korean) No, you didn't get me in trouble.
-  Kimberly Lee 01:33  
How is work?
-  Kimberly Lee 01:37  
Congratulations!
-  Kimberly Lee 01:39  
Yeah, I always wanted to be a writer too, but somehow I,
-  Kimberly Lee 01:46  
I ended up here.
-  Kimberly Lee 01:57  
In her 2015 article entitled The Price of Nice Nails, investigative reporter Sarah Maslin Nir uncovers the exploitation, abuse and discrimination faced by manicurists across the United States. In New York City, the city with the highest number of nail salons per capita, 80% of the manicurists are Korean immigrants. The vast majority of these workers are paid well below minimum wage or simply not paid at all. They're expected to embody the sweet, gossipy and eager to please attitude despite many of them living in abject poverty. Author Yeji Kim describes the story of Amanda, a young nail salon worker who just wants her story to be told. I am tired of seeing so many women who come from my home country with so much power, passion and potential being silenced.
-  Kimberly Lee 02:52  
So I refuse to let their stories go unheard.

-  Kimberly Lee 02:56  
Lucky Star by Yeji Kim.
-  Kimberly Lee 03:00  
Now midnight blue. That is the color for young people. They come in here with their their smartphones and those, uh, what are they called? Those
-  Kimberly Lee 03:12  
shoes that look like those little hairless weenie dogs? The Uggs! Yes. Their hands are so soft.
-  Kimberly Lee 03:23  
Not a hard day of work on their hands.
-  Kimberly Lee 03:27  
You, you have really pretty hands.
-  Kimberly Lee 03:32  
Okay you want more round or square?
-  Kimberly Lee 03:39  
Yeah, I live here four years
-  Kimberly Lee 03:42  
next, next month now. Wow.
-  Kimberly Lee 03:47  
Yeah I came here because I wanted a better life for
-  Kimberly Lee 03:51

my son and America had money.



Kimberly Lee 03:57

Did you want to go choose a color?



Kimberly Lee 04:05

Oh, that is a really pretty color. Yeah, green is so popular with the ladies nowadays.



Kimberly Lee 04:13

Green is my son's favorite color



Kimberly Lee 04:15

He used to have this little green car that he would tug around and he would look like this little green peak.



Kimberly Lee 04:25

Kids are such a gift from God. It's really hard to leave them.



Kimberly Lee 04:35

Okay, thank you. Yeah, my son's name. We named him my husband's father. Now



Kimberly Lee 04:50

my husband died soon after Tae Pak was born.













Kimberly Lee 04:55











But Tae Pak was his last gift to me. (Speaking in Korean)



Kimberly Lee 05:12

Sorry, I am

-  Kimberly Lee 05:16  
I talk way too much. Ok, you sure about this green? [coughing] I'm so sorry, um
-  Kimberly Lee 05:35  
You'd think somebody would make a way to make this stuff smell nice.
-  Kimberly Lee 05:39  
Oh no no no
-  Kimberly Lee 05:44  
I'm not sick.
-  Kimberly Lee 05:48  
But actually these fumes can be really bad for you.
-  Kimberly Lee 05:53  
Especially for the children. It really
-  Kimberly Lee 05:57  
wasn't good for for Tae Pak.
-  Kimberly Lee 06:01  
At first I thought it might be the pneumonia but it turned out to be the cancer. Yeah.
-  Kimberly Lee 06:16  
He actually just went back to Korea to be with my family.
-  Kimberly Lee 06:26  
They blame me. And they're right. This is my fault.

-  Kimberly Lee 06:41  
Thank you.
-  Kimberly Lee 06:43  
But it is, I brought him here around all these chemicals. So now all I can do is just pray and send money when I can.
-  Kimberly Lee 07:05  
I miss him a lot. But you do what you have to do. You know?
-  Kimberly Lee 07:19  
They're starting to look so good! Just a couple more minutes and you're gonna have to find yourself a hot date tonight. Sorry, one second please. (Speaking in Korean) [crying]
-  Kimberly Lee 08:31  
Hi, so sorry, uh, my manager, she say
-  Kimberly Lee 09:25  
I have more customers so, so
-  Kimberly Lee 09:27  
I have to go but
-  Kimberly Lee 09:30  
but I love it when you come in, Kelly.
-  Kimberly Lee 09:33  
People's hands say a lot about them,
-  Kimberly Lee 09:36

and yours say you are very kind.



Kimberly Lee 09:43

No, no, no, I can't take that. Thank you. I'm usually the one that listens.