

## **“THESE BUMS”**

We open on Franks basement. Frank sits on the couch while his brother Phil stands by the stools.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** 4th and 3, heres the snap, Benson drops back, scans the field, he’s got Alexander open over the middle, instead he tucks, looks like a designed QB run, Benson shakes a defender, he’s trying to get the edge...Ooooh, he is hammered by Garrett!

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.** He didn’t get it.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** *You’re right Tom, the Miami defense is celebrating, they are short. Miami ball. What a heartbreaker for the Browns.*

**PHIL.** Bums! Every frikin time the same thing! How do you call that play in that situation? How!? Oh that’s right, because we can’t seem to hire a coach who’s not a frikin Moron! And don’t even get me started on this schmuck quarterback. Another number 1st pick QB, another frikin disaster. I’m telling you FRANK., this year I’m starting a petition to officially change the team name to the Cleveland Chernobles. I need a beer.

Phil walks over to fridge and grabs a fresh beer. He cracks it open and takes a big sip.

**PHIL.. (Continued)** I swear people ask me why I drink, I say because I’m a Cleveland Browns fan. They say oh my you poor thing, yes drink drink! (Takes another big sip) Make the playoffs for the first time in 12 years only to drop a giant turd on us. Down 21 points with 4 minutes left, these bums can’t even let us have some hope can they?

**FRANK.** Bums.

**PHIL..** Alright alright, lets stay positive here right. Like you always say big brother, no negative joo-joo. We need a miracle but it’s not over. Need a quick score here though.

**FRANK.** It’s over.

**PHIL..** Come on Oliver, we need one of those big kick off returns from you kid.

**FRANK.** Phil.....it’s over.

Frank grabs his beer but realizes its empty.

**FRANK.** Beer me

**PHIL.** You good?

**FRANK.** I'm fine. Beer me.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Miami ready to kick it away, looking for another touch back of course Gene.

Phil underhand throws Frank a beer.

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.**

Yeah Cano has done a great job kicking it deep and making sure Marcus Oliver doesn't get a chance at a return all day.

**PHIL.** You wanna finally tell me what you flew me up here to talk to me about?

**FRANK.** Later. Lets turn on something else.

**PHIL.** What? Ok what the heck....

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** The kick is away. Another deep kick...but looks like Oliver will get to field it in the back of the end zone. Will he try to take it out? Heres the catch....Oh he muffed it! Ball is on the ground!...

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.** Oh no.

**PHIL.** Oh no.

**FRANK.** Told ya we should just turn it off.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Oliver able to scoop it up, the Miami defense closing in quickly.

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.** Just kneel it.

**PHIL.** Get down kid!

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Oliver not kneeling it, he's gonna try to return this!

**PHIL.** What the frik are you doing kid?! Kneel it!

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.** Not sure what's he's thinking here Tom.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** He shakes free from a defender, can still kneel it here, side steps, shakes another tackle, now he's reversing field! Still not out of the end zone, Miami giving chase...he gets a block by Dayton, jukes, he's out of the end zone, reverses course again, heading to the sideline trying to turn the corner, gets another block!...

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.** Oh wow..

**PHIL.** Holy shit...

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Oliver is at the 30! Spins out of a tackle, putting on the jets...

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.** He could go...

**PHIL.** Holy shit...

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** One man left to beat and it's the kicker Cano, Cano dives, Oliver hurdles over him with ease!

**TV Announcer 2:** He's gone.

**PHIL.** Holy shit...

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Oliver at the 20, at the 10, Touchdown! Can you believe it?!

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.** All I can say is wow.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1:** What looked like a disaster has turned into a 99 yard kick off return TD. And with that the Browns have a little bit of life still left.

**PHIL.** That might be the greatest thing I've ever seen. Wow! Here's to you kid.

Phil lifts his beer and cheers towards to the TV. He then turns to FRANK. to cheers him.

**PHIL.** How bout that big bro? Cheers!

**FRANK.** Too little, too late. As always.

**PHIL.** Ok that's it, what the heck is going on with you?

**FRANK.** I'm just saying, under 3 minutes left and down 14, it's over. It was a great play, but it's over.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Cleveland lining up to go for 2, quick snap, hand off to Lattimore, he's in!

**PHIL.** Down 13.

**FRANK.** Whatever

**PHIL.** All our lives we've been watching these bums play, and no matter how bad they were down, how bad their record was, you would always hold onto hope. In 97 when they needed to win out and have 3 other teams all lose in the last week, I said not a chance and you got sooo pissed at me you threw me out remember?

**FRANK.** Yeah

**PHIL.** You wouldn't hear it, wouldn't allow my negative joo-joo to mess it up for them. You kept believing, held onto hope until that last week and sure enough, everything that needed to happen, happened and they made the playoffs.

**FRANK.** Yeah only to get crushed in the first round.

**PHIL.** Sure but that's not the point. The question is why for the first time ever, on this Sunday, while there's still time on the clock, why is this the day you stop believing? Why is Today is the day that you not only allow negative joo-joo in this room, but it's you putting out the bad joo-joo? I don't frikin get it.

**FRANK.** Maybe I've just become more of a realist.

**PHIL.** No that's not it. Come on big bro, talk to me. What's going on with you?

Franks son Danny Enters.

**DANNY.** Hello hello.

**PHIL.** Whoa! **DANNY.** boy! What the heck are you doing here?

**DANNY.** Hey uncle **PHIL.**..

**FRANK.** Well this is a surprise.

**DANNY.** Hey pop.

**FRANK.** Come here. (They hug. **FRANK.** grabs his arms.) Look at you. You got bigger yeah.

**DANNY.** Little bit.

**FRANK.** Did I forget you were coming?

**DANNY.** Nah, I wanted to surprise you.

**FRANK.** Well, I'm surprised.

**PHIL.** You look good kid.

**FRANK.** Of course he looks good, he's my kid. (Frank cups Danny's chin)

**DANNY.** Okay okay...

**FRANK.** So your Mother doesn't know you're here?

**DANNY.** No. You know Mom can't keep a secret.

**FRANK.** Yeah. Well she's gonna be happy. Real happy.

**PHIL.** She's gonna shit a brick.

**FRANK.** Hey!

**PHIL.** What? I can't curse around the kid? He's 19 for Christ Sakes.

**FRANK.** (Ignoring Phil and back to Danny) Sit down, you want something to drink? You hungry?

**DANNY.** I'm good.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** The Cleveland kick off is away, and it will be a touch back. Miami will start with the ball at the 30 up by 13.

**PHIL.** You want a beer?

**DANNY.** No really, I'm good.

**PHIL.** Ah come on college boy, have a beer with your uncle.

**DANNY.** I can't uncle Phil.

**PHIL.** You can't? You know you don't have to pretend with us kid. Trust me your pops and I know all about college life. My bet, you were doing keg stands last night right?

**DANNY.** No, I'm not drinking alcohol.

**PHIL.** Get the F outta here.

**DANNY.** I don't.

**FRANK.** Hey the kid said he doesn't drink, stop busting his balls. That's good, that's good son. I'm proud of you.

**PHIL.** You at least banging some beav up there?

**FRANK.** PHIL!

**PHIL.** What? I'm just asking! We gotta live vicariously through the boy right?

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Manko around the edge, breaks a tackle, down the sideline, finally pushed out by Bowers at the 40. Huge run by Manko setting up Miami in Cleveland territory.

**DANNY.** Not looking so good huh?

**FRANK.** Ahh you know these bums. Heartbreak every time.

**DANNY.** Well there's still time.

**FRANK.** Nah it's over.

**DANNY.** You ok Pop?

**PHIL.** Clearly not.

**FRANK.** I'm fine.

**DANNY.** Don't think I've ever seen you throw in the towell before the game is over.

**PHIL.** That's what I was saying!

**FRANK.** Look I'm fine ok. Forget about me, catch me up on things with you. How you liking it up there?

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** This time Manko stuffed at the line of scrimmage. 2nd and 10.

Phil pumps his fist.

**DANNY.** It's going good. Really good actually. Actually that's why I wanted to come down and surprise you. Got some pretty big news.

**PHIL.** Well?

**DANNY.** I'll tell you after the game.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** 2 minutes to play, stay tuned.

**PHIL.** Two minute warning.

**FRANK.** Commercials. Come on what's the big news?

**DANNY.** Alright alright. So...I made the team.

**FRANK.** What?

**DANNY.** Yep. First walk on to make the team in 20 years. Probably ride the bench, but I made it.

**FRANK.** Holy shit.

**PHIL.** Hey!

**FRANK.** That's..DANNY. that's incredible.

**DANNY.** I know right. Couldn't believe it myself.

**PHIL.** That's more than incredible. Congrats kid.

**DANNY.** Thanks Uncle Phil.

**FRANK.** Wow.

**DANNY.** I owe it all to you Pops.

**FRANK.** Nah come on, you trained and worked your butt off all year. This is all you son.

**DANNY.** Yeah but you're the one that made me believe. Made me even try. You don't remember?

Frank doesn't, he is lost for words.

**DANNY.** When I told you I wasn't gonna try out because no walk on had made the team in 20 years, I remember you got so pissed at me. Started screaming about negative joo-joo.

**PHIL.** That doesn't sound like your pops at all.

Frank shoots Phil a look.

**DANNY.** But then you calmed down, and you told me that no matter what the odds, you believed in me. And that if I really wanted it, I should fight for it. If things ever seemed dim or overwhelming, then I should fight harder. So that's what I did.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Manko will be stopped short but wisely stayed in bounds. Clock running, Cleveland with no time-outs.

**DANNY.** You made me have hope when I didn't have any. The same way I've seen you have hope for these bums all these years.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Miami should be running it to keep this clock moving. Here's the snap, hand off to Manko, he cuts right, turns up field, hit by Miller, stays on his feet fighting for that 1st down. Balls on the ground!

**PHIL.** Oh!

Danny Stands and roots along with Phil while Frank remains seated, just comprehending what Danny just said.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1. (Continued)** Miller punched it out, Haskins dives on it, it's still loose! Scooped up by Kenner! He's makes a move, turns up field, he's got blockers in front, Kenner to the 30, the 20, they're not gonna get him, Touchdown Cleveland!

Danny and Phil are jumping up and down celebrating and hugging. Frank stays seated in thought.

**DANNY.** Dad you ok?

**FRANK.** Huh? Yeah yeah I'm good.

**PHIL.** Holy cow these bums actually have a chance. I need a beer.

**DANNY.** (To Frank) You in shock or something?

**FRANK.** I guess so huh.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1** Extra point is up and good. What a turn of events Tom. Cleveland now down 6 points with an on-side kick coming.

**TV ANNOUNCER 2.** Absolutley Gene. The only question left is Cleveland, do you believe in miracles?



**DANNY.** Well snap out of it. We need your joo-joo here. Just gotta recover the onside kick and chuck up a hail mary right?

Frank stands up and clutches Danny's shoulder.

**FRANK.** Right.

**PHIL.** This is crazy, this is crazy

**DANNY.** You ok Uncle Phil?

**PHIL.** Heavenly father, I haven't asked you for much, well ok I ask for a lot, but if you could just

**FRANK.** He's fine.

Frank and Danny share a laugh.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1** Welcome back in, Cleveland is lined up for the on-side kick...

**DANNY.** Here we go.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** The referee gives the signal, here comes the kick...

**PHIL.** Lets go one time!

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Kick is a low squibbler, takes a funny bounce, Lattimore underneath it, it bounces off his chest! Live ball!

**DANNY.** Holy shit.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Jackson dives on it, it looks like Cleveland has recovered this...

**FRANK.** Holy shit.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Referee signals.....Cleveland ball!

**PHIL.** Holy Shit!!!!!!

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Cleveland has recovered the on-side kick and with 3 seconds left on the clock, they'll have time for a hail mary shot to the end zone.

**PHIL.** Still think it's over there Big Brother?

**FRANK.** No. I think they're gonna win this thing!

**PHIL.** That's what I'm talking about! There's that positive joo-joo we've been missing all day. Lets go.

Phil puts his arms out and shakes them towards the TV representing casting joo-joo energy towards it.

**PHIL.** Ahhhhhhhhhh... Come on you two!

Frank and Danny smile and then extend their arms making the same type of noise. After a couple beats Frank stares at Danny for a second.

**FRANK.** I'm really proud of you kid.

**DANNY.** Love you pops.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Well it all comes down to this. Cleveland is lined up, 5 wide. Peters just has to avoid a sack and give his guys enough time to make it to the endzone...

**PHIL.** Alright since we're getting all mushy mushy, I want to say this. No matter what happens, I want you to know that I'm truly grateful that I got to watch this game with you guys. And I love you guys.

**FRANK.** Awww, Love you too lil bro. Get in here.

The three embrace with arms on shoulders and watch the TV.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Here's the snap. Peters drops back, Miami only rushing 3. Peters rolls right, plants, here we go the throw is up, it's deep enough, a pack of Browns receivers are waiting in the endzone, here's the game, Oh the ball is tipped in the air...

Frank, Danny, and Phil all gasp...

Black out.

Lights up. We're still in Franks basement, but now it's just Frank cleaning up the place. Frank's wife Joyce enters. She is carrying a couple shopping bags.

**JOYCE.** Hey you.

**FRANK.** Oh hello beautiful.

Frank walks over and gives her a kiss.

**JOYCE.** So how did it go?

**FRANK.** It went...good. Yeah.

**JOYCE.** Well how did he take it?

**FRANK.** I didn't tell him.

**JOYCE.** What? Why not? I mean you flew him all the way up here...

**FRANK.** I know, I know, listen....I want us to call Doctor Fuller tomorrow, tell him I've changed my mind. If he thinks there's even a thin chance this treatment works then...well I'm willing to try it and keep fighting.

**JOYCE.** (Quite Emotional) Oh Frank honey I'm so happy to hear that. It was killing me to think you had really given up all hope. Killing me.

**FRANK.** I know. I'm sorry.

They hug.

**JOYCE.** So what changed your mind?

**FRANK.** Well, the answer to that is upstairs. And it's a surprise.

**JOYCE.** Really? Well then lets go upstairs then Mister.

**FRANK.** Yeah let me just turn the TV off.

Joyce waits for Frank at the stairs. Frank picks up the TV remote to turn the TV off. Before he does, he turns up the volume.

**TV ANNOUNCER 1.** Thank you for tuning into the post game show, your local news is next. Well Tom you asked the question, and the answer was a resounding yes. Cleveland does believe in miracles. A hail mary at the end for their first playoff win in 20 years. Truly a win for the ages. Goodnight everyone..

Frank clicks off the TV. He walks over to Joyce.

**JOYCE** Oh, so they won?

**FRANK.** Of course they did.

Frank puts his arm around Joyce and they head up the stairs.

The End.