

STICKBALL

Written by

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EXT. - BALLPARK - NIGHT

The audio fades in to hear a crowd of fans cheering over a black screen.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Jenkins working the count to 2-1.
Folks, I tell you, if you're just
joining us, this has been one heck
of a game.

The camera immediately cuts to JENKINS at the plate during a night game.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
The Dodgers, coming into this game
facing elimination against the
Giants, dropped six runs in the
first, but have been clawing their
way back these last three innings
after the bats had been quiet
almost all night, they seemed to
have come alive here late in this
Wild Card game. Now with a runner
on the corners, they have a shot to
maybe get a late rally going, as
Davidson...

DAVIDSON checks the runners on the bases.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
checks the runners on the
corners...and he delivers.

Davidson pitches the baseball as JENKINS watches it cross over the far, lower outside edge of the plate.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE
Strike!

Jenkins looks agitated by the call.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
And that is strike two for Jenkins.
He didn't think so there, but
Davidson got the call he needed to
work the count to 2-2.

Jenkins steps outside the batter's box for a moment and takes a practice swing before stepping back in the box as the ball gets thrown back to the mound.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
 (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Jenkins steps back into the box,
 hoping he can keep the Dodgers
 alive a little longer this October.

Davidson steps back onto the rubber as a chant from the crowd
 begins to arise.

DODGERS HOME CROWD
 Let's go, Dodgers! Let's go,
 Dodgers! Let's go, Dodgers!

Davidson stares down the catcher as JENKINS settles into his
 batting stance.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 The crowd...growing more
 restless... hoping for some late
 magic here, as Davidson sets
 himself...

Davidson throws the ball

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
 (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 And delivers.

Jenkins hits the ball down the right field foul line.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
 (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 He swings and hits a line drive
 down the right field line-

The ball drops in to the left of the right field foul line
 for a fair ball.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
 (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 (excited)
 -and it's gonna drop in for a fair
 ball!

The ball rolls down the line closer to the foul pole as the
 right fielder runs after it. The runner on third base jogs to
 home plate safely, as the runner on first and Jenkins are
 running with a purpose.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
 (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Martinez is gonna score easily.

The right fielder grabs the ball and fires it to the cutoff man.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
(V.O.) (CONT'D)

Collins is gonna head for third-he will remain there- as Jenkins is gonna get a standup double with one out here in the ninth to cut the Giants lead in half, 6-3.

The ball gets thrown into home plate and then tossed back to Davidson on the mound as the crowd cheers.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
(V.O.) (CONT'D)

That is going to bring Billy Greenfield up the plate now, and I wonder what the Giants are gonna here if they're gonna face Greenfield or walk him and take their chances with Wilson on deck.

DODGERS PA ANNOUNCER

Now batting for the Dodgers, number 13, Billy Greenfield.

The catcher calls for the intentional walk as BILLY GREENFIELD settles into the batter's box. The crowd expresses great displeasure.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And it looks like they're gonna walk Greenfield to load up the bases for Jason Freeman.

JASON FREEMAN starts to walk out to the on-deck circle. The DODGERS MANAGER calls out to him.

DODGERS MANAGER

Jay, we just need a base hit. Just put the ball in play.

Jason nods that he understands. The Dodgers manager calls out to him again.

DODGERS MANAGER (CONT'D)

And watch his curveball!

He begins to take a few practice swings in the on-deck circle with a batting donut. The crowd around the on-deck circle gives a minor applause in hopes for Wilson to keep the game going. WILSON looks cool and collected, taking deep breaths as he prepares to hit.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And so now that brings up Jason Freeman here with one out in the ninth with the bases loaded. He has been fairly silent tonight at the plate, going one for four with having the Dodgers' only hit for most of the game with a line drive single he had in the fourth, as he settles into the batter's box now.

Jason steps into the batter's box and gets into his stance. His facial expression is very monotone as he stares down Davidson on the mound.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
(V.O.) (CONT'D)

Freeman has a lifetime average of two for eight against Davidson, with two doubles and two RBI's, and certainly has a chance to do some real damage to the Giants lead here.

The crowd grows louder in their chants.

DODGERS HOME CROWD
Let's go Dodgers! Let's go Dodgers!

Davidson stares down the plate as he goes into his windup.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
Davidson now going from the windup
as he deals-

Davidson throws a pitch right over the middle of the plate, belt high that Jason watches fly right by him.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE
Strike!

Jason does not appear phased by this perfectly good pitch to have hit.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
And Freeman is gonna watch the first pitch go by for a called strike, though I would have wanted that one back if I were him.

Jason steps out of the box and takes a check swing before stepping back into the box. COLLINS shouts out to him at third base.

COLLINS

Come on Jay, keep it going! Drive
me in baby!

DODGERS HOME CROWD

Let's go, Dodgers! Let's go,
Dodgers!

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Nearly a sold-out crowd of 56,000
on their feet now, hoping for some
late October heroics here from
their beloved boys in blue.

Jason settles back into his stance while DAVIDSON prepares to deliver.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Freeman awaits the one-oh pitch,
here it is.

Davidson goes into his wind up and throws an inside hanging belt-high curveball. Jason takes a swing at it and sends a high flyball down the left field line, clearly out of the ballpark. The crowd becomes ecstatic but holds their breath as they see the ball hanging in the air, hoping it stays fair.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(animated)

And Freedman sends a long fly ball
to left, if it's fair, it's gone...

Jason starts jog down to first with the bat still in his hands. He starts to make a hacking motion with the bat for the ball to stay fair. Suddenly the ball comes down and makes a loud thud as it hits the left field foul pole for a walk-off game winning grand slam. The stadium explodes with a burst of energy, like this giant weight has been taken off their shoulders.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER

(V.O.) (CONT'D)

(shouting)

Fair ball! The Dodgers win! The
Dodgers win!

Jason breaks into a steady jog as he starts to round the bases. The Dodgers team bursts out of the dugout to greet him at home plate as the Giants slowly exit the field.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
(V.O.) (CONT'D)

Jason Freeman hit a sky ball off the left field foul pole to give the Dodgers a 7-6 lift over the Giants. And the crowd is in pandemonium here as the Dodgers take the Wild Card on the back of Jason Freeman.

Jason rounds third and heads for home plate where his teammates are waiting to mob him. There is even someone waiting with a giant Gatorade cooler who dumps it on Jason and his teammates as he reaches home plate.

DODGERS RADIO ANNOUNCER
(V.O.) (CONT'D)

He will be mobbed at home plate, as the Dodgers playoff chances live to fight another day. Sayonara, San Francisco, the Dodgers are moving on.

INT. - DODGER'S CLUBHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The Dodgers pour back into the clubhouse in delight, almost as if they had just won the World Series. The lockers are covered in tarp and there are carts of champagne on ice waiting to be opened, as well as ski goggles to be used for celebration. The team begins to celebrate by taking out the champagne bottles.

DODGERS MANAGER

Hey, listen up fellas before you guys start celebrating!

The team starts to quiet down.

DODGERS MANAGER (CONT'D)

Way to battle back in this game, guys. I'm proud of all you, especially those who really stepped up tonight. But remember, this is just our first stop. It's only going to get harder from here. Quick housekeeping announcement: the bus leaves for the airport tomorrow morning at 11, and I want everyone here, ready to go, by 10 so we can double check everything.

The team verbally agrees.

DODGERS MANAGER (CONT'D)
 Anyways, one more thing before you
 guys start celebrating, how about
 we hear it one more time for Jason!

The team shouts in approval as they all begin to look over to
 his locker but notice he's not there.

DODGERS MANAGER (CONT'D)
 Jason- Where's Jason?

The team looks around at one another in the clubhouse and
 notice he's not there. Suddenly they notice the sound of a
 shower running in the background.

COLLINS
 I think he's still on the field
 answering questions, he'll be right
 down though.

The Dodgers manager acknowledges the rest of the team.

DODGERS MANAGER
 Alright, have fun guys.

COLLINS
 You heard the man.

The team starts to put on the goggles and pop the champagne
 in celebration.

INT. DODGERS SHOWER - CONTINUOUS

Jason is instead alone in the team showers while his team
 celebrates the walk-off Wild Card win. He is silent and
 appears to be somewhat monotoned in spite of what just
 happened. He is naked in the showers, which exposes he is one
 very well-built ballplayer. It also exposes that he has an
 unusual amount of acne on his back for a grown man. The
 camera slowly zooms in on his head as the team continues to
 celebrate in the clubhouse without him.

The camera cuts to black.

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE- DAY

The camera fades into the interior of what looks like the
 interior of a baseball GM's office. There is a text that
 fades in that says, "Eleven Years Later" and the word "June"
 fades in just below that. Here there is a man, JIMMY SADOWSKI
 sitting in his office on the phone. The other end of the
 phone call is inaudible.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

Well, did they see any food in it...I don't know, sometimes you can see undigested food that might explain why they threw up...Can you pick her up?

Jimmy's secretary ANGELA knocks on the open door to his office. Jimmy holds up a finger to motion her to hold.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)

Thank you, sweetie. I promise I'll make it up to you tonight...How about I make you that lasagna...Take-out works too...Great, I'll see you tonight. Love you.

Jimmy hangs up the phone and looks at his secretary.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)

Sorry, Denise apparently threw up at school today.

ANGELA

Oh, the poor thing.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

Yeah, Molly is picking her up though so I'm good for now. Whatcha got?

ANGELA

Well, de la Cruz opted to stay in Baltimore for two more years. Harrison's agent called earlier and said the Yankees upped the number to \$8 million and that if they don't hear from us by tomorrow, he's taking the deal.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

Ah, forget it. He wants that right field fence in New York.

A man walks in the door.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)

Just wants to see if he can get us or Detroit to up the price for them. What's up Henry?

HENRY

Mr. Sadowski, I-

JIMMY SADOWSKI
 (interrupting)
 Jimmy, Henry. Jimmy.

HENRY
 Jimmy-sorry- uh- he's here.

JIMMY SADOWSKI
 Oh, perfect, send him in.

HENRY
 Right away, sir.

Henry exits. Jimmy stands up and quickly brushes his suit to make himself appear more presentable. Henry returns a moment later with an older looking Jason Freeman carrying a duffle bag and a suitcase with the airline tag still on.

HENRY (CONT'D)
 Mr. Freeman, this is Mr. Jimmy Sadowski, the General Manager.

JIMMY SADOWSKI
 Hi Jason, how are you?

Jimmy walks over and shakes hands with Jason, not giving him the chance to respond.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)
 So good to finally meet you.

JASON FREEMAN
 Likewise.

JIMMY SADOWSKI
 You've already met Henry, this here is Angela, my secretary.

Angela goes to shake his hand.

ANGELA
 Hi, so nice to meet you.

JASON FREEMAN
 Ma'am.

JIMMY SADOWSKI
 Angela, why don't you get us some coffee-you want some coffee, Jason?

JASON FREEMAN
 Thank you, but no.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

Alright, just me then. You know how I like it.

ANGELA

(smiling)

Yes, Jimmy.

ANGELA and HENRY both exit.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

Please, have a seat, Jason.

Jimmy takes a seat behind his desk. JASON sits down across from him.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)

I know this is going to sound really unprofessional, but I just cannot believe Jason Freeman is sitting right here in my office. I grew up in near Glendale, but I was Dodgers fan 'cause of my old man. Lemme tell you, that Wild Card walk off against the Giants, oh man. One of the best moments I ever had with him, God rest his soul. Only time we've ever jumped up off the couch screaming and high fiving each other cause of a sporting event.

Jason works up a smile and nods.

JASON FREEMAN

Just your regular Field of Dreams moment.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

(chuckling)

Yeah, you're right. We were both such big fans. He was heartbroken when they traded you to Washington. It was such a bum deal, it felt like.

JASON shrugs his shoulders out of indifference, almost like he is saying "Oh well"..

JASON FREEMAN

Well- I was grateful I got your call.

Angela enters but this time with a cup of coffee.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

Yeah, we're more than grateful you accepted our offer. If I may be so forward, we were actually really grateful you took our FIRST offer.

Jimmy takes the cup of coffee from ANGELA.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)

Thank you, Angela.

Angela exits again.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)

A lot of us expected you or your agent to call saying you wanted more than just half a year, especially after being away for so long. We just really thought we could use you with the way the team is going, especially during the dog days ahead of us. Like always, our goal is winning that final game of the season. I think you can help us get there, and the guys upstairs agree.

JASON FREEMAN

Like I said, I was grateful for the call.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

Right- well anyway, here it is.

Jimmy hands Jason an already written up contract to sign.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)

Do you want me to fax a copy over to someone? An agent, perhaps?

JASON FREEMAN

No sir, just one for me.

JIMMY SADOWSKI

Alrighty, then.

Jason looks over the contract for a moment and signs.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)
Coach Cooke unfortunately couldn't be here today because he had a dentist appointment scheduled for the off day today, but he told me to tell you to report to the clubhouse by nine tomorrow morning for batting practice at ten.

Jason hands the signed contract back over to Jimmy.

JASON FREEMAN
I'll be there.

JIMMY SADOWSKI
(taking the contract)
Thank you.

Jason and Jimmy stand up.

JIMMY SADOWSKI (CONT'D)
Jason Freeman, welcome to the Philadelphia Bellmen.

Jason and Jimmy shake hands.

INT. MEDIA ROOM - DAY

Jason is sitting at a table in the team media room where press conferences are held. The table is raised on a platform where a room full of reporters are sitting just below. There are sounds of cameras photographing the press conference with the occasional flashing light.

REPORTER #1
Jason, how does it feel to be back in baseball after being away for so long?

Jason has a monotone expression on his face.

JASON FREEMAN
Well, I'm very grateful for this opportunity, and I'm just...very thankful.

A different reporter stands up as REPORTER #1 sits down.

REPORTER #2

Michael Sullivan, ESPN Philly.
Jason, five years ago, you shocked the baseball world and left after completing your sentence of one the largest suspensions in the history of sports at 240 games due to your involvement in PEDS and steroids.

JASON FREEMAN

I'm sorry, is there a question in there?

REPORTER #2

Yeah. What made you decide to come back?

JASON FREEMAN

Well Mike, the truth is I wanted to come back to baseball much sooner than today. The fact of the matter is though, no one would sign me- and I don't blame anyone for that. My- uh- contract was reaching its end with the Mets by the time all...uh-everything happened. And I wasn't exactly handling the reality of it all that well. So once I had served my suspension, I decided it be best for everyone- and- uh- myself included, to take some time away from the game because...I wanted to feel like I was 100% before I ever thought of coming back.

REPORTER #2

Follow up question, do you feel you're at 100% now?

JASON FREEMAN

(pauses)

I feel ready to work.

REPORTER #2 sits down and another reporter stands up.

REPORTER #3

Sydney Young, Sports Illustrated.
Jason, it has been a little over a decade since the country learned who you were from that Wild Card Walk-Off, everyone believing you were going to be the future of the Dodger franchise.

(MORE)

REPORTER #3 (CONT'D)

Now here you are at 36, been all around the league, and it seems like a lot of critics in the sports world have written you off as a corrupted "has been" who didn't know when to quit. What do you have to say about that?

JASON FREEMAN

Uh- I don't really focus on stuff like that anymore.

REPORTER #3

Anymore?

JASON FREEMAN

Uh- yeah, I...

Jason thinks for a moment.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I'm just here to play ball, like everyone else. I want to play ball, and the Bellmen wanted me, and I intend to help this team in every way I can. I know what's at stake here with the history of this franchise, and I know this team can win a championship, and that's what brought me here.

REPORTER #3 nods and starts to sit down.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

(chuckling)

That-and of course- the cheesesteaks.

The reporters all laugh along with him as Jason works in a smile.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK STREET - DAY

Jason is seen walking out of the ballpark alone. He walks across the street still carrying his suitcase with his airline tag still on and carrying a duffle bag over his shoulder. He is holding a piece of paper in his hands. He looks up at what looks like a rundown apartment complex and walks in through the front door.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jason is then seen opening the door to his new apartment. It appears to be in decent condition, but fairly small and confined. He puts down his duffle bag and sets aside his suitcase. He walks and looks around and sees a tiny kitchen with a refrigerator, oven, stove, and some cabinets. He then notices a twin mattress and bed frame completely bare over in the other room with a window. There is a brown, heavy looking dresser at the foot of his bed, likely left from the previous tenet. He looks out the window and sees the view of the exterior of the ballpark across the street from him.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

The Bellmen Clubhouse is filled with ballplayers. Some are hanging out and chatting. Others are started to get dressed. There is even a game of spoons going off to the side where a group of six ballplayers are playing either in full warmup uniform or half in warmup uniform and half regular clothes. We see these ballplayers passing cards around in a fast-paced manner, until finally one of these ballplayers picks up a spoon, followed by five other ballplayers leaping for the other four spoons. One of the ballplayers is left without a spoon.

EDDIE
(aggressively)
Damn it, every time!

The other ballplayers start laughing.

XAVIER
I'm sorry Eddie.

EDDIE
How is this supposed to help again?

NELSON
It's something my son's little league coach said would help him with concentration and quick reflexes. I thought it might be fun for the infielders to try.

EDDIE
Well then, I must be the worst infielder the league right now.

They all start laughing, Eddie included.

NELSON
Naw man-

Nelson puts his arm around Eddie's shoulder.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Just means you're the worst on the team.

All of them start laughing again.

EDDIE

Might as well be the whole league considering our record right now.

XAVIER

It's only June, Eddie.

EDDIE

Yeah, and-

Suddenly, COACH COOKE, the manager of the Bellmen, calls out to Eddie.

COACH COOKE

Eddie!

Eddie turns over his shoulder, stands up, and walks away from the card game. He struts over across the clubhouse while other ballplayers are getting their warmup uniforms on. He stops at Coach Cooke standing just outside his little private office in the clubhouse.

EDDIE

Yeah, coach?

COACH COOKE

Step into my office.

The two of them enter Coach Cooke's office.

INT. COACH COOKE'S OFFICE - DAY

COACH COOKE

Would you mind closing the door Eddie.

Eddie closes the door behind him.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Coach Cooke sits down behind his desk. On the wall behind him are framed pictures of other ballplayers. Most of them are indistinct as to who they are, but some are recognizable.

There is, however, an autographed picture of Wade Boggs just behind him.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
Why don't you have a seat.

EDDIE
With all due respect coach, I think I'd rather stand for this one.

COACH COOKE
Why's that?

EDDIE
I know that tone. I'm being sent down, aren't I?

COACH COOKE
Oh no, far from it, Eddie.

EDDIE
(surprised)
Traded?

COACH COOKE
Not to my knowledge.

EDDIE
(surprised)
Oh, ok.

Eddie sits down across Coach's desk.

COACH COOKE
I assume by now you've heard about the move from upstairs to sign Freeman.

EDDIE
Yes sir.

COACH COOKE
And I'm sure you know how the team feels about it by now.

EDDIE
Yeah, I...

Eddie pauses for a moment to think about how he wants to phrase his statement.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
...know some of them are concerned, given his track record.

COACH COOKE

Well, regardless of that, he's coming here now, and we just have to deal with that.

EDDIE

Yes sir.

COACH COOKE

Now, I don't care what your personal feelings are toward the guy, but I do know you- being the player that you are- will be the bigger man and welcome him in open arms.

EDDIE

Of course, sir.

COACH COOKE

Be an example for these guys, and show him the same treatment as if he had been here longer than you.

EDDIE

I understand.

COACH COOKE

Good.

Coach leans back in his chair behind his desk.

EDDIE

Is that all, coach?

COACH COOKE

Uh- yeah. I almost forgot, I might swap you and Nelson in the lineup today. So you might be batting sixth instead of fifth, just be ready for that.

EDDIE

(nodding)

Yes sir.

COACH COOKE

That ok?

EDDIE

Of course, sir.

COACH COOKE

Alright, good. You're free to go.

Eddie stands up and exits Coach's office.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - DAY

The Bellmen teammates are still hanging out in their clubhouse while they are awaiting for batting practice. No one notices that the door slowly creaks open and Jason enters the clubhouse. He is wearing dark jeans, a button up shirt, and a dark leather jacket. He is carrying a brown, somewhat beat up satchel over his shoulder. Some of the teammates begin to notice him, and the volume of the clubhouse begins to dimmer a bit. Jason is standing in the doorway, trying to appear monotone for the situation. Coach Cooke calls out to him as he exits his office into the main clubhouse area.

COACH COOKE

Jason Freeman.

Coach Cooke walks over to him and extends a hand to shake.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Coach Cooke, good to finally meet you.

JASON FREEMAN

(shaking his hand)

Pleasure is all mine, sir.

COACH COOKE

How're you feeling?

JASON FREEMAN

(chuckling)

Like a rookie.

COACH COOKE

(chuckling with him)

Well, don't worry about that. We're just happy to have you aboard.

Coach points down the clubhouse line of lockers on Jason's right hand side.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Your locker is number 14 down there, next to Ramirez. You'll find your uniform jerseys, pants, hats, all that good stuff in there.

JASON FREEMAN

Duly noted. Thanks, coach.

Jason starts to walk away.

COACH COOKE
Oh, and Jason.

Jason turns around.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
Thanks for showing up on time for
the first day.

JASON FREEMAN
Of course, sir.

Coach Cooke turns back to walk toward his office. Jason turns around and begins to walk to his locker. He gets a few looks from his new teammates, but they mainly involve stares. Once again, Jason is presenting himself as monotoned. As he is walking through the awkward stares, one teammate at his locker in full warmup uniform sticks his hand out to greet him.

ALEX CARLO
Hey man. Alex Carlo. Welcome
aboard.

JASON FREEMAN
(shaking his hand)
How do you do Alex?

Alex nods and smiles. Jason continues to walk to his locker. Another teammate right next to Alex sticks out his hand to greet him, only he is wearing pants and no shirt.

RJ
Ray Jackson. Friends call me RJ.

JASON FREEMAN
Jason. Friends call me Jason.

RJ smiles at Jason's joke.

RJ
Good to meet you Jason.

JASON FREEMAN
Likewise.

Jason continues to walk to his locker amid mixed conversation and stares.

INT. JASON'S LOCKER - DAY

Jason puts down his bag and look at his brand her jersey that has the number 21 written on it.

He begins to take out of his bag a used baseball glove, as well as a brand her pair of black cleats that look fresh out of the box.

START MONTAGE

EXT. LIBERTY PARK ENTRANCE - DAY

There is a crowd of people arriving to Liberty Park to watch the game. It is a mixture of sports fans in apparel that either says Reds or Bellmen, but it is predominately Bellmen. There are a mixture of young people that look to be college age, younger families, and grandparents with grandchildren. There is an organ playing in the background to help greet spectators into the park.

END MONTAGE

INT. ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH - DAY

An color commentator is sitting in what looks like a radio booth in an upper box behind home plate overlooking the ballpark. There is a television monitor that is currently showing a pregame show of some type.

JACKIE MOSS

Welcome everybody to a beautiful afternoon here at Liberty Park. This is your host, Jackie Moss, coming to you live from high in the Bell Tower as we get ready to for your Philadelphia Bellmen to take on the Cincinnati Reds. The Reds are coming into this game first in their division while the Bellmen are hovering just 3 games over .500 in that 3rd place spot. However, that appears to be the back burner story today as news sweeping the baseball world these last few days is the Bellmen signing Jason Freeman as he prepares to lace up for the first time in almost five years since he left the game after serving the largest suspension in the history of baseball for PED usage. Certainly, it is going to be a wonder how the crowd chooses to greet him here at Liberty Park, but there will be more on that after a quick word from our local sponsor, so don't go anywhere.

INT./EXT. BELLMEN DUGOUT - DAY

The Bellmen are getting ready to run out onto the field to begin the ballgame. All of the players are in full uniform, but some are wearing a team pull-over jacket over their jerseys, including Jason. Coach Cooke calls them all over into a huddle before taking the field.

COACH COOKE

Alright fellas, listen up. Gather around.

The players gather around Coach.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

This is a tough team we're going up against today. They got Wilson on the mound, so batters, work the count as much as you can. If you go don't get on base, I want you guys at least working to seven or eight pitches. Study, and execute. We got D-Rod on the mound today. Where's D?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ, otherwise known as D-Rod or D, raises his hand amongst the crowd around him.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Here coach.

COACH COOKE

D, you know what to do. Trust your fastball, don't be afraid to throw it right by him.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Yes sir.

COACH COOKE

Alright guys, let's have a good game. Hands in the middle.

They all put their hands in the middle.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Bellmen on three. One, Two, Three.

BELLMEN TEAM

Bellmen!

The players run out onto the field and are met with an applause of around 30,000 people.

Along with the applause, there is the sound of people ringing hand sized bells that one would see people ringing at a marathon to show their support to the team. The rest of the team disperses in the dugout.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - DAY

The team begins to play their game as D-Rod sets in on the mound to face the first batter settling into the batter's box.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

The first batter that D-Rod is facing today in this Reds lineup is going to be Ted Butler, who is just as hot as the temperature right now in Philadelphia. He enters this game with a thirteen game hitting streak, .327 batting average and fifteen home runs.

The catcher throws down one finger to signal a pitch, that Danny nods in agreement to. Danny goes into a windup and fires a fastball right down the middle that Butler watches pass by for strike one.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE #2

Strike one!

The catcher tosses the ball back to Danny.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And Butler is going to take the first pitch at 94 miles per hour down the middle for strike one. D-Rod enters this game with an ERA of 3.78, and a record of 2-3, hoping he can get back to at least an even record, and for sure, hoping today that he can get a good first inning and earn some run support from his offense...

The catcher throws down the same signal as Butler steps back into his stance, only this time Danny shakes his head in disagreement. The catcher throws down three fingers and Danny agrees right before going into his windup.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...as he delivers.

Danny throws a curveball that Butler smacks into the right field gap. Butler races out of the batter's box like he was on a bed of hot coals.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And Butler hits a line drive into
the right field gap.

The centerfielder, JOHN PETROCELLI, and the rightfielder, ADAM MEYERS, both race toward the ball that is now rolling to the wall.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
As Petrocelli and Meyers both race
down this ball that's going to make
it to the wall.

Eddie is running out to the outfield to take the cutoff throw as Alex covers second base. Butler has rounded first base and is heading for second base.

EDDIE
Right here! Right here!

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
Butler is now headed for second as
he will be safely expected to get a
double.

Eddie is waiving his arms expecting the relay throw. Butler reaches second base but rather than stopping there, he keeps his head down as he rounds second base and heads for third in hopes of getting a triple.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Instead though, Butler is going to
head to third to try to get the
triple.

Petrocelli gets to the ball first as he turns around and fires a throw well over Eddie's head and to the right of Eddie's left shoulder that is facing away from third base.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Petrocelli is going to try to fire
it into third, as he does have a
decent arm.

Eddie watches it go over him and bounce twice as it goes to the right of third base down the left field line about fifteen to twenty feet. RJ, who is awaiting the throw at third base runs off the bag to stop the ball from rolling into the away dugout as Butler slows down at third to get a standup triple.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And Jackson is going to have to get off the bag to keep the ball from going into the dugout, as Butler is going to stop in a third base to start off the game with a standup triple. How about that?

The crowd boos in disapproval. Eddie turns around before running back into the infield in frustration with Petrocelli deciding to pass over him as a cutoff man.

EDDIE

(shouting)

What the hell, Petey? I could've had him!

Petrocelli does not respond as Eddie runs back into the infield to take his position again. Petrocelli is slowly walking back to his sport in centerfield.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And I really wonder what Petrocelli was thinking there, if he was just trying to gun him down at third or if he just missed Eddie Ramirez entirely in the cutoff position. Either way, though, quite an interested way to start this game and the Reds now have a man in scoring position with nobody out.

Danny walks back to the mound with a monotone expression on his face trying to shake off what just happened.

COACH COOKE

It's ok D, shake it off. He's not going anywhere.

EDDIE

Let's go, D. You got this.

Danny settles back in on the mound as the next batter settles into the plate.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

That's going to bring up Evan McDaniels to the plate now with a chance to get the first run of the ballgame for the Reds.

Danny instead does not pitch from the stretch because of the runner on third.

He fires in another fastball, and on the first pitch he sees, McDaniels hits a long fly ball that is clearly a home run as the outfield barely jogs to watch it sail over the centerfield wall.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And on the very first pitch he sees, McDaniels hits a long fly ball to centerfield, and that one is way outta here. A two run shot for Evan McDaniels as the Reds quickly jump out in front 2-0 with no outs here in the first inning.

INT./EXT. BELLMEN DUGOUT - MOMENTS LATER

The team is returning into the dugout after a rough half of a first inning. Some of the players are jogging into the dugout while D slowly returns from the mound walking with his head down and clearly frustrated.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that is going to be a rough first inning for the Bellmen as they already have dug themselves into a 4-0 hole going into the bottom of the first inning.

Coach Cooke and a few of the ballplayers on the bench get up to greet them as they return into the dugout.

COACH COOKE

It's alright guys, we got a lot of game left. Let's get some runs.

Jason stands up off the bench and puts his fist up to fist bump the team in encouragement.

JASON FREEMAN

It's ok guys, we got this.

None of the players respond to him. Jason feels awkward about it and begins to sit back down when he hears Eddie shout at the other end of the dugout.

EDDIE

Come on guys! You've got to hit the cutoff man, it's god damn textbook!

COACH COOKE

(shouting)

That's enough Eddie! Cool it!

(MORE)

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

We got a lot of game left to bounce back.

Eddie shakes his head in anger. He sits down on the bench and angrily drinks his Gatorade as Jason watches onward down the other end of the bench.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - LATER

The team is back in the the clubhouse undressing into regular clothes. The overall mood appears to be fairly quiet and monotone. Jackie Moss's voice is doing a voice over.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

Well another tough loss falls on the Bellmen as they fall to the Reds 6-2. More on today's game coming up next in our postgame show, so don't go anywhere.

Jason is getting dressed back into his normal clothes as he prepares to disembark. He is throwing his satchel back over his shoulder as he looks up and notices Eddie coming back to his locker right next to him with only a towel around his waist. Jason takes a deep breath and taps him on the shoulder.

JASON FREEMAN

(tapping)

Hey, sorry. Eddie, right?

EDDIE

(turning around)

Yes, hey. Jason. Good to meet you.

They shake hands.

JASON FREEMAN

Good to meet you. Sorry, I probably should've waited before you were dressed.

EDDIE

Naw, it's all good. We're all friends here.

JASON FREEMAN

(chuckling)

Yeah, we are. Listen-

Jason clears his throat.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

- I don't mean to sound so forward,
or for this to sound weird, but if
you weren't doing anything, I was
wondering if maybe you would like
to come get dinner with me? My
treat.

EDDIE

Are you asking me out on a date?

JASON FREEMAN

Well, when you put it that way-

EDDIE

(smiling)

I'm just messing with you man.
Yeah, that sounds good actually.

Coach Cooke calls out from the main doors.

COACH COOKE

Ok everyone, I'm releasing the
hounds.

The team groans in disapproval, knowing this means he is
about to let in the sports writers and reporters.

JASON FREEMAN

Alright, hey. Is there a back door
to this place.

Eddie points to Jason's right down the row of lockers.

EDDIE

There's an emergency escape exit
over there?

JASON FREEMAN

Alright, cool thanks.

Jason starts to walk away with a purpose. Eddie calls out to
him.

EDDIE

Hey, wait. Where should I meet you?

Jason turns around.

JASON FREEMAN

I'll be right outside this door
when your done. Take your time.

EDDIE

Okay.

Jason turns back around and exits.

EXT. GENO'S STEAKS - NIGHT

It is around dusk in Philadelphia. There is a line around the corner at GENO'S STEAKS that Eddie and Jason are in the middle of. Jason is wearing the same outfit as before and carrying the same satchel while Eddie is wearing jeans and a warm flannel.

JASON FREEMAN

Gus told me this was the best spot to get a cheesesteak in the city.

EDDIE

Yeah I remember him telling me that too when I was a rookie three years ago. Finally got called up, didn't know a single soul, so Gus was kind enough to bring me here on my first night.

JASON FREEMAN

You don't say.

EDDIE

Yep.

JASON FREEMAN

Only three years?

EDDIE

Yes sir.

JASON FREEMAN

I had a feeling you had been here longer the way you were screaming at everyone today.

Eddie stares at him for a moment.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

Sorry, I didn't-

EDDIE

(interrupting)

No, it's ok. I can tend to have a temper sometimes when I want to win really badly. Most of the time, I'm good though.

(MORE)

EDDIE (CONT'D)

I was just mad that Petey tried to be a hero and completely passed over me. Felt like he was leaving D out to dry.

JASON FREEMAN

Petey, what's his story?

EDDIE

Some hot shot that got traded here from Milwaukee. Been in the league for few years. Got tired of Milwaukee so he requested a trade. Anywhere. He's kind of got a...

Eddie trails off for a second to think of how he wants to phrase the next part.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

...sort of a...he knows he's good at what he does.

JASON FREEMAN

(nodding)

Yeah, I think I know that type.

The two of them reach the window to the front of the line.

EDDIE

Two footlongs please.

Jason starts to reach for his wallet. Eddie puts a finger up to his face to stop him.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Ah. My treat. Welcome to Philly.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, thank you.

The guy in the window taking their orders recognizes them.

CHEESESTEAK VENDOR

Oh shit, man. You're Eddie Ramirez!

EDDIE

(smiling)

Only on my better days, sir.

CHEESESTEAK VENDOR

Yeah, I gotta say. Tough loss for you guys today.

(MORE)

CHEESESTEAK VENDOR (CONT'D)
 Your guy Rodriguez really stunk up
 the joint, and what the hell was
 that with Petey trying to be Mr.
 Big Shot?

EDDIE
 (deflecting)
 We'll be alright, still only the
 third week of the season.

The cheesesteak vendor hands Eddie two footlong authentic
 Philly cheesesteaks.

CHEESESTEAK VENDOR
 (motioning toward Jason)
 And what the hell is that clown of
 an owner of yours thinking bringing
 this washed up bum here.

EDDIE
 Hey man, come on. Give him-

JASON FREEMAN
 (holding Eddie)
 It's ok, Eddie.

Jason looks up at the vendor in the window.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 Thank you for the cheesesteaks,
 sir.

They begin to walk away, but the vendor guy continues to yell
 at him.

CHEESESTEAK VENDOR
 Lemme tell you something, Freeman.
 You should've stayed in whatever
 rehab or AA hole you crawled out
 of! You won't make it three weeks
 in this town before you're cut! We
 don't want you here!

Eddie and Jason are walking down the sidewalk to Eddie's car
 while they eat their cheesesteaks.

EDDIE
 I'm sorry about him.

JASON FREEMAN
 Oh don't worry about it man.

EDDIE

Something I learned real quick when I got here is Philly fans are even more hard core than people make them out to be.

Jason takes a bite of his cheesesteak

JASON FREEMAN

(with his mouth full)

But, they're not wrong about their cheesesteaks, oh my god.

EDDIE

(laughing)

It's good, right?

JASON FREEMAN

(chuckling)

Yeah.

Eddie walks around to the driver's side of his car while Jason opens the passenger side door. They both sit down in their cars and close the door to finish their meals in peace.

INT. EDDIE'S CAR

EDDIE

Look, a little piece of advice?

Jason nods.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Don't let them get to you too hard.

JASON FREEMAN

The fans?

EDDIE

Yeah, but also the team. It might take some time to try to win them over. They're just nervous about your history, you know? They don't want a media circus.

JASON FREEMAN

Can I offer YOU some free advice?

EDDIE

Oh yeah, of course.

JASON FREEMAN

If you want to be a better ballplayer, one way to start is to not yell at your teammates. You can yell to get them fired up, but yelling at your teammates isn't going to help anything.

Eddie nods.

EDDIE

I will make a note of that. Thank you.

JASON FREEMAN

Thank YOU.

Jason holds out his sandwich to Eddie and the two clink them together like they're toasting beers.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - NIGHT

It is the next day following the lost to the Reds. This time, though, the Bellmen are playing the Atlanta Braves. The scoreboard shows the Bellmen are down 3-2 in the bottom of the 7th inning. The pitcher on the mound for the Atlanta Braves seemed zone in, like he is blocking out the sound around him of the fans ringing their bells and the chants of 30,000 fans shouting "Let's-Go-Bell-Men".

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

Hernandez who has been going strong or two straight innings finds himself in a jam now as he has runners on the corner with just one out here as Jackson finds himself in a 2-0 count. His lifetime against Hernandez is .297 with two home runs and eight runs batted in. Hoping he can add on to this late game rally for the Bellmen to help keep the inning alive as the heart of the order is coming up here.

RJ is at the plate as he stares down Hernandez with laser focus. Hernandez settles in.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Hernandez settles in and here is comes.

Hernandez throws a curveball that is just on the outside of the plate.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE #3

Ball!

The ball is tossed back to Hernandez on the mound as RJ steps out of the batter's box to take a practice swing before stepping back in.

INT./EXT. BELLMEN DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Coach Cooke calls out from the dugout to RJ.

COACH COOKE
3-0, look alive RJ.

INTERCUT - DUGOUT/PARK - NIGHT

RJ settles back in the batter's box into his stance as Hernandez once again stares him down as he prepares to throw.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
I'm sure Jackson here is going to expect a fastball since Hernandez does not want to load the bases. As he deals.

Hernandez throws a fastball right down the middle. The pitch suddenly goes from being in live time to slow motion as RJ stares down the pitch. He takes a big swing at the ball, but the ball bounces off the bottom of the barrel of the bat, only to then bounce off the home plate diamond upwards to hit RJ square in the forehead. RJ collapses in the batter's box, still conscious but almost like he was shot. RJ grabs his forehead.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Oh my, Ray Jackson hits a foul ball into the dirt that bounced back up and hit directly in him the forehead. And he is down.

Coach Cooke motions over to a trainer as they rush out onto the field to check on RJ at home plate.

RJ
Ohhhhh fffffff-

COACH COOKE
(Bending over him)
Hey, you ok RJ?

RJ
 (grunts)
 So much for looking alive, right
 Coach?

RJ chuckles as Coach and the trainer nervously laugh along with him.

BELLMEN TRAINER
 You alright, RJ?

The camera shows RJ point of view and shows a blurry image of three separate Coach Cookes and trainers.

RJ
 Uh- which one is talking?

BELLMEN TRAINER
 (turning to Coach)
 He's definitely got a concussion
 Coach, I got to take him for a
 look.

The Bellmen trainer begins to help RJ up off the ground to walk him back to the dugout. Coach walks alongside them as he thinks.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE #3
 (shouting)
 Coach, you got two minutes to get a
 batter in the box!

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
 And after a scary moment like that
 Jackson is up and walking off the
 field as Cooke has now got to find
 a pinch hitter to replace Jackson
 in the middle of a 3-1 count.

Coach looks for a moment down the bench of the dugout. All the players are watching and clapping off RJ as he is guided toward the tunnel of the dugout to the clubhouse. He notices Jason amongst the crowd of players and calls out to him.

COACH COOKE
 Jason!

Jason perks up his head..

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
 Grab your stuff, your pinch hitting
 for RJ.

JASON FREEMAN
 (hesitant)
 Yes, sir.

Jason begins to grab a helmet and bat as he prepares to head out to the batter's box to pinch hit.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O)
 And it looks like Jason Freeman is going to be Cooke's call to pinch hit for Ray Jackson. Cooke said he was going to have Freeman on standby today and yesterday before he figured out what to do with him and it looks like now is going to be Freeman's first time at the plate in the majors in five years with a chance to tie it up.

Jason straps on his batting gloves as Eddie walks over to him before heading out of the dugout.

EDDIE
 Hey, you got this man. Don't worry about what's around you, just focus on him.

Eddie points out to Hernandez on the mound. Jason nods his head, takes a deep breath and slowly walks out toward home plate. Suddenly there is a loud roar of mixed jeers and applause of the Bellmen audience, but predominately jeers.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
 And the crowd here voicing their approval toward Jason Freeman as it is really a mixed bag of emotions here among the Bellmen fans.

The crowd begins to chant toward Freeman as the volume slowly grows.

BELLMEN CROWD
 Use-your-ste-reoids! Use-your-ste-roids! Use-your-ste-roids!

Jason walks into the batter's box and digs his front foot in to get into his stance. Suddenly the Braves catcher says something for only Jason to hear as he gets back into his squat.

BRAVES CATCHER
 You shouldn't have come back, man.

Jason turns his eyes back to him for a second as his face has a monotone expression as he prepares for the pitch. Hernandez on the mound stares down at him as he goes into his throwing motion. He throws a curveball that looks like is about to hit Jason at first but then catches the inside edge of the plate for a strike.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE #3

Strike two!

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that was a stellar curveball by Hernandez that is going to catch the inside part of the plate for strike two.

The crowd begins to boo again in disapproval of the call.

BELLMEN FAN #1

You're washed up, Freeman! You should've stayed outta Philly!

BELLMEN FAN #2

First ballot for the Hall of Shame!

Jason steps out of the box and takes a practice swing before he steps back in. Eddie calls out to him from the dugout.

EDDIE

You got this Jason! Find your pitch and swing away!

Jason gets back into his stance as he and Hernandez stare each other down for a moment. Hernandez then goes to his throwing motion and fires a fastball right down the middle of the plate. Jason takes a big hack at it but misses as he turns himself almost completely around.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE #3

Strike three!

The crowd boos even louder in disapproval for the embarrassing at bat Jason just had.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that is going to be a strikeout for Jason Freeman's first at bat with the Bellmen as he took a big hack at that last pitch but to no avail, as that is going to bring up John Petrocelli with two outs here in the 7th.

Jason walks back to the dugout with his head down. He passes Petrocelli as he walks out to the batter's box. Petey says something to him as they pass.

JOHN PETROCELLI
Really says a lot, old man.

Jason stops and turns around.

JASON FREEMAN
Hey.

Petey turns around for a moment. Jason walks back up to him.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
He likes to start out with off speed. If you get to two strikes, expect nothing but fastballs.

Petey turns around and heads back out to home plate. Jason turns back around and heads to the dugout with his head down, drowning out the disapproval toward him and the loud applause toward Petey stepping into the batter's box. Eddie is there alongside Alex Carlo to greet him.

EDDIE
Don't worry about it man, you went down swinging. You'll get the next one.

JASON FREEMAN
Thanks.

Jason puts his helmet and bat back just to turn around and see Petey on the first pitch hit a blast toward center field. Petey stares at it for a second and then flips his bat sideways toward the Bellmen dugout as he jogs toward first base. The crowd cheers for this hit and then explodes in approval as the ball sails over the center field fence. They begin to start ringing their hand bells as suddenly a much louder bell begins to chime from the centerfield scoreboard.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
And what a mighty hack Petey had at that one, that will be his 10th of the season already as John Petrocelli is going to give the Bellmen the lead here in what could potentially be another game winner for his career assuming all goes well here. The Bellmen now lead the Braves 5-2 here in the bottom of the 7th with just two outs.

Petey rounds the bases, openly fired up about the home run he just crushed. He reaches home plate where his two teammates that were on base are there to greet him.

JOHN PETROCELLI

That's how I do!

The three-men jog back to the dugout where the rest of the team rushes to the top of the dugout to congratulate him.

COACH COOKE

Way to hit Petey.

Jason is at the back of the crowd awaiting Petey to make it through the crowd. Finally, after a few high fives and taps on the butt for a job well done, Petey finally makes his way over to Jason. Jason puts his hand up to go for a high five, working up a smile, as if the last thing Petey just said to him never happened.

JASON FREEMAN

(smiling)

Way to swing away brother.

Petey high fives Jason.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Fastball.

Jason chuckles that he got the call wrong.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)

You'd have known that if you didn't take the easy way, Freeman.

Petey walks past him to put his stuff away. Jason is left standing there until he slowly sits back down on the bench behind him.

COACH COOKE

Alright guys let's finish this.
Freeman, get your glove, you're staying in for RJ in left field.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - CONTINUOUS

The scoreboard now shows it is the top of the 8th inning with the score still the same. The Bellmen start to run out onto the field, and Jason jogs out to left field. As he jogs out, he is met with a similar greeting of mixed cheers and jeers. Once again, Jason tries to remain unmoved by this reception.

There is a young adult man about early twenties sitting in one of the first rows of the left field wall wearing a Bellmen t-shirt, and over it an unbuttoned Dodgers jersey among a sea of Bellmen and Braves fans. He is sitting there with a woman about his age that is in all likelihood his girlfriend that is wearing the same Bellmen jersey t-shirt as the man in the Dodger's jersey.

BELLMEN WOMAN FAN #1
(pointing)
Is that him?

BELLMEN-DODGERS FAN
Yeah, that's him.

BELLMEN WOMAN FAN #1
Why're they booing him if he's on our team?

BELLMEN-DODGERS FAN
You see, a long time ago he got caught using steroids and it was this whole big scandal. He was supposed to be the best, and he was projected to be one of the youngest people ever to get to 500 home runs. Then he got suspended and he kind of went off the deep end and left, but now he's back. No one wanted him though because everyone thinks he's washed up, let alone the media circus.

BELLMEN WOMAN FAN #1
And is he?

BELLMEN-DODGERS FAN
Washed up?

The woman nods. The man then smiles and points to the back of the Dodgers jersey that implies Jason's name is on it.

BELLMEN-DODGERS FAN (CONT'D)
(smiling)
I still believe in him. Only one way to find out, though.

Jason is playing long toss to warm up as the inning break wraps up. As he takes the ball during long toss, he hears a voice shout "Balls In". Jason takes the ball and throws into the Bellmen dugout.

BELLMEN-DODGERS FAN (CONT'D)

(pointing)

Never thought I'd be this close to
him before.

As he turns around to walk back out toward his position, he notices the fan in the front row pointing at him. They lock eyes and the Bellmen-Dodgers fan suddenly lights up like a deer in the headlights. He then nervously waves, and Jason can't help but break a grin by this interaction and the fact the man is wearing his Dodgers jersey over a Bellmen t-shirt. He tips his cap toward the fan's general direction out of respect, before turning around to take his position.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

Going into the top half of the 8th
inning now as the Bellmen are out
ahead 5-2 and are only six outs
away from wrapping up what would be
a real momentum boost of a win.

Jason settles back into an emotionless stare as the pitcher on the mound goes into the windup. The crowd around him has died down a bit, but he continues to get a handful of jeers in his general direction. The pitcher throws and the Braves batter hits a high fly ball toward the stands that Jason immediately registers. He turns to the side and starts running backward with his head up over his back left shoulder.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And the first pitch is going to be
a high fly ball to left. Freeman
might have a chance at it.

The crowd behind Jason rises to its feet as he runs back closer and closer to the wall.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Back near the wall....

Jason gets onto the warning track and takes a big leap with his hand up over the wall. While everyone else around him is on their feet, the man suddenly ducks down into a crouch as his girlfriend impulsively grabs her arms around him to cover the blow as Jason's arm hovers in front of them for a moment for Jason to catch the ball from going over the fence.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And he caught it! Holy smokes!

Jason comes back down onto the field to see the man's girlfriend covering him up while the man is in almost a fetal position. The two of them look up as Jason is smiling at the sight from the warning track.

BELLMEN WOMAN FAN #1

Nice catch.

Jason motions over to the man with her before responding.

JASON FREEMAN

(grinning)

You too.

Jason then takes the ball and tosses it to the fan in the Dodgers jersey.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

Don't give up on me, man.

Jason turns around and jogs back into position. The man, totally speechless at first, suddenly shouts out to him.

BELLMEN-DODGERS FAN

Never!

Jason gets back into position before he realizes he just threw a ball into the stands on just the first out instead of the third out. He hears Eddie voice call out to him.

EDDIE

One out, Jason!

Jason looks up for a moment in realizing this himself simultaneously and then pats his chest before shouting out to the team.

JASON FREEMAN

Sorry, my fault!

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that was an amazing catch by Jason Freeman and he's lucky there was no one else on base because he just threw the ball back up to a fan. Well, welcome back to the big leagues, Jason Freeman as he may have just had the play of the game here for the Bellmen.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - LATER

The team enters the clubhouse celebrating a win with one another. The players are high fiving each other and patting each other on the back. Petey is the one that is really leading the charge in the group being loud and brash.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Let's get some music up in here,
boys!

Petey goes to his locker and pulls out a speaker as the team cheers him on. He connects his phone and starts to play "Industry Baby" by Lil Nas X. He starts to jump around and dance as several other players gather around him and do the same. As they are doing this, Eddie and Jason enter the clubhouse together.

EDDIE

You just go to keep your head down
at the plate.

Jason nods. Eddie then turns to see the sight before him of the ballplayers celebrating. Eddie opens his mouth like he is about to yell something at his teammates. Jason then grabs his arm.

JASON FREEMAN

(grabbing)

Remember what I said?

Eddie hesitates for a moment and then nods. Eddie then turns back to his teammates.

EDDIE

Hey guys, listen up! Turn the music
down for a second.

The ballplayers slowly begin to stop celebrating and turn to Eddie and Jason. Petey continues to celebrate on his own with the music still blasting through the speaker.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

(impatient)

Can someone-

Eddie motions toward Petey, and one of the ballplayers standing next to him hits him in the hip with the back of their hand. Petey turns around and sees everyone looking at Eddie and Jason. Eddie makes the motion to him of putting his hand across his neck to tell him to "kill the music". Petey, looking annoyed by this, turns off the song for a moment.

JOHN PETROCELLI
 (annoyed)
 Damn Nazi.

Eddie addresses the whole team.

EDDIE
 (taking a deep breath)
 This will only take a second.

Petey decides to give Eddie a Nazi salute from the back of the crowd to go along with him calling Eddie a Nazi, expecting Eddie to yell at them all. A couple younger ballplayers around him chuckle at this. Eddie notices them, but decides to ignore it rather than lose his temper.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
 I wanted to say that was a nice win everyone. Petey, that was a real clutch hit you had with that blast.

The crowd applauds Petey with this statement, and Petey decides to take a bow like he just did a curtain call for a Broadway show.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
 Alright, alright! And how about we hear it for Jason here for stepping in for RJ, and for that even more incredible catch to save our asses.

The team applauds Jason for his catch with just a little less than the same intensity there was for Petey a moment ago. Jason just stands next to Eddie and smiles, almost nervously. Jason just puts his hand up and speaks only a few words.

JASON FREEMAN
 Good work, everybody. Team effort.

The team then disperses, and everyone goes off to do their own post game rituals. Petey turns his speaker back on but turns on a different song and at significantly less volume. Jason then turns at Eddie and pats him on the back.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 Much better, nicely done.

EDDIE
 Thanks.

JASON FREEMAN
 And don't worry about that Nazi comment from Petey.

EDDIE

What comment?

Eddie then winks at Jason. Jason grins at this and pats Eddie on the back again as Jason begins to walk away.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK STREET - NIGHT

Jason is walking out across the street of the ballpark back to his apartment. As he is walking out, Jackie Moss is about to get into a car before she motions to the driver to not leave.

JACKIE MOSS

Hang on just a second please.

Jackie calls out to Jason as he reaches the sidewalk across the street from the ballpark.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

Jason!

Jason stops and turns to her as she quickly walks over to him sticking her hand out.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

Hey, sorry. Jason, I'm Jackie Moss.
I'm the radio play by play
commentator for the team.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, hey. Pleasure to meet you,
ma'am.

JACKIE MOSS

Sorry, I wanted to talk to you
after your first game but you were
already gone. You kind of dipped
out of there quick.

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, I did.

JACKIE MOSS

Hell of a catch you had tonight.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, thanks.

JACKIE MOSS

Play of the game, right there.

JASON FREEMAN

Naw, it was a team effort. Petey's homer is really what saved us tonight.

JACKIE MOSS

Yeah, but if you don't catch that ball, they could have rallied, and that home run hardly means squat.

JASON FREEMAN

I'm sorry, I don't want to keep you waiting-

JACKIE MOSS

No, no it's ok. I just saw you and I wanted to introduce myself to you personally and say welcome aboard.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, thank you.

JACKIE MOSS

If you don't mind, I would love the chance to talk to you one on one soon if that's ok.

JASON FREEMAN

You mean, like an interview?

JACKIE MOSS

Uh- something like that.

Jason hesitates for a moment. Jackie responds before he can answer.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

It's nothing too personal, I just really would like to talk to you because it's such a big deal not only that your back but that you're here and all.

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, sure that'd be great.

JACKIE MOSS

Awesome.

Jackie reaches into her purse and pulls out the back of an old business card and a pen and scribbles her phone number onto it. As she is doing so, she looks up at the old, colonial, slightly rundown apartment building that Jason is living in.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)
(pointing up)
Is this where you're living?

JASON FREEMAN
Yes ma'am.

Jackie hands her the business card with her phone number on it.

JACKIE MOSS
(chuckling)
Prime real estate, if you ask me.

Jason puts the card in his pocket without even looking at it.

JASON FREEMAN
Yeah, it's not as bad as it looks.

JACKIE MOSS
Oh no, I'm being serious. You never have to worry about getting to the park on time. I respect that.

JASON FREEMAN
Yeah, that's why I did it.

They both laugh.

JACKIE MOSS
Alright, well. Goodnight, Jason.

JASON FREEMAN
Goodnight, Ms. Moss.

JACKIE MOSS
Oh no, none of that. Jackie. Always Jackie. Ms. Moss was my mother.

JASON FREEMAN
Jackie. Forgive me.

JACKIE MOSS
(chuckling)
Goodnight, Jason. I'll be in touch.

JASON FREEMAN
Yes ma'am.

Jason walks up the stairs to the front door of his apartment building as Jackie gets in the backseat of the car that is picking her up. The car drives off into the night.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jason unlocks the door to his apartment and walks in shutting the door behind him. He turns on the light and we see his apartment has some new additions to it. There are a couple empty plastic reusable bags on the counter to imply that he has gone grocery shopping recently. There are also two empty cardboard boxes with the top cut off sitting on the counter, like he was at a package store. On his refrigerator, Jason has his signed contract from the other taped up. He throws his keys on the counter next to a clear plastic bag that has half a dozen bananas inside and takes his wallet out of his pocket and puts it next to said keys. At the door, an empty television box sits beside on the ground to imply a television has been added somewhere to the apartment. Jason then makes his way into the BEDROOM.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jason walks into his bedroom and lies down on his made bed that now has dark green, plaid bed sheets on it. As he lies down, a television is sitting on his dresser at the foot of his bed. He leans up and picks up a remote off the dresser and turns on the television. He begins switching through random channels until he reaches a local nightly news network and stops there.

NEWS STATION FIELD REPORTER

And luckily, officials told us the officer was put into stable condition as of 8:15, and that he's going to be alright. Back to you Darryl.

DARRYL

As for sports tonight, the Bellmen came back from behind to win 5-2 today against the Atlanta Braves, but the big story of the night seems to be Ray Jackson having a scary moment late in the game as a foul ball clocked him in the head and forced him to leave the game for examination. Jason Freeman, who just signed a one-year contract with the Bellmen not too long ago, took over for him in left field and made his first major league appearance in years.

(MORE)

DARRYL (CONT'D)

Freeman returned to the game initially with mixed but predominately negative reception by the Bellmen fans after serving one of the largest suspensions in the history professional baseball.

The television then shows the replay of his spectacular catch.

DARRYL (CONT'D)

He did however have a snapshot moment here late in the game as he made perhaps a game saving catch stealing a home run here in the 8th inning off the Braves catcher Henry Bard, and it's a good thing no one else was on base because Freeman tosses the ball up to a fan immediately afterwards forgetting how many outs there were. Wouldn't be surprised if we saw that tonight on Sportscenter.

Darryll continues onto a new story.

DARRYL (CONT'D)

And in other news, police are investigating a car accident over near La Salle University that is believed to have been caused by a drunk driver. So far there have been two casualties, and one in critical-

Jason immediately turns off the television. After a moment he gets back up and heads back into the KITCHEN.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jason opens one of the cupboards above the stove. Inside are a couple unopened bottles of whiskey, vodka, and rum. Jason takes one of the bottles of rum and rips the cap off right off. He is about to take a big chug of the bottle before he catches himself. Jason puts the bottle down quickly and rummages through his pants pocket quickly, like he is looking for something. Jason then notices his wallet on the counter, picks it up, and pulls out a key in the wallet. He presses his thumb on it and closes his eyes, muttering words to himself that are inaudible. This helps calm him down, as he starts taking slow, deep breaths.

START MONTAGE

Jason takes the bottles out of his cabinet and starts dumping them down the sink drain one by one. Jason then rips his contract off the refrigerator door and throws it down on the counter. He grabs a pen and writes something down on the paper. Jason then tapes his contract back on his refrigerator door with the words "'Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them' - Bruce Lee" now inscribed on it. Jason is then spotted in the shower with the water showering over him. His back is spotted like in the beginning, but with fades marks of bad acne. It is nowhere near as gross as it was last time. This is also a shot to show Jason is still in decent shape for a ballplayer. He's not as jacked as he was before, but he's not crazy out of shape for someone who has been out of the game for as long as he has. Jason is then seen alone in his bedroom fully clothed and kneeling at his bed with his head down and his hands clasped, almost as if he is praying.

END MONTAGE

EXT. PNC PARK - DAY - MAY

The Bellmen are in the middle of an away game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. The camera starts out on a wide shot that shows the Pirates pitcher on the mound and a Bellmen player at the plate, while a semi packed crowd cheers on in the background. The camera then is slowly moving out to Coach Cooke down in the dugout, as the word "July" slowly dissolves near the bottom of the screen. Beneath that, the text underneath dissolves into "5 games out of 1st Place". Both texts dissolve out. The Bellmen player at the plate takes a swing at a pitch and hits a skyrocket pop-up, and the Pirates pitcher turns around and points up at it to indicate to the infielders where it is. You hear the crowd appear unresponsive to it, and then there is a sudden burst of approval and applause to imply that the ball was caught.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that is going to be another
easy out for Pirates as the Bellmen
just can't seem to hit the ball out
of the infield.

The camera finishes zooming out and is now over the shoulder of Coach Cooke. He turns around and walks down the dugout, as this shot now becomes a oner shot.

COACH COOKE

He's throwing a lot of high balls
guys. Don't get too eager out
there. Level out your swings.

The camera shows Jason standing up alongside the dugout bench and putting on his batting gloves and his helmet. He is about to go up the dugout steps to the on deck circle and Eddie stops him.

EDDIE

You got this Jason. You get on base, and I'll drive you in.

JASON FREEMAN

Yes, sir.

Eddie taps Jason on the butt as a sign of approval as Eddie walks to the on-deck circle with the camera still following Jason. AS Jason goes onto the on deck circle the camera circles around him. There is a batboy dressed in a Bellmen's uniform kneeling beside the on-deck circle. Jason picks up a batting donut and puts it on his bat as the crowd around him starts to show an aggressive sign of disapproval toward him.

PIRATES FAN #1

You suck, Freeman!

PIRATES FAN #2

You're a god damn bum!

Jason does not respond to them as he watches intently on what is happening before him. The camera stops as his back is faced toward the camera and the Bellmen player in front of him gets hit on a high and inside pitch up near his ribs. The umpire calls time as the Bellmen player stands there for a second in pain and then toss his bat as he jogs down the first base line. The crowd boos in disapproval and then rises to its feet and begins to boo even more as Jason starts to walk out to the batter's box. The batboy runs out quickly to retrieve the previous batter's bat.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that is going to bring up Jason Freeman with one man on and two out here in the top of the 6th inning.

Jason steps into the batter's box and the one-shot ends. The Pirates pitcher settles in on the mound as the crowd boos and slowly begins to chant "Fuck you, Freeman" in disapproval.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Crowd noticeably displaying their feelings toward Freeman.

Jason settles in as the umpire shouts, "Play Ball" and squats behind home plate. The pitcher looks over for a second to the runner at first base and then fires a high fastball up near the shoulders of Jason.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE #4

Ball!

The ball gets thrown back to the pitcher as Jason steps out of the box for a second to take a breath and steps back in. The crowd's chanting continues. The pitcher then settles back in on the mound and once again delivers a shoulder high fastball in around the same spot.

HOME PLATE UMPIRE #4 (CONT'D)

Strike one!

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that's going to be called for a strike, although I'm so sure I would agree with that one. Jason has been batting around the .260 mark since he joined the team and took over for Jackson at third.

The crowd applauds the call by the umpire as Jason turns his head toward the umpire as he steps out of the box but does not appear openly angry, nor does he say anything to him. Jason settles back into his stance and awaits another pitch. The Pirates pitcher stares down at Jason as he fires in a high hanging curveball. This time Jason though, takes a swing at it as he hits a high flyball into right field into the gap. Jason starts to sprint out of the batter's box as he knows he could at least get a double out of it if he runs hard enough.

Jason has his head down and he is chugging as he rounds first and heads for second. As he gets halfway from first to second base though, he hears a loud roar of boos as he looks over for a second to see where the ball is coming from in case he has to slide. Instead, he sees the second base umpire waving his finger in a circular motion in the air to imply that the ball made it out of the ballpark for a home run. Suddenly, Jason does almost like a cartoon double take as he sees the ball made it over the fence and he did not realize it. He is caught off guard by this for a moment as he suddenly breaks from a hard sprint into a soft jog around the bases.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And that ball is gone. A two-run home run for Jason Freeman as he has just given the Bellmen the lead 3-2 in the top of the 6th inning as that ball just barely squeaked out over the right-centerfield fence.

(MORE)

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

That will be Jason's first career home run with the Bellmen, and I don't think he knew that went out for a moment as he now breaks into a soft trot around the bases.

Jason gives a low five to the third base coach as he rounds third and trots toward home plate. The crowd boos insistently toward him as he touches home plate. The moment he does, Jason does a quick genuflection and then points up to the sky before jogging back toward the dugout. The Bellmen player on base high fives him as he waits for him near home plate and jogs back with him. Eddie is now ready to enter the batter's box and high fives both of them.

EDDIE

(smiling)

Way to hog the show, man.

JASON FREEMAN

Well, all acts are welcomed at this circus.

Jason and the other Bellmen player jog back to the dugout as some, but not all of the players are awaiting them. Coach Cooke is at the top of the dugout steps to greet them.

COACH COOKE

(High fiving)

Way to go, guys.

JASON FREEMAN

I got lucky, Coach.

COACH COOKE

Lucky or not, we'll take it.

Jason makes his way through the crowd as he gets some high fives and pats on the back. As he approaches the shelves where all the helmets and gloves are kept, he sees Petey sitting next to the shelf but does not make eye contact with him. As Jason is putting his gear away and putting on his hat and glove, Petey speaks to him, almost like it's an accusation.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Lucky, huh?

Jason responds to this trying to not be phased and be happy about the fact he just hit a home run.

JASON FREEMAN

Well, lucky or not, we'll take it right?

Jason taps him on the shoulder with his hand as walks by him to end the conversation.

Jason then walks back up to the top of the dugout to watch Eddie take his at bat a few feet away from Coach. Nelson then walks up and joins Jason alongside him on the dugout steps and taps him on the shoulder.

NELSON
(smiling)
Nice hitting.

JASON FREEMAN
Thanks.

Eddie is in his batter's stance at the plate. The pitcher on the mound fires a wild pitch that hits Eddie right in his front knee. The crowd lets out a loud groan of disapproval as Eddie drops to the ground for a second holding his knee. The home plate umpire calls time to let Eddie get back up.

COACH COOKE
(turning around)
Someone get the trainer up here.

Coach Cooke takes a few steps out of the dugout before Eddie holds up his hand and shouts to him.

EDDIE
I'm good, I'm good!

Eddie slowly rises up to his feet and starts to jog down to first base as the catcher is standing over him.

PIRATES CATCHER
Let that be a warning for your bum
of a friend Freeman over there.

Eddie locks eyes with him for a moment but starts to jog to first base before he can say or do something stupid. As he jogs to first, he glances over to the Pirates pitcher is starring him down as subtle confirmation that what just happened was no accident.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
And Eddie Ramirez is going to take
the pass to first base, although
I'm sure that couldn't have felt
good. And I can't help but wonder
if that was perhaps a bit
intentional.

As Eddie gets to first base he looks over into the dugout and sees Jason giving him a thumbs up and a look on face that almost is asking him "You ok". Eddie gives a thumbs up in return as the first base coach pats him on the back.

COACH COOKE
(shouting)
Just take a minute, Eddie.

Eddie nods to him that he understands.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
And that is going to bring up
Xavier Perez to the plate with one
on and two out for the Bellmen.

Xavier steps into the batter's box as he looks off toward the centerfield bleachers.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Perez is currently batting .284
with six home runs so far and
really looking to keep this half
inning going.

Eddie starts to take a lead off of first base, and a pretty big one.

NELSON
What the hell is he doing?

Jason turns to Nelson.

JASON FREEMAN
What?

NELSON
I can count on one hand the number
of times I have ever seen Eddie try
to steal. For a second baseman,
he's not that fast.

Coach turns around to the other players.

COACH COOKE
Does he know there's two outs?

The Pirates pitcher with his back to first base glances over his shoulder for a second and sees Eddie taking a big lead. The pitcher holds on the mound for a moment before he turns and fires a throw to first base. Eddie turns and dives in headfirst back to first base as the ball comes in to the first baseman's glove low near Eddie's shoulder.

FIRST BASE UMPIRE #1
 (extending his arms)
 Safe!

The crowd lets out a groan and a series of boos as the play looked close enough for Eddie to have been picked off. Eddie lays there for a moment and smiles almost cunningly like he just got away with murder as the Pirate's first baseman throws the ball back to the pitcher.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
 And that one was mighty close but they're gonna call Eddie safe. I can't help but wonder what he or the Bellmen are thinking here though with Eddie trying to steal with two outs here in the 6th inning.

Eddie rises to his feet and brushes himself off with dirt for a moment, as if it will cleanse away the giant dirt stain running all down the front of his jersey and pants. Coach Cooke shouts at him from the dugout.

COACH COOKE
 Two outs, Eddie! Two outs!

Eddie nods that he understands. The pitcher then goes back into focusing on Xavier at the plate and gets ready to throw from the stretch. Eddie then decides to take a big lead off the base again.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
 Eddie Ramirez is not someone who is not particularly fast, as he was only successful twice for only five in stolen base attempts last season.

Eddie looks down at home plate for a moment and locks eyes with the Pirates catcher. Then, Eddie looks over toward the Bellmen dugout and locks eyes with Jason at the top step and winks at him. Jason seems perplexed by this. Eddie then starts to await the pitcher's next move as he glances over to Eddie for a moment. The crowd has started a "Let's Go Pirates" chant in hopes to help their team get out of the inning. The Pirates pitcher fires a pitch out fastball that the umpire calls a ball. The Pirates catcher then fires a throw down to first base as Eddie dives back to the bag. The throw however sails right over the jumping first baseman's head as it rolls down the right field line.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Pitch out as Tompkins fires it down to first, and it is going to sail right over Morrison's head and go into the outfield!

Eddie quickly hops up like he was on a bed of hot coals and starts sprinting toward second base. The ball gets fielded by the Pirate's right fielder and throws it to the second baseman at the edge of the infield as Eddie stays at second base standing up instead of sliding.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And Eddie is going to take second base standing up as the ball gets thrown into second base.

The crowd boos in disapproval by the throwing error that Tompkins just made at home plate. The Bellmen dugout clap and show their approval Eddie. Jason is standing there just grinning.

COACH COOKE

Alright Eddie! Remember, two outs!

Eddie holds up two fingers to Coach to show he understands. Then Eddie, still standing on second base, turns to Jason and points to his ear to motion to listen as the crowd continues to show disapproval. Jason can't help but laugh.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And now Perez has a chance to add on another run to this Bellmen lead as he has a runner in scoring position.

Eddie starts to take a lead again off of second base as the Pirate's pitcher ready's himself and throws a curveball that Perez smacks into centerfield. Eddie takes off immediately since there are two outs.

JACKIE MOSS

And Perez smacks a line drive into centerfield that's gonna drop down as a base hit.

Eddie reaches third and sees the third base coach tell him to hold up, but instead, Eddie decides to round third and head for home plate.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

Ramirez is gonna blow through the stop sign at third and try for home.

The Pirates centerfielder retrieves the ball on a hop and fires a perfect line drive into home plate from centerfield.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Ross with a very good arm is gonna
 try for home plate.

Coach, Jason and nearly everyone in the dugout is up on the steps shouting for Eddie to slide.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 It's gonna be close!

Thompkins' catches the ball and turns to crouch and cover home plate as he knows he has Eddie beat.

Eddie, however, instead of sliding like everyone on his bench is shouting for him to do, decides to ferociously crash into Thompkins at the plate. The two men drop to the ground on top of home plate and the ball slowly drops out of Thompkins' mitt. The home plate umpire points to the ball and then ferociously extends both of his arms

HOME PLATE UMPIRE #4
 Safe!

The crowd boos again with even more hate and despair toward what just transpired in front of their eyes. Meanwhile, the Bellmen dugout is going nuts about the fact that Eddie Ramirez just took out one of the biggest catchers in the National League.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
 He's safe! Ramirez is safe! Eddie
 Ramirez just completely took out
 Thompkins at the plate, while the
 ball and perhaps the game just
 rolled out of his hands. 4-2
 Bellmen.

Eddie rises to his feet and looks over Thompkins, whose mouth is bleeding, and is just about to get on his feet. Eddie leans in and says something for only the two of them to hear.

EDDIE
 Let that be your warning for your
 bum of a friend over there.

Eddie motions his head over to the pitcher who is now behind the third base line in case the ball got overthrown. Eddie then turns and jogs back over the dugout, but not before giving the thumbs up to Xavier who is standing on first base. Xavier can't help but smile back at Eddie and mouths the words "God damn" to him.

Eddie reaches the dugout and Coach Cooke is there to greet him with many other plays of the team.

COACH COOKE

Nicely done, but don't scare me like that anymore.

EDDIE

Can't promise anything, Coach.

Eddie is greeted by high fives and pats on the back. As he gets to Jason, they just stare at each other for a second kind of blankly.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

What? I didn't lose my temper.

Jason can't help but laugh at this, and then Eddie joins in as well. The two of them shake hands and put an arm around each other like in a hug.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - LATER

Following the game, the Bellmen clubhouse is in relatively high spirits to indicate they won their game. Some of the players are in towels, while others are in the process of changing in or out of their uniforms. Jason is mostly dressed in his flannel, jeans and leather jacket. Coach Cooke makes an announcement in the background.

COACH COOKE

Ok guys, the bus leaves in an hour.

Jason is grabbing the last of his stuff out of his locker when he knocks his wallet out off the shelf. Petey, who is walking by still in uniform sees this happen as Jason picks up his wallet when a key falls out without him noticing. Petey reaches over to pick it up

JOHN PETROCELLI

Hey Freeman, you dropped this.

Jason turns around and sees that Petey is right.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, thanks.

Petey examines the key for a moment and sees an inscription on the date that says the Bruce Lee quote "Mistakes are forgivable," on one side, and the other saying "if one has the courage to admit them" with a date on it from only a couple years ago.

JOHN PETROCELLI
Why do you have that on there?

JASON FREEMAN
It's personal.

Petey starts to hand back the key.

JOHN PETROCELLI
What was her name?

JASON FREEMAN
What?

JOHN PETROCELLI
Your ex, what was her name?

JASON FREEMAN
(defensively)
It's not like that.

JOHN PETROCELLI
(chuckling)
Oh-ho-ho, she must've been a 10 if-

Jason turns his body fully around to face Petey and cuts him off trying to restrain himself.

JASON FREEMAN
(interrupting)
Look, Petey. I know you don't like me, and that's fine cause I can probably understand why and I'm not asking you to. But like you and everyone else on this club, I'm here to win. Now I've been doing nothing but try to be respectful to you because my mother being the Catholic woman that she was, God rest her soul, taught me the value of treating those who don't like you as good as you would treat your own son. But I'll tell you something else too. You can rag on me all you want for whatever you want-

Jason takes the key from him and points to it.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
Don't do that. Alright? Just leave this out of it.

Jason puts the key in his pocket, takes his bag out of his locker and starts to walk away.

JOHN PETROCELLI
 (chuckling)
 Damn, alright. Just answer me this one question and I swear that'll be it? Who else was she banging?

Jason immediately turns around and grabs him by the front of his jersey. He slams Petey up against the locker with a look of rage all over his face. Petey starts to look a little worried, as the players in the clubhouse fall silent and turn their heads toward the commotion.

JASON FREEMAN
 Consider this strike two.

Jason reaches into his pocket and pulls out the key once more.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 You ever cheap shot me about this ev-

Suddenly Coach Cooke calls out to them as he walks into shot a few feet away from them.

COACH COOKE
 Hey! What's going on here?

Both players look over to Cooke. Suddenly Petey responds in a tone that sounds much more normal and upbeat.

JOHN PETROCELLI
 Oh, sorry Coach. Jason was just demonstrating some self-defense move on me that he just learned. I promise this isn't what it looks like.

Petey starts chuckling as Jason lets go of Petey and his temper immediately leaves his body and works up a smile.

JASON FREEMAN
 (chuckling)
 Yeah, sorry Coach. All good here.

Jason acknowledges the rest of the clubhouse.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 Sorry, guys! Carry on.

Coach Cooke looks a bit perplexed but buys into their story somewhat suspiciously.

COACH COOKE

Ok, well be careful next time you do. I don't need either of you two clowns injured.

Jason and Petey acknowledge him.

JASON FREEMAN

Yes, sir.

Coach walks away and the rest of the clubhouse goes about their business. Jason walks away without making any eye contact to Petey.

As Jason walks away to head to the bus, Nelson stops him. He is wearing his uniform pants and a white t-shirt.

NELSON

Hey man, you ok?

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, sorry about that. I was just showing Petey-

NELSON

(Interrupting)

Naw, naw. It's ok man, you don't have to explain yourself. I saw everything.

JASON FREEMAN

(embarrassed)

Oh, I'm sorry-

Nelson interrupts him again.

NELSON

Hey, listen. Once we get to New York, a few of us are gonna try to play a friendly game of cards. You want in?

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, I'm sorry man. I would, but I don't really gamble that much, and I-

NELSON

(interrupting)

Oh no, don't worry. It's nothing like that.

(MORE)

NELSON (CONT'D)

It's just something a few of us
infielders like to do on occasion,
but I would love for you to come.

JASON FREEMAN

Nelson, I'm a leftfielder.

NELSON

Well, tonight you are honorary dirt
dog.

Jason hesitates for a moment, unsure about how to respond
until Nelson decides for him.

NELSON (CONT'D)

You're coming.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh-

NELSON

(interrupting)

Come find me or Eddie once we get
to the hotel.

Nelson smiles and pats him on the back as he walks away.
Jason turns for a moment and watches him leave and then
continues onward toward the buses.

EXT. - NEW YORK HOTEL - NIGHT

The bus rolls up in front of a semi-busy New York Street.
Coach Cooke and some other team coaches get off the buses as
the players slowly pile off. Some players help remove bags
that are in the bottom compartments of the coach bus, while
others stand around.

COACH COOKE

Ok guys, Robert and I are gonna go
get everything situated so you all
can get to your rooms and hopefully
go to bed.

Coach Cooke and his crew walk into the hotel lobby while some
other ballplayers follow. Jason and Eddie walk off the bus
together all dressed and with their bags already with them.

EDDIE

C'mon.

Eddie starts to walk inside. Jason follows behind him.

INT. NEW YORK HOTEL - CONTINUOUS

Jason and Eddie walk through the revolving door of the hotel entrance. It looks like a typical hotel lobby. Off to the right there is a long line of check in desks, as well as hotel concierge. Off to the left, there is a little lounge area with a hotel bar. A man plays soft piano in the lounge area for a small crowd of mixed middle aged to elderly couples who are dressed in business casual attire and having drinks. Above the center of the lobby is a large fancy chandelier. Eddie and Jason are just taking it all in like they are two kids in the world's largest candy shop.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

You know that scene in Field of Dreams when Ray Liotta as Shoeless Joe first meets Kevin Costner and says how much missed baseball and traveling with the teams and staying in the nice hotels? Well, if there is one thing that I love about being a ballplayer, it's certainly this.

Jason turns to him and smiles.

JASON FREEMAN

Eddie, the moment you stop loving it, get out of the business.

Eddie turns to Jason and they both start laughing. Then approaches them with one duffle bag over his shoulder and a much larger one in his hand.

NELSON

Hey guys. Room 1208. 20 minutes. Bring whatever you want.

Nelson then walks away. Eddie and Jason then look at each other before continuing onward through the lobby.

INT. JASON'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - LATER

START MONTAGE

Jason is alone in his single hotel room as he puts down his bag. He looks over at the clock that says 9:02 and then starts to unpack a pair of flannel pajama pants, a pair of slippers, and a t-shirt that has "Boston College" written across the upper chest. Eddie then begins to change out of his regular clothing and into his pajamas. While doing so, he turns on the television in his hotel room and switches through the channels until he finds a classic TV channel that is playing the season 11, 22nd episode of Cheers titled "It's Lonely On The Top".

As Jason is getting dressed into his pajamas, he mutes the tv for a moment. Jason opens a drawer by his bedside and finds a small Bible in the drawer. He picks up and begins to read through some of it. When he finishes, flipping through his reading. He puts the Bible down and kneels by his bedside. He bends over his bed and the Bible and makes the sign of the cross and starts to pray, muttering inaudible words to himself. Once he finishes, he makes the sign of the cross again. He gets up and sits in his bed and unmutes the tv and watches the end of the Cheers episode that has been playing in the background. Jason unmutes it just in time to watch the final scene of the episode when Sam is talking to Carla alone in his office and reveals some colossal sized information.

END MONTAGE

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - LATER

Jason exits his hotel room with his hotel bathrobe and pajamas on. He begins to walk down the hallway to the elevator and presses the button to go up. Jason waits for the elevator. As the elevator doors open, Jackie Moss walks out in a blue pajama robe and a bucket of ice.

JACKIE MOSS
Oh, Jason, excuse me.

JASON FREEMAN
Oh, good evening, ma'am.

Jackie takes half a step out of the elevator door to keep it open.

JACKIE MOSS
(flustered)
I was-uh-just getting some ice from the lobby.

JASON FREEMAN
No worries, ma'am.

JACKIE MOSS
Oh, Jackie please, Jason.

JASON FREEMAN
(chuckling)
Right, sorry.

JACKIE MOSS
Well, you see, the reasoning is-uh-I was thirsty.

(MORE)

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

And I like to do this weird thing
where I like to crush up my ice
cubes and then just drink that
instead, since it's nice and cool.

Jason responds in kind of a perplexed manner confused as to why she is telling him this in such a nervous and defensive way. However, he just goes along with it for the sake of not wanting to ask questions move on with his night.

JASON FREEMAN

(chuckling)

Okay.

JACKIE MOSS

What're you up to? You look like
you're more ready for bed than I
am.

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, I got nominated as an
honorary infielder to play cards
with Nelson and all of them.

JACKIE MOSS

Is that where you're headed?

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, I feel like it would be rude
not to.

JACKIE MOSS

Are you gonna kick their butts?

JASON FREEMAN

Like I said, I feel like it would
be rude not to.

They both laugh at Jason's joke.

JACKIE MOSS

Well, don't kick 'em too hard. You
all still got a game tomorrow.

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, yeah.

JACKIE MOSS

(smiling)

Goodnight, Jason.

JASON FREEMAN

Goodnight, Ms. Mo...Jackie.

Jackie begins to walk away before Jason stops her.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
Oh hey, while I have you here,
before I forget, did you still want
to chat with me about something?

JACKIE MOSS
Oh, yes. I-

Jackie stops for a second as Jason awaits her answer with his hand over the elevator door.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)
Another time. I'll let you know
when.

JASON FREEMAN
Sure, sure.

JACKIE MOSS
Goodnight, Jason.

JASON FREEMAN
Goodnight.

Jackie walks down the hallway as Jason stands in the elevator. Jason hits a button, and the sliding door finally closes.

INT. NEW YORK HOTEL 12TH FLOOR HALLWAY - LATER

Jason is standing outside Room 1208 and takes a deep breath before knocking on the door. There are some low rumble voices coming from the door, but as Jason knocks, Nelson's voice calls out to Jason.

NELSON
It's open!

Jason sees that the inside lock to the door is wedge between the door and the crevice for anyone to enter. Jason opens the door to join the party.

INT. ROOM 1208 - CONTINUOUS

Jason enters and sees Nelson, Eddie, Xavier, and Alex sitting around a coffee table that had clearly got moved to be in the center of the room. On the dresser, there is a few bottles of Jameson and Jack Daniels whiskey that have clearly been opened.

NELSON

Hey Jason, you made it!

Jason walks in and closes the door behind him

JASON FREEMAN

Hey everyone.

EDDIE & ALEX CARLO & XAVIER

Hi Jason.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

So glad you could join us.

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, well Nelson told me to come.

NELSON

Of course I did, come on have a seat.

Jason walks into the room and sits on the end of the bed around the round table. Nelson is sitting in a desk chair while Eddie is leaning against the dresser and AC is sitting on the floor with his legs crossed.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Hey, do you want something to drink? There's whiskey, and AC brought some beer that's in the fridge.

Nelson points over to a mini fridge that is in the corner of the room.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, that's ok, I-

Nelson interrupts him.

NELSON

And there's some water, a couple Cokes, and I think a Sprite in there too.

JASON FREEMAN

I'll take the Sprite.

NELSON

Help yourself.

Jason gets up off of the bed and goes over to the fridge. He pulls out a can of lemonade and cracks it open.

Nelson continues telling a story that has no context to Jason as he is shuffling and dealing cards.

NELSON (CONT'D)

So anyway, Cece told me that the kid calls time for like the 4th or 5th time during his at bat, and you know what my little boy on the mound did? He yelled at the kid to "Get in the fuckin' box". Fuckin'.

The three men all laugh as Jason returns to the party. It is noticeable at this point to Jason that Nelson at least has been drinking quite a bit. Alex also takes a sip from his glass of whiskey. Eddie, however, Jason notices is drinking water from a water bottle.

NELSON (CONT'D)

The kid is in 3rd grade.

EDDIE

Well, you gotta be careful about what you say, Dad.

NELSON

Oh, that's all his mother's fault, don't worry. I'm a saint around him.

The laughter continues. Nelson looks over at Jason as he deals him in to start playing a round of spoons.

NELSON (CONT'D)

You weren't about to go to sleep I hope man, you look like you're ready for a long winters nap.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh no, I just like to dress comfortable is all.

NELSON

Hey man, I dig it. Don't you guys dig it.

ALEX CARLO

Yo, what's good Jason?

Alex sticks his hand out to shake for Jason to shake.

JASON FREEMAN

(shaking hands)

Good to see you Alex.

EDDIE

Do you know how to play spoons?

JASON FREEMAN

I do, actually.

NELSON

Alright, well, let's get to it fellas. However, instead of spoons, we're gonna use straws I took from the coffee machine downstairs.

Nelson throws a handful of straws onto the table.

ALEX CARLO

Hey Jason, can I tell you something?

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, sure.

ALEX CARLO

That was so badass what you did today with Petey.

NELSON

(yelling)
Oh my god, yes!

ALEX CARLO

That guy is such an ass.

JASON FREEMAN

You guys-

Nelson cuts him off.

NELSON

Naw man, are you kidding? He's a self-righteous prick who deserves-

EDDIE

(interrupting)
Ok guys, how about we don't do this tonight.

ALEX CARLO

Why not? Jason's cool. Aren't you, Jason?

JASON FREEMAN

Uh-

ALEX CARLO

Yeah, he's cool. You know what, I will admit-

Alex stands up and leans over to talk right in Jason's face, stumbling and nearly falling on him. Jason can smell the whiskey on his breath and deduces that he is intoxicated as well.

ALEX CARLO (CONT'D)

-I wasn't sure about you at first...you know, with your past and all...but now...you are ok, man. You are ok.

Jason begins to push Alex off of him a bit.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh, thank you Alex.

Alex continues his drunken rant.

ALEX CARLO

What do I care, though? I would say I want him out of Philly, but you know what...he is outta Philly right now, as are we.

Jason cuts him off as Alex starts laughing at his own dry humor.

JASON FREEMAN

(interrupting)

How about I get you some water and we play some cards.

Jason stands up and goes back over to the fridge. Jason takes out a water bottle and brings it back over to Alex, who is sitting on the floor again. As he gets the water, the door opens and you hear Eddie call out to a voice entering the room.

EDDIE

Evening, D!

A timid Danny Rodriguez enters the room.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Hey guys.

NELSON & ALEX CARLO

D!

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 Hola, amigos.

Jason turns around and Danny notices Jason over at the fridge.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)
 Jason.

JASON FREEMAN
 Hey, Danny. Good to see you.

EDDIE
 To what do we owe this pleasure?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 Well, I was looking for Colin and Nelson texted me he'd tell me but he would tell me in person after I came here to have a drink with him?

NELSON
 Help yourself, D. Help yourself.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 With all do respect, Nelson, I'd rather not drink the night before I have to start.

NELSON
 You wanna know something Danny, I respect that. And do you wanna know why?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 Can you just-

Nelson interrupts D.

NELSON
 Because, I'm gonna tell you a story. I read somewhere that the 2004 Red Sox when they were down 3-0 to the Yankees in the championship series, Manny Ramirez made some kind of special drink that the entire team took a shot of before the start of Game 4. Now, I can't remember what exactly he mixed together, except for one thing in particular that Manny said was a secret ingredient.

(MORE)

NELSON (CONT'D)

Now, everyone took a shot of this before game except for one individual, and you know who that individual was?

Danny is just standing there growing a bit impatient but responds.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

No.

NELSON

It was the starting pitcher, Derek Lowe. Because he needed to be stone cold sober for it. And-well I think everyone knows the rest- Rivera can't close it in the 9th, Papi knocks one out in the 12th, and they won the game. And so, as a team, it was decided before every remaining game, everyone except the starting pitcher took a shot of Manny's- uh-"Mumbo Jumbo", and they never lost again that October.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

(uninterested)

Well, that's a lovely-

NELSON

(interrupting)

And you know what the secret ingredient was?

Danny turns to the rest of the group.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Do any of you know where Colin is?

NELSON

He's two doors down from me. Room 1210.

Danny just stares at Nelson for a second as Nelson is just grinning and containing his drunken laughter.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Thanks.

EDDIE

Why do you need Colin?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

I want to go over film.

Alex decides to chime in.

ALEX CARLO

D, you study film and rip yourself apart more than anyone else on this team. For once, can't you just chill out and enjoy a drink with us.

Danny appears to be a bit hurt by this statement. Eddie stands up to talk to him.

EDDIE

You'll have to forgive them. They don't mean that, they're just very drunk right now.

ALEX CARLO

Hey, wait a-

Eddie motions for him to shut up and puts his hand on Danny's shoulder.

EDDIE

What he means is, you work harder than almost anyone else on this team, but that's only half the battle. You got to have some confidence too. Believe that you can, and you're already halfway there.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

I'm just trying to be better that's all.

EDDIE

I know you are, D.

Jason decides to help him out.

JASON FREEMAN

You're a good ballplayer, D. Don't forget that.

Danny looks over at Jason.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

I could say the same to you, señor.

Jason smiles a bit to this compliment.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)
Alright, well, I'll leave you guys
to it. Buenos noches.

Danny points to Nelson and Alex

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)
You two drunken sailors, no más,
capeesh?

Danny turns and walks out the door.

NELSON
(shouting)
No promises!

Nelson and Alex both begin singing "Drunken Sailors" as Danny exits the room that eventually trails off as the door closes. Jason turns to Nelson after they finish carrying their tune.

JASON FREEMAN
What was it?

NELSON
Hm?

JASON FREEMAN
The secret ingredient?

NELSON
Oh- it was a couple crushed up
Viagra pills.

Jason raises his eyebrows like he can't believe what he just heard.

NELSON (CONT'D)
C'mon now, let's play some cards.

START MONTAGE

The gang starts playing spoons as the liquor is pouring. Alex and Nelson are by far the drunkest out of the four of them, while Eddie only drinks in moderation and Jason is sipping on his Sprite. There are several different intense rounds of spoons that occur, which shows everyone at least winning once. There are many laughs shared between these four men and Jason just sits and smiles knowing that he feels part of the group and part of the team. Eventually, Nelson and Alex try have some more whiskey together, but Eddie puts his hand out to stop both of them from drinking since there is a game the next day. Eventually, Jason stands up and gives them a wave as he exits the hotel room.

END MONTAGE

INT. JASON'S NEW YORK HOTEL ROOM - MORNING

Jason is alone in his room the next morning as his alarm goes off. Jason wakes up and begins to get dressed for the game.

INT. NEW YORK HOTEL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As Jason walks out of his room and goes down the hallway, he sees a door open, and Jackie walks out wearing the same outfit she was wearing the night before. Outside her door, she drops on a tray table on the ground for room service to take that has two empty glasses on them. Jackie's hair is clipped back, and her face almost looks as if she had been crying. Jackie then puts her head in her hands like she is in shame.

JACKIE MOSS

Oh, God.

Jackie turns and sees Jason standing in the hallway watching her.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

How long have you been standing there?

JASON FREEMAN

Enough to know you need some coffee.

INT. NEW YORK HOTEL LOBBY - LATER

The team is waiting in the lobby, either standing around or sitting in chairs. Eddie is standing around looking just as Jason comes up behind him with dragging Jackie along behind him by the hand. Jackie is wearing sunglasses and a light orange blouse with black pants.

JASON FREEMAN

Hey, sorry I'm late.

Eddie notices him holding Jackie's hand.

EDDIE

Did-uh- you two...oversleep?

JASON FREEMAN

No, you see-

JACKIE MOSS

It's my fault, Eddie. I saw Jason down the hall and asked him to hold the elevator for me, and then low and behold I couldn't find my wallet.

Eddie looks at Jason, almost like he's asking if her story was true.

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, that's exactly what happened.

EDDIE

Well, it doesn't matter. None of us can find Petey.

JASON FREEMAN

Petey?

EDDIE

Yeah, apparently, he wasn't in his room this morning.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh man. Oh, by the way, where are Beavis and Butthead?

Eddie points to the two of them sitting on the couch in suits and sunglasses.

EDDIE

Over there. They said they're fine other than just a minor headache. But they showed up on time. Gave them some Advil, they should be alright.

Petey then comes walking in through the front door of the hotel, wearing a half-unbuttoned collar shirt, some jeans and dress shoes.

COACH COOKE

Well, so glad you decided to join us today Petey.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Coach, I promise you, I have a good reason.

COACH COOKE

Do you want me to fine you before or after you tell me this story?

JOHN PETROCELLI
I got mugged.

COACH COOKE
Take your hands out of your pocket.

Coach points to his pants pockets where his hands are tucked into. Petey slowly removes them, and Coach sees the outline of his wallet sticking out like a sore thumb.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
(pointing)
What's that?

JOHN PETROCELLI
C'mon, coach, I did what-

COACH COOKE
I wanna see it. What's in your pocket?

Petey sighs and reaches into his pocket to pull out his wallet. There are a couple ten- and twenty-dollar bills sticking out to show Petey was not actually mugged.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
I was gonna fine you 5K, but for lying to me, I'll make it 10. What kind of mugger leaves a man's wallet?

Coach turns to the rest of the crowd.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
Ok people, move out!

Jason turns to Jackie.

JASON FREEMAN
Are you sure you're gonna be ok?

JACKIE MOSS
Oh yeah, I'll be fine.

JASON FREEMAN
Alright.

They all depart through the front doors for the bus.

EXT. CITI FIELD - DAY

There is what looks to be a sellout crowd at Citi Field for the day game.

The ballpark is decorated in patriotic colors to indicate is near the Fourth of July holiday. Both teams are lined up on either baseline as the last few verses of the Star Bangled Banner are sung by choir of children near home plate. The crowd erupts in applause as the song finishes and the teams head to their perspective dugouts.

INT./EXT. CITI FIELD DUGOUT - MOMENTS LATER

D is kneeling on the edge of the dugout steps as he holds his fist up to his mouth that bares the resemblance of like he is sucking and his head down. Jason walks up to him with his helmet on and his bat in hand and pats D on the back.

JASON FREEMAN

How're you feeling today, D?

D shushes him.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Un momento. Silencio, necesito.

D turns to him for a moment.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

Sorry, I'm praying.

JASON FREEMAN

Ahh, gotcha.

Suddenly Jason kneels down next to him and begins to pray too.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

Mind if I pray with you?

D looks at him and grins.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Free country.

Jason smiles back, then genuflects as they bow their heads in silence for a moment.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

My mother, she moved to this country from Mexico after my father died. I was eight and he had been sick for a while, but he and my mother taught me how to love this game.

(MORE)

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

It was their dream to move to this country and hope maybe someday their only son could become a big-league pitcher. I take a moment before every game I pitch, to pray to my father who's watching over me, and to my mother for all her sacrifice.

D points toward the first row near their on-deck circle.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

She's right over there. First time she'll be seeing me pitch in the big leagues in person.

JASON FREEMAN

Ever?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Ay, she lives here in Queens now and it's tough for her to travel. But as fate would have it, here I am to pitch in her hometown.

Coach Cooke calls out to Jason.

COACH COOKE

Jason, get out there!

Jason stands up and puts his hand on D's shoulder.

JASON FREEMAN

Let's make her proud.

Jason walks out to the batter's box. The crowd begins to boo him once again, but this time with even more edge since Jason used to play for New York.

EXT. CITI FIELD - MOMENTS LATER

Jason gets his stance and awaits the first pitch. The Mets fans begin to chant at him.

METS CROWD

You sold out! You sold out! You sold out!

Jason does not seem phased by this at all. He awaits the first pitch as the Mets pitcher on the mound throws a fastball that Jason clobbers down the right field line. Jason fires out of the batter's box like a rocket.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

Freeman swings at the first pitch
and knocks one down the right field
line and that is going to be extra
bases for sure!

The ball keeps rolling down into the corner near the foul pole as Jason has rounded first and heading for second base. The right fielder is running over toward the ball and reaches it just as Jason reaches second base. Jason turns his head for a moment and keeps chugging for third trying to get a triple.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Freeman on his way for third now
and he should get there safely as
Jason Freeman is going to lead off
the game with apparently a stand-up
triple.

Jason slows down as the ball gets thrown in as he holds up at third base. Jason feels fired up and points over to his team's dugout who are cheering him on for starting off strong.

JASON FREEMAN

C'mon! Let's go!

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And Jason trying to fire up his
team here early on as he is in
scoring position with nobody out
here in the first.

We see Jackie up in the booth for a moment still in her sunglasses and drinking a water as she tries to sober up more for the game.

Eddie then begins to step up to the plate and taps the bat on his cleats as he enters the batter's box. Jason then begins to take a pretty big lead off third base as the pitcher on the mound looks over at him while he prepares to throw from the stretch.

COACH COOKE

What the hell is he doing?

Coach shouts out to Jason.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Hey Jason! Shorten-

Suddenly, Jason goes from taking a large lead to immediately just bolting for home plate as the pitcher throws from the stretch.

JACKIE MOSS

Freeman has a pretty big lead and-
oh he's gonna go for the plate!

Coach Cooke starts shouting as Jason is bolting for the plate.

COACH COOKE

Hey! No, no, no!

Jason has his head down and is chugging as the throw comes in and Jason dives headfirst and just barely beats the throw. The umpire throws his hands up to imply that he's safe.

JACKIE MOSS

He is safe! Freeman is safe at
home!

The Mets catcher immediately jumps up and begins to argue with the umpire. Jason just lays there for a moment and then springs to his feet and bangs both his fist against his chest one time like he's Tarzan and lets out a loud cheer.

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah!

Eddie is jumping up and down like he is standing on a bed of hot coals.

EDDIE

Holy shit!

Jason high fives him all fired up by what just happened as he jogs back to the dugout. Coach Cooke is left shaking his head in the dugout, almost in disbelief at what just happened but also frustrated that Jason acted out of insubordination. As Jason jogs by D's mom, he points in her general direction and smiles.

Jason jogs back over to the dugout, as his teammates await him behind Coach Cooke at the top of the dugout stairs.

JASON FREEMAN

Sorry Coach, I made a judgement
call.

COACH COOKE

You got guts kid; I'll give you
that. But don't do that again.

(MORE)

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

You do what I say, ok? It's not a democracy.

JASON FREEMAN

Yes, sir.

COACH COOKE

Ok. Good hitting.

Coach Cooke pats him on the butt as Jason walks down the dugout steps.

Jason high fives him and the rest of his teammates that are waiting for him. Jason finally makes his way over to D who is still in awe of what he just witnessed.

JASON FREEMAN

That's all you need today; you take it from here.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

(chuckling)

You are one crazy son of a bitch.

Danny smiles and pats him on the back as Jason turns to put his batting helmet away.

START MONTAGE

Danny is on the mound and starts striking out batter after batter. There are quick clips of different Met players either watching strike three go right by them or going down swinging. Danny is getting more and more in the zone as the game goes on and has the death stare in his eye that has not been seen in his character before. Danny has never been this good before in a game. Meanwhile at the plate, Jason, Eddie and Alex are ripping the cover off the ball. In-between those, Petey smacks three different home run balls at the plate, and each time he just stares from the plate before he breaks into a slow trot to first base. After the third home run, he does a bat flip to add insult to injury for the other team. Finally, Danny is back on the mound, and he strikes out the final three batters to end the game. The players jog up to him to greet and congratulate him as Danny points to the sky as if he is thanking God.

END MONTAGE

EXT. CITI FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The players are congratulating Danny for such a great game as he is openly relieved for having had such a stellar performance.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that's the ballgame as Danny Rodriguez has a complete game shutout letting up only four hits as the Bellmen complete their Fourth of July massacre with an 8-0 win against the Mets.

As the rest of the team starts to celebrate the win on the field, Danny breaks away from the group and runs over to the side of the field where his mother is sitting. Jason watches as the rest of the team continues to high five each other in celebration. Jason watches Danny run over and greets his mother in a long embrace as they kiss each other on the opposite cheek. Jason sees tears running down the side of his mother's face.

INT. CITI FIELD CLUBHOUSE - LATER

The players are all taking their time getting dressed back into normal clothes and packing up the high scoring game they just played. The television is on in the background as ESPN is showing highlights of the games across the country. Petey is walking by the television as they begin showing the highlights of the Bellmen game.

ESPN ANCHOR

And the Bellmen secured the win this afternoon in an eight-run shutout against the Mets as Danny Rodriguez got the hill today and pitched a complete game and letting up only four hits and reached a career high of 12 strikeouts. That's not the only thing people are talking about from today's game though as Jason Freeman-

The television shows the replay of Jason's first inning triple and then stealing home.

ESPN ANCHOR (CONT'D)

-made his return to the Big Apple by starting off the game with a triple and then on the very next pitch steals home to score the Bellmen's first of eight runs-

Petey starts to get aggravated by the television.

JOHN PETROCELLI
Are you kidding me? I hit
three home runs today!

ESPN ANCHOR (CONT'D)
-that would come on 13 hits-

ESPN ANCHOR (CONT'D)
-and three of those hits would
include three home runs hit from
the Bellmen's center fielder John
"Petey" Petrocelli.

Petey turns off the television.

JOHN PETROCELLI
There it is.

Alex, who is sitting near him untying his cleats, speaks to
him without even looking in his eyes.

ALEX CARLO
You really can't go ten minutes
without feeding that complex of
yours, can you?

Petey turns around as Alex stands up facing his own locker.
Suddenly, Petey grabs him, turns him around, and throws him a
right hook in his face. Alex stumbles back into his locker
for a moment before he catches himself and then leans forward
and tackles Petey to the ground. It turns into a rugby scrum
as the other players notice the brawl breaking out and they
all charge at them trying to break up the fight and hold the
two back. Eddie and Jason are late to the pig pile as several
players begin holding back Petey and Alex. Both of which have
half their clothes ripped or unbuttoned.

JOHN PETROCELLI
Say that again to my face, asshole!

ALEX CARLO
You and that over-god damn-inflated
ego.

Jason stands in the middle of the two of them and extends
both his arms like he is trying to tame two wild tigers.

JASON FREEMAN
Just cool it, you two.

JOHN PETROCELLI
Stay out of this, Freeman!

Coach Cooke comes running into the middle of the fight all
fired up.

COACH COOKE

Hey! What the hell is going on here?!

ALEX CARLO

I can't take it anymore with this clown. Tell Jimmy to either cut me or trade him. I don't care which, I just can't play with this stuck-up prick anymore.

Alex then turns around and grabs his phone and wallet out of the locker. Alex then storms out of the locker room while the rest of the team is in silence. Petey then breaks the silence with a loud and boasting voice.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Damn, like it or not, that was health-

COACH COOKE

(interrupting)

One more word out that pretty little mouth of yours, and I will have no problem in cutting the both of you!

Petey falls back in line and does not say a word. Coach Cooke then points toward the showers before speaking to Petey again.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Hit the showers, kid.

Petey then walks away but still somewhat heated about what just happened. The rest of the players remain silent as Petey walks away and then Coach breaks the silence once more addressing the whole team.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Shows over, guys. Not a word about this to the media.

The rest of the players then slowly disperse as Coach walks away and Jason and Eddie look at each other with concerned facial expressions for what just transpired.

INT. ESPN NEWSROOM - DAY

The previous scene cuts to the opening to a new Sportscenter segment transpiring and the same news anchor is talking on camera, but in different clothes to show it is a new day.

ESPN ANCHOR

In other news within the world of baseball coming out of Philadelphia a little over two weeks since first baseman Alex Carlo of the Bellmen requested a trade, it was announced just half an hour ago that Carlo is heading to Kansas City for three Triple A prospects still being determined as we speak. We'll have more on that when we get those names, but the two-time Gold Glover is currently batting .295 and has 14 home runs so far this season, so one can only wonder how this is going to affect the Bellmen who are currently still hovering in that third-place spot in their division of 47-45.

START MONTAGE

There begin snippets of different baseball games taking place across the country. Players like Nelson and Xavier both strikeout swinging and missing. A newspaper headline reads "Bellmen Fall Short in 9th". Jason is then seen making a diving catch in left field as the crowd cheers. Petey is then seen running back to the wall trying to make a catch to stop a home run ball but just barely tips his glove as the ball goes over the fence. The crowd begins to immediately boo. A different newspaper headline reads "Out of Reach". Some more brief clips show Danny on the mound striking several people out. There is a player on second base as Danny throws another pitch that gets hit and is seen going off a diving glove save attempt from Eddie that goes into the outfield. The player on second is then seen rounding third and scoring easily at home plate. Eddie bangs the ground out of rage that he could have stopped that ball. A different newspaper headline reads "D-Rod Fans 8, Bellmen Fall 1-0". Jason is then at the plate and is seen hitting a long fly ball to the outfield that gets robbed by an opposing player as he catches it from going over the fence. Jason is then seen looking disappointed it did not go over the fence. This is then screenshot as the photo for a new headline that says "Freeman, Bellmen Robbed of Rally". A different newspaper headline then reads "Dog Days Dragging for Bellmen" and "October Hopes Slipping Away".

END MONTAGE

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - NIGHT

The players are in the Bellmen clubhouse once again as the players appear to be fairly quiet and not extremely animated to indicate the aftermath of another tough loss.

Jason is at his locker half dressed, and shirtless but wearing a cross as a necklace over his bare chest as Coach Cooke calls out to him.

COACH COOKE

Freeman!

Jason looks over to him down the main ally of the clubhouse from about 30 feet away. He motions for him to come over, and Jason walks over to him. Coach then puts his thumb out to the back door behind him.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

You got a visitor.

Coach Cooke walks away as Jason then walks through the door.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Jason walks through the door as he sees Jackie standing there waiting for him.

JACKIE MOSS

Hey.

JASON FREEMAN

Well, hi Ms-Jackie.

JACKIE MOSS

Another tough loss tonight.

Jason shrugs his shoulders, like he is saying "Oh, well".

JASON FREEMAN

Sorry about this, I was just getting dressed and Coach said-

JACKIE MOSS

Oh, that's quite alright.

JASON FREEMAN

What can I do for you, ma'am?

JACKIE MOSS

Well, I know tomorrow is a non-travel off day, but I was wondering if you would be around in the morning...for...uh-

JASON FREEMAN

Coffee?

JACKIE MOSS
Sure, you could say that.

Jason is a little caught off guard by this request.

JASON FREEMAN
Are you asking me out on a date,
ma'am?

JACKIE MOSS
Oh no, nothing like that, Jason.

JASON FREEMAN
Oh-I'm sorry, I just-

Jackie reaches into her purse and pulls out a scrap piece of paper already written out and hands it to him.

JACKIE MOSS
I was hoping maybe you could meet
me at this address tomorrow at
9:00?

Jackie hands Jason the piece of paper.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)
It would really mean a lot to me if
you came.

Jason looks down at the piece of paper that says "4419 Comly
St, Philadelphia, PA 19135".

JASON FREEMAN
Yeah, of course.

JACKIE MOSS
Wonderful, thank you Jason.

JASON FREEMAN
No problem, ma'am.

JACKIE MOSS
I'll see you there at 9:00 am
tomorrow.

JASON FREEMAN
9:00. Got it.

JACKIE MOSS
Have a goodnight, Jason.

Jackie then turns around and exits.

JASON FREEMAN
Goodnight, ma'am.

Jason looks down again at the piece of paper as he turns around and walks back through the doors to the clubhouse.

EXT. COMLEY STREET - DAY

It is a somewhat gloomy, overcast morning as a taxicab pulls up to the front door of a church. As the cab pulls up to the front door, Jason steps out of the taxicab on a predominately empty street at this time of morning.

TAXI DRIVER
Here you are, chief. 4419 Comley
Street.

Jason turns to the cab driver and pulls a wad of cash out of his pocket.

JASON FREEMAN
How much do I owe you?

TAXI DRIVER
Ten dollars for the ride, plus five
dollars extra for you Bellmen bums,
so fifteen.

Jason chuckles at this comment and pulls out a twenty-dollar bill.

JASON FREEMAN
Here's twenty and keep the change.

TAXI DRIVER
Works for me.

Jason hands the man the twenty-dollar bill and the taxi begins pulling away. Jason then begins walking through the front doors of the church.

INT. CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Jason walks in to see a group of people standing around and chatting in groups. Some of them appear to be a bit happier than others, but most appear to just be making small conversation. He notices many of them are drinking out of tiny plastic cups and sees a table off to the side with a coffee maker and a box of some donuts. Jason suddenly puts together that he has walked in on an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. A few people's heads slowly turn in his direction as Jason slowly enters and ponders if he is in the right place.

A few of the people turn back to each other and continue their conversations, while a few others continue to stare in his general direction and whisper to each other.

AA MEMBER #1

That's Jason Freeman, right?

AA MEMBER #2

I think so.

Jackie is standing off to the side in the corner of the room by herself as she turns and notices Jason. Jason half smiles and gives her a little wave as Jackie begins to slowly make her way over to him.

The two of them meet a little beside the table of refreshments.

JACKIE MOSS

I'm sorry, I didn't think you would come if I-

Jason puts his hand up to tell her to stop talking.

JASON FREEMAN

How long?

JACKIE MOSS

Eh, these usually last an hour. Sometimes more?

JASON FREEMAN

No, I mean- how long?

JACKIE MOSS

About a month.

JASON FREEMAN

First time?

JACKIE MOSS

(hesitant)

Second.

Jason nods that he understands.

JASON FREEMAN

I'm so sorry.

Jason then gives Jackie a hug, which Jackie is a little caught off guard by for a moment, but then accepts his hug and hugs him back.

INT. CHURCH - LATER

It is in the middle of the meeting and one of the AA Members is in the middle of telling their story as they are all sitting in a circle. This particular member appears to be in their mid-late twenties.

AA MEMBER #3

So, I was going to tell her that I had been clean for a bit. But it was a nicer restaurant, and I got worried that she would think I was just being cheap, along with the pressure that it had been like our 3rd date. So, I agreed to split the bottle with her. And I just...

The young man then begins to start choking up at his story.

AA MEMBER #3 (CONT'D)

I'm sorry...I just didn't have the strength. I thought I could, but the smell, it just all came back.

One of the members reaches behind the table and grabs a box of tissues and hands it to the young man as he takes a couple.

AA MEMBER #3 (CONT'D)

(sniffling)

Thank you.

The young man proceeds with his story.

AA MEMBER #3 (CONT'D)

So, I told her that I had a drinking problem and been trying to get clean. I just kind of blurted and out, and I was expecting her to just start getting all weird or whatever, but you know what happened? She starts crying, all embarrassed and she's all "Oh my god, I'm so sorry", and because I can't stand watching a girl cry, I start crying to with her.

The head of the AA meeting, Terry, a middle-aged looking man who is dressed in a nice button shirt dark green short sleeved collar shirt and pale jeans, starts to speak.

TERRY

And then what happened?

AA MEMBER #3

We just kind of muscled our way through the dinner and tried not to address the elephant in the room. The food was overpriced. But I might be seeing her again.

TERRY

That's good. You did a very brave thing, Arnold, being honest about your emotions. It's easy to be complicit for the convenience of pleasing others to gain their approval.

Terry begins to address the rest of the group.

TERRY (CONT'D)

And that's a tough decision to come with, when you realize you may not be ready for something you feel you cannot avoid. But having the courage to admit you're not ready for it does not make you weak. It makes you stronger and more committed to that self-improvement we all are trying to work on.

Terry turns back to Arnold.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Thank you for sharing, Arnold. Is there anything else you want to say to the group?

Arnold wipes his nose again and collects himself to force up a smile.

ARNOLD

No, I'm ok. Thank you, Terry.

Terry smiles and nods that he understands.

TERRY

Anyone else have anything they'd like to share?

Terry looks around and many people seem to appear silent until he locks in on Jackie's direction.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Jackie?

Jackie looks up as her name is called.

TERRY (CONT'D)

How are you doing?

JACKIE MOSS

I'm doing ok, I guess.

TERRY

I see you brought a friend with you today.

JACKIE MOSS

Yeah, I did. This is Jason.

Jason smiles and gives a little wave, as everyone waves back at him while a few people respond with a "Hi Jason".

JASON FREEMAN

Greetings.

JACKIE MOSS

He's my...uh...sponsor. That's the word I'm looking for.

TERRY

Well, we welcome you, Jason.

JASON FREEMAN

Thank you.

JACKIE MOSS

I would like to yield the rest of my time.

TERRY

Jackie, you know I'm usually ok with people not talking when they aren't ready, but you've been coming for a little over a month now and haven't said a word. We can't help you if you don't at least talk a bit.

Jackie lowers her head and nods that she understands. She then takes a deep breath and begins to talk.

JACKIE MOSS

Well, my name is Jackie Moss. Most of you probably know me as the color commentator for the Bellmen. I'm 36-years-old, and this is my second time period in my life that I have felt the need to come get help.

(MORE)

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

I did once a couple years back but I kind of...well, the story of why I went last time was my husband cheated on me with his secretary. So cliché, actually, just like in any television show for an ex-wife's origin story. Anyways, didn't handle it well, tried to drown my sorrows in booze as the Little Rat bastard told me and announced he was filing for divorce after three years of marriage. Went to therapy, got clean for a while, things were going ok. Then, a couple of months ago, I found out through the internet that the two of them are expecting a kid. Normally, that would make a woman feel sad or gutted in some fashion. I kind of went a different route though.

Jackie pauses and looks down at the floor for a moment as she begins to talk again.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

I always knew I wanted a kid. It wasn't in the forefront of my mind, with my career and everything, but I imagined eventually I would come around to it- or it would come around to me. And I was with Charlie for so long- before we got married- that I, you know, just figured...

Jackie pauses again for a moment as she tries to capture her train of thought again. Jason is just look at her from the side very intently as she is revealing this personal information right in front of him.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

I decided I would go to a sperm bank. I always thought that if my biological clock struck midnight for us- or I guess me- we-I could always try adoption. I went to the one that's over by Drexel a little while back, and they did some tests that they told me were standard procedure...

Jackie pauses in her rambling and begins to tear up too but tries her hardest to hold back.

She puts her hand up to her face as she attempts to dry her eyes. AS she does this, Jason reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out a folded handkerchief and holds it out in front of her. She looks at it for a moment and then looks up at Jason as Jason nods for her to take it.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

Thank you.

Jackie starts to dry her eyes and then continues.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

I apparently have an inhospitable environment to carry a child. Which, I mean, there's nothing I can do about that, it is what it is. I got the call when I was on the road in New York the night before the 4th of July, and I just couldn't take it. I just couldn't help but think about how this pig of a man who broke my heart that I still...that's when I relapsed.

Jackie buries her face in her hands as so many of the other members are either staring with sympathetic faces or tearing up a bit themselves. Terry is just watching and listening, giving her the free space to speak her mind.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

(sobbing)

I'm sorry, please don't make me talk anymore. Somebody else, please.

Jackie puts one hand down on her leg as she holds the other with the handkerchief up to her forehead crying. Jason slowly reaches out and swallows her palm with his hand in comfort. Jason watches her as she turns to him and tries to smile as a thank you, but Jason only sees the sadness and pain that is in her eyes. Jason offers her a warm and comforting smile before he turns to face the group.

JASON FREEMAN

My name is Jason.

Jason waits for a moment as there is a weird awkward silence and a few people mumble out of time "Hi Jason".

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I wasn't sure if you guys did that here or not for new people.

The crowd chuckles a bit at Jason's humor.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I have been clean and sober now for at least three years. And-

The crowd lightly applauds him in his accomplishment.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

Oh, yes, thank you. I'm sure most of you probably already knew that though, given my history. I mean, let's face it, I'm not privileged enough like you fine folks to have a nice, cushiony, quiet lifestyle where people don't stop you when you walk down the street.

The crowd again chuckles at Jason's charming wit.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I know a lot you probably think though maybe I'm too elitist or, I don't know, "well off" to relate to you hardworking folks. I was an addict, though. And while it affects everyone differently, it really takes a hold on you. Take it from me as a guy who's been making tons of colossal mistakes almost all of his life.

Jason looks down at the floor for a moment and then begins to talk again.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

More than just alcohol, I used to have a problem with steroids and PED's. It was a stupid decision I made for many, many years, and then I got caught. During that was around when I started to drink a little bit more than I should. It's kind of for the same reason I was taking the drugs to begin with; I was young, and I just really wanted to fit in with my teammates. Sometimes after the games we'd go to a couple bars and clubs, and I don't know, it's kind of like the pressure you felt when you first go to college and start drinking at a party.

Jason motions over to Terry.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

It's sort of like what Terry said before about being complicit for the sake of pleasing others. But imagine having "the others" in this scenario be a group of 30 guys, some of which you have grown up idolizing on the television, just wondering what it was like to be alone in a room with them. Imagine if Ted Williams, Jackie Robinson, and Derek Jeter all walked through that door and asked you to come hang out with them. I think it's fair to say that we all would naturally want to drop whatever we were doing in the moment and go do that. Now imagine they told you to do some things with them that they assure you they've been doing a thousand times before without getting caught and forewarn you that "this is what it takes if you want to play with us".

Jason pauses for a moment before he continues.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

Well, it was the same scenario for my drinking. And when I got caught for my "juicing", that's when I started drinking more than I should've. I really went off the deep end when the last day of my suspension, almost two years later, the Mets cut me. I felt like my whole world was ending and that everything that everyone was saying was true; that I was a hack and a total has-been. Around then was when I started going to rehab and getting back in shape. That's around when I met-

Jason looks down at the floor again as he mentally collects himself.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I met Jessica. She was this woman I met who was in rehab too. We both kind of helped each other get clean, and then once we both got out, we started dating.

Jason swallows as he proceeds with the next part of his tale.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
We kind of became a family, and it felt like things were normal again and like life was getting back on track.

Jason takes an even bigger pause and lets out a deep exhale.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
One night I got a call from an old teammate of mine from the Dodgers, Collins, who asked if I wanted to meet him over drinks to catch up and stuff. I thought maybe he was gonna talk about trying to get me back in the game, that ended up not being the case. I thought I could be strong enough to do it, and I somehow convinced Jess that everything would be alright if I went. And-

Jason now appears to be a bit emotional as he holds the back side of his hand up toward his nose. The rest of the meeting is silent as they listen intently to Jason's story.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
I relapsed.

Jason allows a few tears to slip through down his face.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
(choking up)
And that's not even the worst part.

Jason bows his head in grief once more for a moment before finishing.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
I had driven there because I had no intention...and then I had to call Jess to ask for a ride because I knew I couldn't...she picked me up and said we could come back for my car in the morning. I was so far gone I don't even remember what we talked about. I just remember looking at her and then the headlights...

Jason buries his head in his hands for a moment. The rest of the meeting members are watching as a few of them clasp their hands over their mouths while others just watch with sympathy in their eyes.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
Both of them-her and the other
driver...he was hammered...

Jason reaches out and takes the handkerchief from Jackie. He begins to wipe his eyes with it.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
Jess was the only one who did
everything right that night, and I
can't tell you how many nights
since then I've spent wishing I
could take it back.

Jason reaches into his pocket and pulls out his wallet. In his wallet he pulls out the key he has.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
This is the key to the car that I
drove to the bar that night, that I
had impounded shortly after. I keep
this as my reminder to never go
back, and now here we are three
years later.

The room is silent as Jason collects himself and tries to stop crying. Suddenly Jason stands up to leave.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
I'm so sorry.

Without saying another word, Jason exits the meeting.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - NIGHT

Jason enters the Bellmen Clubhouse in his dressed down attire while the rest of the team is preparing to get into their uniforms. Eddie just happens to be walking by as he sees Jason and greets him fairly quickly.

EDDIE
Hey Jason.

JASON FREEMAN
Oh, hey, whatever you're doing,
hang on just a second.

Jason calls out to the rest of the team in the clubhouse.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 Hey guys, can I have a moment of
 your time please?

The side conversations slowly murmur as many of the players drop what they're doing of either getting dressed, tapping their arms or ankles, or just having general conversation. They all look to Jason's who is standing near the main entrance with Eddie alongside him.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 Thanks- uh- look I know I haven't
 been here that long, and I probably
 haven't earned the right yet to
 make speeches like this to
 everyone, but by just a show of
 hands- who here is not happy with
 the way we've been playing this
 past month?

Nearly all the players slowly raise their hands in agreement.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 Ok, that's one, two, everybody.
 Alright, so let's just forget this
 last month in change ever happened
 and I propose, if everyone is in
 agreement, that we make tonight our
 real season opener. Does that work
 for everyone?

BELLMEN TEAM
 Yeah!

EDDIE
 Oh, come on guys, you can do better
 than that! Who's in?

BELLMEN TEAM
 (louder)
 Yeah!

JASON FREEMAN
 You know, I had a fun idea for
 tonight as well, if you guys are
 down for it.

INT./EXT. LIBERTY PARK BELLTOWER - NIGHT

The crowd is semi full in Liberty Park that night as dusk falls over the ballpark with an orange haze in the sky as Jackie Moss sits in her Belltower.

JACKIE MOSS

And we have a beautiful for a ballgame here at Liberty Park as the Bellmen prepare to take on the Arizona Diamondbacks, and one can't help but wonder what it's gonna take for Coach Cooke to stop the bleeding for his team.

EXT. BELLMEN DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Coach Cooke walks up through the tunnel and turns to see most of his players are not there. He is surprised by this and turns to one of the coaches who is also staring at the mainly empty dugout. The other coach turns to him and shrugs his shoulders with a worried look on his face.

COACH COOKE

Where in the hell-

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - CONTINUOUS

The crowd is mainly preoccupied with one another as suddenly the PA over the stadium begins to play "Philadelphia Freedom" by Elton John and a few fans suddenly begin to look out into the outfield. The bullpen door opens, and the Bellmen players, led by Jason and Eddie all begin to jog out to their positions while the rest of the starting position players follow behind them. Most of them like Jason and Eddie all having a little bit of an extra bounce or skip in their step as they are dancing/jogging in time with the beat of the song playing over the PA.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

(chuckling)

And this seems to be quite a sight to start tonight's game, ladies and gentlemen. The Bellmen appear to have turned Liberty Park into Lincoln Center by taking the field tonight with a little song and dance number.

Petey, however, is the only one not really joining in the festivities and just walking to his position while rolling his eyes. A lot the players sing along with the tune playing over the PA. Most of the crowd appears to be confused by what they're doing, but they cheer along with them anyway out of devotion to their beloved Bellmen. Many of them continue to ring the marathon cowbells that symbolize their devotion to the team.

Meanwhile, Coach Cooke is watching stoically from the dugout with his arms crossed waiting for his players to finish their little parade. Three of the players who are not in the starting lineup make their way to the dugout as they reach Coach Cooke.

COACH COOKE

What the hell was that little parade about?

BELLMEN PLAYER #1

It was Jason's idea.

BELLMEN PLAYER #2

Yeah, he said it would be fun to signify the new season opener tonight.

COACH COOKE

(Shaking his head)

Jesus. Sit down.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - CONTINUOUS

The players take a seat as the rest of the team settles to start the game on the field. Danny is once again on the hill for the night's game. Danny appears to be more relaxed and looser after their little parade. The crowd cheers on as the team begins to settle in to start the game. Danny continues to hum the chorus of the song to himself as he begins to face the first batter on the Diamondbacks. Danny nods to the first sign the catcher throws down to him and Danny goes into the windup and throws his first pitch. The Diamondbacks player up at bat takes a swing at the first pitch and smacks a high fly ball into the right field gap. Petey turns to go run after it and suddenly slows down into a trot as if he is right underneath the ball to catch it. Petey somewhat lazily sticks his glove in the air thinking it is a routine catch, but the ball bounces off the top of his glove and hits the ground and rolls to the wall. Eddie is already out there waving for the ball as the cutoff man as the Diamondbacks player realizes Petey's error and heads for second base. Petey takes the ball, turns to notice Eddie waving his arms, but once again fires the ball over his head to try to get the runner at second base. This time, the throw comes in with the distance but off target and off base as Xavier comes off the bag to field it and the Diamondbacks player stays up heading into second base.

Eddie turns around back to Petey and once again is frustrated. Rather than shouting to Petey though he just shakes his head and turns back around to jog back to his post. Petey mutters under his breath.

JOHN PETROCELLI
Whiny little bitch.

The ball gets tossed back into Danny on the mound, as Danny appears to be brought back down to Earth a bit with a more stoic look on his face. Danny climbs back on top of the mound as he now has a runner on second base with nobody out after the first pitch of the first inning. Coach Cooke calls out to them.

COACH COOKE
Look alive guys, don't worry about
him.

The runner on second begins to take a lead off the bag as Danny is focused on the batter at home plate. Danny stares down as he shakes off the first two signals from the catcher before nodding at the third and final signal. Danny looks back at the runner for a second before he fires in another pitch that gets knocked as a line drive down the left field line. Jason charges over to it as the runner on second dashed toward third. Jason ends up sliding to stop the ball from rolling any further as the runner rounds third and continues toward home plate. Jason hops to his feet and in one swift motion fires a perfect bullet toward home plate and hits the catcher right in his mitt that is at mid-chest. As he catches it, he turns to tag the runner at the plate. The home plate umpire fist pumps to indicate the runner is out.

EDDIE
Shoot two! Shoot two!

Immediately, the catcher then hops to his feet and fires the ball to Eddie covering second base where the batter tries to extend a single into a double. Eddie catches the ball and issues a perfect tag to get a double play. The crowd erupts in applause.

Meanwhile, Jason fist bumps out of hype and shouts.

JASON FREEMAN
I-love-this-job!

Danny on the mound raises his arms and claps with his mitt in Jason's general direction as Eddie points to both him and the catcher in gratitude.

START MONTAGE

The song "Worker's Song" by the Dropkick Murphys begins to play over the series of clips being shown.

The first clip that is seen is Eddie at the plate smacking a ball into the outfield with a runner on second base. The runner on second is then seen running, rounds third and slides into home plate with the umpire indicating he is safe. It turns into the snapshot of a newspaper headline that says, "Home Sweet Home". Jason is then seen at home plate and is seen smashing a high fly ball down the right field line. He stares at it for a second as it turns ever so slightly more and more until finally it hits the foul pole. Jason kind of shrugs his shoulders for a moment as if he was not expecting that to happen. This turns into another newspaper snapshot with the headline " No Foul Play". Danny is on the mound once again and is shown throwing pitches with different batters swinging and missing with the umpire indicating a strike three call. Danny is then seen walking off the mound shouting that turns into another snapshot with a newspaper headline "K-Rod". In another snippet, Jason is seen chasing down a ball that has rolled all the way to the wall. He picks it up as the opposing team player is seen rounding first base. Xavier is waving his hands and shouting as the cutoff man. Jason picks it up and, on a hop, fires the ball to hit Xavier at cutoff. Xavier then bolts back and fires the ball into Eddie at second base. Eddie turns and makes a clean tag once more at the sliding runner who is out by a step or two. The crowd cheers and rings their cowbells in approval. Coach Cooke is seen in the dugout clapping and cheering. Jason is seen jogging back into the dugout after giving fist bumps with his mitt on to Xavier and Eddie. The image then turns into another newspaper snapshot with a headline reading "Freeman Flushes Cards". In the next snippet, Jason is on the bench in the dugout with a few guys and watching the pitcher on the mound for Washington fire in a swing and a miss strike three to Petey. The radar on the scoreboard clocks the pitch at "99 mph". Eddie looks over at Jason.

EDDIE

He's really throwing gas today.

JASON FREEMAN

Harder he throws, the farther it goes.

Jason is then seen stepping up to the plate. The camera cuts back to Petey walking up and standing next to Eddie.

JOHN PETROCELLI

\$100 he goes down in three.

Eddie turns to him, thinks for a moment and shakes his hand.

EDDIE

You're on.

Jason is at home plate and awaits the pitcher. He fires in a rocket of a pitch that Jason takes a huge rip at and crushes it into centerfield. Jason stares and watches for a moment as everyone knows that ball is as good as gone. The radar then reads "101 mph", and the whole dugout is on their feet riled up and in awe of how far he smacked it. Eddie turns and has a smug looking smile all over his face like the Grinch. Petey just shakes his head like he's saying "Whatever". Jason is rounding the bases, which turns into a newspaper photo with the headline reading "Freeman Wallops, Bellmen Win". Another newspaper appears with the headline reading "Bellmen Playoff Hopes Slowly Reviving".

END MONTAGE

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - LATER

The team is celebrating in the clubhouse after another hard-earned win. Most of the team is high fiving each other and cheering each other on. Eddie is switching through the channels on the television to turn something on and finds Sportscenter where the logo behind the anchors desk is the Bellmen logo.

EDDIE

Hey! Hey! Everybody quiet for a sec!

The team sees the television and slowly makes their way over around the television monitor.

ESPN ANCHOR

Philadelphia- a city known for many things other than its brotherly love. It is the home of the signing of the Declaration of Independence that led to the birth of a new nation. Across the street from Independence Hall lays a symbol of American Independence: The Liberty Bell. It's become an iconic symbol for our nation's history, what with its infamous crack running down the center and while it is a little worn out, the remnants of its shiny, gold coat. I remember the first time I ever went to see the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall.

(MORE)

ESPN ANCHOR (CONT'D)

I was a first-year undergraduate student at Villanova in my second semester in the spring of 1985, when my beloved Wildcats made their first big run and defeat Georgetown at the National Championship for the men's basketball first title in school history. I actually skipped class that day to go into the city with some friends to watch the victory parade and getting my first real culture shock of how devoted the people of Philly were. It was middle of April, and I remember going to the parade and seeing a sea of blue and white impatiently waiting for the players to go by. I thought it was going to be an all day party, and can recall how thrown I was the moment the last car went by when almost everyone around me ripped off their Wildcat gear to reveal their dress code for the Bellmen game that was happening across town in just under an hour for opening day, perhaps hoping to carry some of those dreams of champagne and confetti over to Liberty Park and hope it would last until a late October night. Needless to say, the Bellmen finished fourth in their division that year and missed the playoffs entirely, but that image still stays with me in how I could best sum up the heart and spirit of the people of Philly- as opposed to the stained image of Eagles fans throwing snowballs at Santa Claus.

Coach Cooke enters the scene and watches onward with everybody.

ESPN ANCHOR (CONT'D)

Now the Bellmen have been the orphans of professional baseball for the last few decades having not won a World Series title, but with their late season winning streak they've been on, some can't help but wonder if this could in fact be the year that they finally make it to the "next year" fans have dreamed out about every offseason.

Coach Cooke turns off the television and turns to face his players.

COACH COOKE

We still got a way to go before we worry about that. Hit the showers, and-uh-all that good stuff.

The players collectively grumble in understanding.

Danny is then seen at his locker as the other players are going about their business and a coach, BARRY, approaches him.

BARRY

Hey Danny, I got something for you.

The coach hands him an official small plastic cup that is used for urine samples.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

What's the problem Barry, you shootin' blanks?

Danny chuckles at his own joke but Barry does not laugh along with him.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

(clearing his throat)

Lo siento. Sorry.

BARRY

Coach Cooke told me to give this to you. Random drug test requested by the league office.

Barry hands him the cup and walks away. Danny just stares at it for a moment examining it in his hand. The camera slowly zooms in on his face examining it as he is noticeably beginning to sweat profusely and take heavier breaths. The white noise of conversations amongst the players starts to become inaudible. Jason looks over at him while standing next to Eddie. Danny then puts the cup in his pocket and excuses himself into another room. Jason begins to follow him as he motions to Eddie to come along with him.

INT. BATTING TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Jason and Eddie enter the batting tunnel underneath the ballpark where there is no one there but Eddie sitting on the ground with his head in his hands.

JASON FREEMAN

Hey Danny.

Jason and Eddie walk a little faster over to him to check on their friend. Jason crouches down next to him.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

Hey, you alright man?

Danny without saying another word rises to his feet. He turns around and rips off his jersey and undershirt to show his back all broken out in acne just like Jason's once was. Jason and Eddie just stare at his back for a moment.

EDDIE

Oh...D.

Danny then turns around and shows his shirt back over him.

JASON FREEMAN

How long you been using?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Too long. Since you got here, and I stuck up the joint that day against Cincinatti.

Jason nods in understanding.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)

I had to Jason.

JASON FREEMAN

Danny, take it from me please, you don't have-

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

No, you don't understand.

JASON FREEMAN

Danny, I-

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

No, no, no. You don't understand, I had to for my mother.

JASON FREEMAN

How do you-

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

She's not here legally.

They both stare at him for a moment as the truth finally comes out.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)
 I've been writing her checks every month for the last few years so she can have rent in New York. I'm not doing this because I love baseball, even though I do, but because I need the money for her. She's not getting any younger, and she can't work anymore needs the money.

JASON FREEMAN
 Danny, it's ok-

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 No, you don't understand Jason. I'm not getting any younger.

Danny motions over to Eddie

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)
 Eddie knows just as much as anyone how badly I've stunk over the past couple seasons. I'm not getting any younger, and I'm a free agent next year. There's no way in hell the Jimmy or the guys upstairs were even considering signing me again.

JASON FREEMAN
 You don't know-

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 (interrupting)
 Yes, I do. And now I might get suspended and that'll just sink everything.

Danny begins to tear up a bit.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ (CONT'D)
 I didn't want to, but he told me it was the only way.

EDDIE
 Wait, wait- he?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 No- I've said too-

EDDIE
 Who else-

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 It's Petey.

Eddie and Jason just look at each other for a moment before Eddie lets out a big exhale.

EDDIE

Alright, here's what we're gonna do. Give me the cup.

Jason shoots a look at him in disbelief.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

No, no I-

EDDIE

Listen to me Danny, I'm only going to do this once. But you gotta promise me this- you're gonna be on the level from now on, ok?

Danny looks down for a moment.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Danny, I'm offering you a second chance here. Please let me help you.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Ok.

Danny reaches into his pocket.

JASON FREEMAN

No.

Danny and Eddie both look at him.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

Give it to me.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

No, Jason.

Jason turns to Eddie.

JASON FREEMAN

In the eyes of the public, you're both still clean, alright? I already have an image that's ruined so what difference does that make if word were to get out?

Jason turns to Danny.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 I made you do this, ok? I
 blackmailed you, held you at gun
 point, whatever you want. That's
 the story. But there won't be one
 because no one is going to know
 about this.

Danny and Eddie both nod in agreement.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 The deal still stands though, you
 gotta promise me Danny you're gonna
 be on the level from here on out.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 Ok.

Jason takes the cup from Danny.

JASON FREEMAN
 Is there anyone else that's juicing
 too we know about?

Danny shakes his head "no".

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 Ok.

Danny bows his head once again in shame and tears up once
 more. Jason and Eddie both walk up to him and embrace him in
 a long hug.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 One more thing, Danny.

Danny breaks away for a moment.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
 Do you know where Petey keeps his
 stuff?

INT. BATHROOM - LATER

Jason is scene exiting the bathroom where Danny is waiting
 for him alone. Danny looks around before taking the sample in
 a handoff from Jason. Both of them part ways afterwards.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - LATER

Jason is seen in a predominately Bellmen Clubhouse, minus a
 few other players and a tiny handful of sports writers.

Jason is mainly dressed in casual clothes once more as he catches Petey exiting the Clubhouse toward the door heading down the players tunnel with a sign that reads "Players Parking" and an arrow pointing down at the door. Jason grabs the last of his personal items and throws his satchel over his head as he decides to follow Petey from behind. He waves off a few people goodnight as he exits through the door.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Petey is walking out to his car and reaches into his pocket to pull out his car keys. Jason is following behind as he catches up and calls out to him.

JASON FREEMAN

Hey Petey.

Petey turns around as he sees Jason approaching him.

JOHN PETROCELLI

(sarcastically)

Well, well. If it isn't our knight in shining armor. To what do I owe this pleasure.

JASON FREEMAN

Cut the high and mighty bullshit, Petey. You're just as much of a fraud as I am.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Oh yeah?

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, you're one fat-fucking-phony.

JOHN PETROCELLI

I'm a fat-fucking-phony? Big talk coming from a real fat-fucking-phony.

JASON FREEMAN

I know you've been juicing; I know you've been getting Danny to juice for a while, and I'm here to tell you you're gonna stop both right now.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Danny can do whatever he wants, alright? Whatever happens to him, he's dug his own grave. I'm gonna do what I want though.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh yeah?

JOHN PETROCELLI

Two things. One, you don't have a shred of evidence to prove that I'm juicing, so it's my word against yours. And two, do you know how badly people want a championship in this crummy little town? It would look pretty bad if at this point a "potential championship" team's star player just got outted by his own washed-up teammate. You'd never be able to show your face in this town again.

JASON FREEMAN

Petey, take it from me, whatever it is your trying to prove, this is wrong. Think about your legacy, all those boys in the stands that wish they could be you.

JOHN PETROCELLI

You think I give a shit about legacy? Jason, do you have any idea how many people in this game are doing what I'm doing? Way more than some Mitchell Report could ever find. Some people just get unlucky and get caught, and that's their own fault. They know the risk they're taking though. That's just the way the world works now with this game.

JASON FREEMAN

Yeah, but that doesn't make it right Petey. This is wrong and you know it.

Jason reaches into his pocket and flashes his cell phone for a moment.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

And as for the not having a shred of evidence nonsense, I have at least two dozen pictures here that say otherwise. You know, one of the good things about being a former juicer is I know all the hiding spots and different disguises players use for it.

(MORE)

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I never would've thought though you would be someone who needed testosterone supplements, which makes you even less of a man than I thought you were. But here's what I'm gonna do. You quit juicing, try to be less of a prick to everybody, and I won't show these pictures to Coach. It's your choice.

Jason turns to walk away but Petey stops him.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Yeah, you see, I had a feeling you were gonna try to go all Boy Scout on me, and I really did not want to do this. But you leave me no choice.

Petey opens his car door as Jason turns back and tenses up for a moment, thinking he's about to pull out a gun or some deadly weapon.

JASON FREEMAN

If you're gonna shoot me, you outta pick a better spot

JOHN PETROCELLI

(chuckling)

If I wanted to shoot you, you'd be dead already.

Petey pulls out a file from his car.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)

It's amazing the wonders of AA can do to a friend, and for a friend of a friend. I got a call from this person who shall remain anonymous that I hadn't heard from since he committed himself to rehab before that, and he told me I would not believe who showed up to his meeting one morning with this incredible sob story: Jason Freeman. So naturally I asked him to recount the story to me, and he tells me about this woman named Jessica and her daughter and something about a relapse and a car accident.

Petey begins to open the folder with the files in it.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
Really tugged at my heartstrings,
and my sincerest condolences by the
way. But it kept nagging at me,
something didn't seem to add up to
the story. So, I decided to do a
little investigative work, pulled a
few strings, gave a few autographs,
until finally I was able to get my
hands on a copy of the police
report from that night.

Petey then holds up the file showing Petey the documents
inside as well as photographs of the car accident.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
Yeah, in the story I was told, this
woman you were with Jessica was
sober and the one driving with you
in the passenger seat, and she was
killed by a drunk driver, who also
perished. Although, in here it says
that according to the accident
report from that night that there
was only one car involved and the
autopsy had a BAC of 0.00 in her
body.

Petey looks up for a moment at Jason

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
That would be a great ERA if you
were a pitcher.

Petey closes the file and locks eyes with Jason who has a
stone cold look on his face that is turning red, but not
necessarily out of rage.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
So, I do think there was a drunk
driver involved, but I think it
might've been you.

There is silence for a moment as the two stare at each other.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
I think you were the one driving
that car.

JASON FREEMAN
Shut up.

JOHN PETROCELLI

I think you lied to her about being drunk that night-said your car had a flat or whatever the hell you came up with- and tried to prove it by showing you were ok to drive.

JASON FREEMAN

No-shut up.

JOHN PETROCELLI

And then you were in too deep by that point you knew you had to see the damn thing through.

JASON FREEMAN

I said shut up!

Petey is now approaching Jason much closer than before.

JOHN PETROCELLI

And luckily since you were the only living witness, made the story was whatever the fuck you wanted it to be, right?

JASON FREEMAN

I-SAID-SHUT-UP!

Suddenly Jason throws a right hook in Petey's face. Jason comes back down to Earth for a moment as he realizes what he just did. Petey turns back at him with a bloody nose. Petey grabs his nose for a moment and sees that he is bleeding. Petey, with a smug look on his face, begins to talk once more.

JOHN PETROCELLI

Alright Jason, here's the deal from now on. You don't try to out me to Coach or the media or the front office-

Petey then points to his bloody nose.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)

-and this was just an accident at home-

Petey then holds up the file once again.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)

-and this does not fall into the wrong hands.

(MORE)

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
 I wouldn't want to add lying to the
 authorities and involuntary
 manslaughter to your laundry list
 of regrets.

Petey turns around and begins to get into his car.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
 Oh, and Jason. That thing you said
 about what your mom taught you
 about being a good Catholic?

Jason nods his head.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
 Mine taught me poker. Also, I'm
 agnostic.

Petey closes his car door and drives away, leaving Jason
 alone in the parking lot.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - LATER

Jason is alone in his apartment once again. He is walking
 back and forth in a quick pace grabbing his head and
 breathing heavily with sweat dripping down his forehead. He
 is showing signs that of a serious panic attack. Jason is
 talking to himself in attempts of reassurance.

JASON FREEMAN
 (to himself)
 You're ok. You're ok.

Jason decides to lie down on his bed on his bed and look up
 at the ceiling. He closes his eyes and tries to do deep
 breaths. As he is doing this, he starts breathing slower and
 appears to be visibly calmer. Suddenly though, he covers his
 face with his hands and begins sobbing uncontrollably.

After a moment to himself, Jason gets out of bed and quickly
 heads toward the kitchen.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jason goes into his kitchen and begins staring at the same
 Burce Lee quote he has taped to his refrigerator that reads
 "Mistakes are forgivable, if one has the courage to admit
 them." Jason then pulls out his phone, but not before wiping
 a few tears away with his arm. He begins dialing a number and
 puts the phone up to his ear.

JASON FREEMAN
 (to himself)
 Please pick up, please pick up,
 plea-Hey. Have you left yet?

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - LATER

Jason opens the door and Jackie is standing in the doorway.

JACKIE MOSS
 Hey.

JASON FREEMAN
 Hey.

Jason immediately gives her a giant bear hug. This catches Jackie for a moment but hugs him back somewhat confused.

JACKIE MOSS
 You ok, J?

JASON FREEMAN
 Yeah, just come in for a second. I
 need to talk to someone.

JACKIE MOSS
 Yeah, of course.

Jackie enters the apartment as Jason closes the door behind her.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jason and Jackie are sitting at the table in his kitchen drinking tea out of a coffee mug.

JACKIE MOSS
 Both of them?

JASON FREEMAN
 Yes.

Jackie leans over and sighs in disappointment.

JACKIE MOSS
 Oh boy. Who else knows?

JASON FREEMAN
 Just me and Eddie. I don't think
 Petey knows though that Eddie
 knows.

Jackie nods as she processes this news.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
There's something else though.

JACKIE MOSS
What's up?

JASON FREEMAN
Petey got his hands on some police
report about the night of the
accident with Jess that he's trying
to blackmail me with.

Jackie looks up at him and sits up in her chair.

JACKIE MOSS
Jason, what happened that night?

Jason looks down at the floor trying to collect his thoughts.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)
Jason...what really happened?

JASON FREEMAN
Jess picked me up that night and
she was driving the car.

JACKIE MOSS
(interrupting)
Jason, what hap-

JASON FREEMAN
(interrupting)
That part is true. I swear
everything about this is true.

Jackie nods and listens.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)
Jess picked me up that night. I
didn't tell her I needed a ride
though. I guess she just had a
feeling, and she came to get me out
of there. By that point though I
had already relapsed. I remembered
it all because I was sobering up by
the time she came to get me. Jess
started yelling at me about
relapsing, as she rightfully should
have. She wasn't paying attention
to the road though and when she
looked over at me, she didn't-

There is silence for a moment between the two of them as Jason bows his head in grief.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

When I came to, which I guess had only been for a short while because no one had arrived yet, I looked over at her and I knew she was gone. I took her pulse and everything...

Jason buries his head in his hands once again as he is retelling this story.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

She was gone, and I panicked and so I ran Jackie. You know what the worst thing about that night is? It was on a road that ran through the wilderness, and at some point, I collapsed in the woods from exhaustion and pain. I thought for sure if I lived through the night at some point someone would come and call me in for questioning or whatever. But I woke up the next morning and no one had come. I found out later the authorities ruled it some kind of just freak accident. I just panicked and ran. Jess died that night, and it was because I was weak.

Jackie is silently processing the truth as Jason looks into her eyes wondering what she is going to say next. Without saying another word, Jackie stands up while continuing to lock eyes with Jason, and slowly pulls him in for a hug. The two of them just rest in each other's arms for a moment as Jason continues to cry out his emotions.

JACKIE MOSS

It's ok Jason.

Jason continues to sob.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

It's not your fault.

JASON FREEMAN

No, it is.

JACKIE MOSS

No Jason, listen to me.

Jason looks up as Jackie kneels on the floor to meet his eye level.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

Remember what Terry talked about at my meeting? It takes courage to admit you're not ready, and you thought you were. But you did the right thing in calling Jess to pick you up.

JASON FREEMAN

But if-

JACKIE MOSS

But nothing, Jason. You did the right thing in calling her to pick you up. I'm sorry that happened, I really am. But you did the right thing in getting a ride home with her.

Jackie hugs Jason again.

JACKIE MOSS (CONT'D)

But if that's all true, why did you run?

JASON FREEMAN

I was afraid they would link me to it thinking I killed her or that I grabbed the wheel or something. The press would have had a field day, and I had a moment of panic and weakness.

JACKIE MOSS

Come here.

Jackie pulls him in for another hug as the two of them embrace.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT - DAY

It is now daytime in Jason's apartment as Jason wakes up alone and starts getting dressed. He puts on jeans and a flannel over his t-shirt.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE ENTRANCE - LATER

Jason is about to enter the clubhouse when Petey storms out the door all dressed in normal clothes and with a bag full of his personal items.

JOHN PETROCELLI
You son of a bitch.

JASON FREEMAN
What?

Petey reaches into his bag and pulls out the files from the night before.

JOHN PETROCELLI
I hope you have fun in prison.

JASON FREEMAN
Drop them from a helicopter for all I care. I didn't do nothing. And besides, I didn't rat you out.

JOHN PETROCELLI
I don't care. I'm through with you anyway.

The two of them stare at each other, Petey like he wants to hit him and Jason ready to throw hands. Petey then storms off.

JOHN PETROCELLI (CONT'D)
Have fun in jail.

JASON FREEMAN
Have fun on waivers.

Jason walks into the Bellmen clubhouse.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jason walks into the Bellmen clubhouse and takes a few steps in before he hears Coach Cooke call out to him.

COACH COOKE
Freeman, in my office!

JASON FREEMAN
Yes sir.

Jason walks over to Coach's office.

INT. COACH COOKE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Jason enters as he sees Eddie sitting beside the empty chair for himself.

COACH COOKE
Close the door.

Jason closes the door behind him and takes a few steps inside.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
Have a seat.

Jason sits down in the chair.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
First of all, I want you to know that Eddie personally requested to be here for this, and I feel that he has earned the right, so if you have a problem with it, please take it amongst yourselves.

JASON FREEMAN
Yes sir.

COACH COOKE
Eddie brought some information to my attention earlier about Petey not being on the level. He told me Danny confessed to you two and that you had some evidence to prove it. I sent Petey home for the day regardless.

JASON FREEMAN
Yes sir, I have photos.

Jason pulls out his phone and hands it over to Coach to show the pictures. Coach begins swiping and lets out a sigh of disappointment as the truth is revealed before his eyes.

COACH COOKE
Oh god.

Coach puts the phone down.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
There's another reason I called you in here.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Petey mentioned something about
Danny not being on the level
either.

EDDIE

Danny is clean, coach. The drug
test should come back negative to
prove it.

Coach then looks over at Jason.

COACH COOKE

He also told me something about you
Jason. Showed me some police report
about a car accident and making
these accusations about drunk
driving.

Eddie looks over at him as he is hearing this for the first
time.

JASON FREEMAN

Yes sir. I know what he's talking
about. My girlfriend at the time
picked me up one night during a
relapse and she got into a car
accident. It was purely an accident
and the only thing I had to do with
it was she was driving me home
because I had relapsed. There was
no foul play involved or anything
like that. God as my witness.

Coach stares at him for a moment.

COACH COOKE

That's all?

JASON FREEMAN

Yes sir, I swear to God.

Coach processes this information.

COACH COOKE

I'm sorry about that Jason. I had
no idea.

JASON FREEMAN

It's ok sir. I've recently just
come to terms with it myself.

Coach nods his head.

COACH COOKE

Is there anything else either of
you would like to say on the
matter?

Jason and Eddie look at each other and shake their heads no.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Ok. You're free to go.

JASON FREEMAN

(standing)
Thank you, sir.

EDDIE

(standing)
Thanks Coach.

Eddie opens the door for Jason to exit first as Eddie follows behind him.

INT. ESPN NEWSROOM - LATER

A "Breaking News" headline breaks during the current episode of Sportscenter. The ESPN anchor is sitting at the desk with a CG graphic of Petey's player profile picture and the Bellmen logo.

ESPN ANCHOR

And the latest on this developing story coming out of ESPN Philly as Bellmen outfield John "Petey" Petrocelli has been suspended until further notice for apparent evidence in violating the league's drug policy and accused of using various performance enhancers. The Bellmen have yet to issue a formal statement on the matter, so the only comment coming from Coach Cooke stating, "Our main focus right now is on winning our next few games". With just two weeks left in the regular season, the Bellmen trail for a playoff spot but just 3.5 games, and if history has taught us anything, it's that nothing is every guaranteed for the Philadelphia Bellmen.

START MONTAGE

A montage breaks out beginning once again with Jason taking a big rip at the plate and smacking a high fly ball that everyone can already tell is a home run. The crowd rises to its feet as Jason takes the slow trot and watches the ball sail out of sight.

Jason does a fist bump as he reaches first base that turns into a snapshot. The snapshot is then shown in a newspaper with the headline "Freeman Delivers Big Win to Bellmen". The next clip shows Eddie diving for a ground ball that he flips up to second base with his glove and turns into a double play. The next clip shows Eddie repeating a similar action by diving for another ground ball that he turns into a double play. Finally, Eddie is then seen diving for a line drive that he catches as an out. Eddie pulls the ball out of his glove and holds in the air to show he caught it. The image turns into a snapshot with another newspaper headline "Bellmen Escape by the Skin of Their Gloves". Danny is on the mound and getting ready to throw with a runner on second base. The catcher throws down a signal that Danny shakes off at first. The catcher throws down a second signal that Danny nods to show he agrees. Danny throws a pitch that the batter hits right back to him at a line drive. Danny turns his head to the side really quick to avoid getting beamed and in quick reflex catches it in his mitt. Danny then turns around and fires a throw into second to double the run up at second base. The umpire throws his fist up to indicate the runner is out. The crowd cheers in joy as Danny grins in disbelief of what he just did. He then shrugs his throwing arm as if that last throw hurt a tiny bit. There is a shot of the Bellmen crowd cheering and high fiving one another as they ring their marathon cowbells. Following this are a few quick shots of different Bellmen ballplayers such as Jason, Eddie, Xavier, and Nelson all hitting the ball into play. The last one turns into another snapshot of a newspaper page with the headline "Bellmen Force Playoff Game".

END MONTAGE

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - LATER

The team is celebrating on the field the fact they just won the game as the crowd cheers along with them. Jackie voices over the celebration.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And with that win on the last day of the season, the Bellmen have now tied themselves for a playoff spot with the Cincinatti Reds who have dropped three of their last four games and will now have to play tomorrow night at Liberty Park for this winner-take-all battle for that last playoff spot.

(MORE)

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I gotta tell you folks, this team has really become something special these last few weeks of the season, with the entire sports world counting them out of even having a shot of the playoffs and the controversy surrounding one of their star players John Petrocelli, this team still has a lot to celebrate in everything they've overcome.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The team is now in the clubhouse still celebrating the victory. There is music blaring and people dancing as they start to strip out of their uniforms. Suddenly Coach Cooke calls out to them.

COACH COOKE
 Alright gang, listen up! Turn the music off for a sec!

The volume is dialed down as the players stop the antics.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
 Congrats you guys on making it this far. Not a lot of people thought we'd even have a shot, but now here we are. We still have work we need to do. I want everyone here bright and early tomorrow for warmups and batting practice.

Xavier who is standing next to Nelson off to the side taps on Nelsons shoulder and motions for him to follow him. The two exit for a moment without Coach noticing.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
 Danny! Where's Danny?

Danny raises his hand amongst the crowd.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)
 You're gonna be on the hill tomorrow, ok?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ
 Yes sir.

The crowd applauds to this news that Danny is going to be starting.

COACH COOKE

Alright, now don't go too crazy in the celebration, ok? We still got work to do.

As Coach finishes, Xavier and Nelson walk up behind him and dump a giant Gatorade cooler of liquid over his head like they've just won the Super Bowl. The team responds to his with hollers, cheers and laughter. Coach stands there for a moment and does not appear too pleased.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

What did I just tell you guys?!

Xavier and Nelson are too busy laughing at their own prank.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

I outta fine both your asses for a stunt like that.

Xavier and Nelson still cannot contain their laughter as Coach storms off. Xavier and Nelson then high five each other.

XAVIER

Totally worth it.

NELSON

Yes, sir.

INT. JASON'S APARTMENT BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jason is alone in his bedroom that night as he is watching late night Sportscenter. He is listening to the news anchor talking about the Bellmen.

ESPN ANCHOR

And of course, the big story coming out of the baseball world tonight is the do-or-die game tomorrow at Liberty Park as the Bellmen prepare to take on the Cincinatti Reds, and what a ride it has been for both teams. The Reds dominating their division for most of the season, showing signs of a new generation of that Big Red Machine we haven't seen since their World Series run in '75, only to have a bit of a trip up at the finish line dropping from a 3.5 game lead to being tied with the Bellmen.

(MORE)

ESPN ANCHOR (CONT'D)

And on the other hand, the Bellmen being the Cinderella team this regular season, going from being close to out of the race early on to have a late resurgence and an even bigger push to win 15 of their last 20 games. And hey, remember a few weeks ago when one of their star players got benched for PED's, and everyone thought that was the end of things? Better yet, remember back in the dog days of summer when they couldn't seem to find a way to win a game and lost 12 in a row, and everyone then thought there was no shot at any October baseball this year? Go back even further to when the Bellmen signed Jason Freeman out of nowhere and people thought he wouldn't even survive a few weeks? Well ever since he stepped in for Ray Jackson with their season ending injury, his numbers so far-

Jason turns off the television. He just stares at the dark screen for a moment before he leans back in his bed for a moment, rolls out off the top, drops to his knees on the ground and genuflects prayer. This time though, Jason speaks out loud.

JASON FREEMAN

Dear Lord...it's me. Uh- first I just want to say thank you for giving me this chance to play ball again. I know I probably don't deserve it, and I know it's taken a long time for me to get here.

Jason stops for a moment.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I know I've hurt a lot of people, and I know I don't deserve everything that has been happening to me lately. But I accept what has happened, and I accept the things I cannot change.

Jason pauses once again.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I know it's probably silly to pray before such a meaningless game like tomorrow is, in the grand scheme of things. I know there are starving children in this world, and that there are men out there beating their wives and what not. This game tomorrow though, it's really important to a lot of other people, which is why I'm asking you to help them out if you can. I guess what I'm trying to say is, don't do it for me. Do it for them.

Jason bows his head once more. He makes the sign of the cross and then gets into bed. He pulls himself under the covers and turns out the light next to his bed. The screen cuts to black.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK ENTRANCE - DAY

It is the day of the playoff game. The streets around the ballpark are filled with predominately Bellmen fans, but a small handful of Reds fans in the mix. The atmosphere is mainly positive and full of hope as fans of all ages begin entering the ballpark.

INT. BELLMEN CLUBHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The players are all fully dressed and only a few are up and moving around. The atmosphere is mainly quiet, with only a few low voices chatting with one another. One shot of Danny shows him on his knees in prayer at his locker. Jason is holding a bat in his hands and just fiddling with it while flicking his wrists. Eddie is standing off to the side in concentration watching everyone as Coach Cooke comes out from behind him.

COACH COOKE

What's going on here?

EDDIE

Everybody's just nervous, I guess.

COACH COOKE

Well yeah, they should be, but it's like too quiet in here.

Eddie turns to him a little shocked by Coach's observation. Coach looks over to him with his eyes and gives Eddie a little smirk.

COACH COOKE (CONT'D)

Give 'em something to loosen up a bit. Strictly off the record.

Coach walks away as Eddie thinks for a moment. Eddie then decides to walk over to the speaker in the clubhouse that has an aux chord. Eddie takes out his phone plugs it in and starts playing "Philadelphia Freedom" by Elton John.

EDDIE

Come on, guys. Get hyped!

Eddie starts to begin slowly letting loose and dancing a tiny bit, which causes Jason to smile. Jason slowly stands up to join in dancing with him. There is a brief moment of confusion by the players until they realize what is happening. One by one then, more and more players start to join in singing and dancing with them, until all of a sudden, it becomes one big flash mob.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - NIGHT

Dusk has now fallen over the ballpark as the Bellmen run out to take the field on their home diamond. The crowd roars with insane life as the game is about to begin. Jason takes the outfield, Eddie at second, and Danny up on the mound. Danny takes a few warmup pitches before he settles in to face the Reds first batter, Ted Butler, once again.

JACKIE MOSS (O.S.)

Danny Rodriguez is the started tonight for the Bellmen as he prepares to face off against a red-hot Reds lineup tonight, and one cannot help but wonder what must be running through the kid's head right about now.

Danny rubs his hands together as he nervously mutters to himself.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Son-of-a-bitch.

Butler settles into home plate as the catcher throws down a sign. Danny settles in and nods before going into his windup. Danny throws a fastball right down the middle that Butler swings and misses at. The home plate umpire throws up a fist to show it was a strike.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And the first pitch is going to be a strike right down the middle that Butler took a big rip at, and I'm sure he wants that one back.

Danny has the ball thrown back to him as he kind of has a moment of disbelief that that just happened.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

(muttering)

Alright.

Danny goes back to the mound as another sign gets thrown down. This time, Danny shakes it off. The catcher throws down another sign Danny shakes off once again. The catcher throws down a third and final sign that Danny agrees to. Danny goes into the windup and throws a perfect curveball that looks high and curves into Butler's shoulder height right down the middle of the plate. The umpire throws up another fist to indicate strike two.

JACKIE MOSS

And Butler is going to watch that one go right by for strike two as D-Rod fools him with a near perfect curveball.

The ball gets thrown back to him as Danny this time is more monotone in his response.

EDDIE

One more Danny, ring him up!

Danny settles in on the mound as Butler settles back into the batter's box. Danny stares right down-home plate and appears to be more in the zone this time. Danny then winds up and throws another fastball low and at the knees around the outside of the plate that Butler swings and tips into the catcher's mitt. The home plate umpire throws his fist up once again to indicate a strikeout. The crowd roars in approval.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

Strike three as Butler foul tips into the catcher's mitt to get the first out of the game for the Bellmen.

JASON FREEMAN

Alright Danny!

EDDIE

Way to go, D!

The ball gets thrown around the infield as Danny tries to keep his cool as he prepares to face the next batter. The next Reds batter settles in as Danny once again goes into his pitching process. He nods at the first sign and goes into his windup to deliver a ball that gets hit high and deep to left field.

JASON FREEMAN

Oh jeez.

Jason begins running back as he reaches the edge of the warning track where he camps out and catches the ball. The crowd cheers as the ball does not in fact leave the ballpark. Jason throws the ball into the infield and holds up two fingers to show there are two outs.

Coach Cooke yells from the dugout.

COACH COOKE

Good work, Jason! Good work!

Danny gets the ball and points out to Jason as a universal sign for good catch. Danny rubs his hands together once again and even spits off to the side for a moment. The crowd is cheering louder than any other game that season as Danny gets back onto the mound and prepares to face the next Reds batter. Danny shakes off the first sign and agrees to the second. Danny throws in a curveball that the Reds batter gets a piece of to hit a hard ground ball toward right field. Eddie runs over to his left side, takes a dive and knocks it down off his glove a little to the right. Eddie rises to his feet, picks it up barehanded, and fires into first base that beats the runner by about two steps. The first base umpire pumps his fist to show that he's out, and the crowd displays its approval. Eddie does a little fist bump to congratulate himself and the team begins to jog off the field as Danny walks off the mound.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - LATER

The scoreboard now shows it is the bottom of the 5th inning with the score still 0-0. Xavier is currently on second base with two outs.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

Still scoreless here as we are in the bottom of the fifth inning. Runner on second as Jason Freeman steps up to the plate.

Jason steps up to home plate.

BELLMEN PA

Now batting for the Bellmen, the
left fielder, Jason Freeman.

The crowd cheers for Freeman as Jason takes it in for a moment with a grin, realizing he has gained the full approval of the Philly faithful. He settles in as the Reds pitcher on the mound throws a pitch that Jason smacks into the right field gap.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that's a base hit for Freeman
that is for sure going to lead to
extra bases.

Xavier on second rounds third and jogs for home knowing that he has it easily.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Here comes Gonzalez to score as
Freeman has given the Bellmen a 1-0
lead with an RBI double.

Jason reaches second bases and gives a thumbs up toward the Bellmen dugout. The crowd cheers and the Bellmen players are up on the railing rooting him on.

Eddie starts walking to the plate and getting into the batter's box.

JACKIE MOSS

That's going to bring Eddie Ramirez
to the plate as he has a chance to
tac onto the Bellmen lead.

Eddie settles in and awaits the pitch. The Reds pitcher fires it and Eddie smacks a high fly ball to left field. Jason immediately starts running since there are two outs. Jason looks over as he is heading toward third.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that's a high fly ball to left
field, it might have a chance.

The Reds left fielder is heading back toward the wall, and as he gets closer, takes a big leap to catch it.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Sanderson leaps...

As he leaps up to catch the ball, it is apparent that the left fielder Sanderson miscalculated where exactly the ball is, as the ball goes off the tip of his glove and into the stands for a home run.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And that ball is a home run! It went off the top of Sanderson's glove into the left field stands and the umpire is ruling that a home run. What a bizarre twist that was as Eddie Ramirez has now given the Bellmen a 3-0 lead.

Eddie takes a nice jog around the bases as the crowd is now in a frenzy for taking a 3-0 lead. Eddie high fives the third base coach as Jason awaits him at home plate, still wondering how it was Sanderson miscalculated that ball. As Eddie crosses home plate, the two embrace and head back to the dugout where they are greeted with multiple high fives and pats on the butt.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - LATER

The scoreboard now shows the top of the 7th inning with a score still of 3-0. There is a runner on first base and one out.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

One out here in the top of the 7th, a runner on second, and Danny Rodriguez continues to deal with the heart of the Reds lineup.

Danny looks over at the runner on first for a moment before he decides to throw a pitch that gets grounded to Eddie once again. Eddie picks up the ball and throws it to Xavier at second, who tosses it to first to make an easy double play to get out of the inning.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And what a sweet little double play that was as the Bellmen escape with no damage and a 3-0 lead going into the bottom of the 7th.

The players jog off the field as the crowd praises Danny's performance.

EXT. BELLMEN DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Coach Cooke is greeting his players as they get back to the dugout. Danny is the last to enter.

COACH COOKE

How's the arm?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

It's good.

COACH COOKE

I'm thinking of putting in Ricky
for the rest of the way.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

No it's ok Coach. I can still
pitch.

Coach looks at him for a moment.

COACH COOKE

You sure you're good?

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Yes.

COACH COOKE

Alright, D.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - LATER

The scoreboard now says the top of the 8th inning with a
score of still leading 3-0 with two outs.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

The Bellmen are now just four outs
away from securing a playoff spot
as Sanderson now walks up to the
plate, probably hoping to make up
for his error that gave the Bellmen
a 3-0 lead.

Sanderson steps up to the plate and settles in as the crowd
is still on its feet. Danny gets into his windup and fires a
ball on the outside edge of the plate that gets called a
strike.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And that's going to be called a
strike against Sanderson.

The ball is thrown back to Danny as Sanderson takes a
practice swing and settles back into the box.

XAVIER

Let's go Danny, put him away!

EDDIE

Come on Danny!

Danny settles back onto the mound and goes into his windup. He throws a pitch in the same spot but this time Sanderson hits it down the rightfield line.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that's a line drive down the right field line.

The players watch it thinking it could likely be a foul ball. The ball, however, hits the bottom part of the right field foul pole for a home run. The crowd is silent for a moment, which leads to a few jeers in disapproval.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And that ball is off the foul pole for a home run. Sanderson hit a line drive into right field that just hit the bottom of the foul pole that cuts the Bellmen lead to two.

Danny tries to act like nothing just happened and gets another ball thrown to him. As he gets back to the mound, Coach calls out to him from the dugout.

COACH COOKE

Danny!

Danny turns to him and holds up one finger to imply "One more". The two lock eyes for a moment as Coach sees Danny truly means it.

DANNY RODRIGUEZ

Please.

Coach puts his head down for a moment and then puts his hand up to motion "Ok". Danny then settles back in on the mound and prepares to deal with this new Reds batter. The batter gets into his stance at the plate as Danny throws a pitch that is high and out of the strike zone. The umpire motions it as a ball. The ball gets thrown back to Danny as he tries to collect himself and not appear rattled. Danny then gets back into his pitching stance.

JASON FREEMAN

Come on Danny! You got this!

Danny then throws another pitch that is up and high. The crowd does not respond positively to this, and Danny is met with a few jeers as the ball gets tossed back to him.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

The crowd showing their disapproval, and one cannot help but wonder why Coach Cooke is leaving Danny Rodriguez in after that home run.

Danny is on the mound and stares down to home plate. As he does so, the crowd applauds and cheers for Danny to get this last batter out. Danny then winds up and throws a pitch right down the middle. The batter hits a line drive that Danny immediately responds to by diving to his right. The ball hits the web of his glove and comes out in the air for a moment, and Danny catches it once more as he is laying on his stomach on the turf. The crowd cheers as Danny has made the final out of the inning.

JASON FREEMAN (O.S.)

And what a snag by Danny Rodriguez, that is most certainly going to be on Sportscenter tonight as he may have just had the play of the game right there.

The Bellmen all celebrate and run up to congratulate Danny as he walks off the field, but not before he tosses the ball into the stands.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - LATER

The sky that was clear and with a waxing moon now starts to become cloudy as clouds start to cover the moon. The scoreboard now shows it is the bottom of the 8th inning with two outs and Xavier up to bat with Eddie on second base.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

The Bellmen pushing once more and hoping to add some insurance to their lead.

The pitcher deals and Xavier hits a line drive into centerfield that the centerfielder runs and snags in the web of his glove.

JACKIE MOSS

Oh, and what a catch to end the inning. We're now heading into the top half of the 9th with the Bellmen still up by two runs.

EXT. BELLMEN DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Jason and Eddie are on the bench as Eddie pats Jason on the shoulder.

EDDIE

Alright, one more inning.

JASON FREEMAN

Let's win this thing.

The team begins to jog out to their positions.

EXT. LIBERTY PARK - CONTINUOUS

The team is in their positions as a "Let's Go Bellmen" chant begins from the crowd. There is a new pitcher on the mound named CURTIS LOWE.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And Curtis Lowe is on the mound now in hopes to get the save for the Bellmen as Danny went eight full innings and only letting up one run with seven strikeouts. Lowe who is known to be a bit of a wild card coming in to hopefully send the Bellmen to the playoffs.

EDDIE

Alright Curtis, you can do this!

XAVIER

Throw the cheese, Curtis!

Curtis is on the mound and gets ready to deal with the Reds lineup. Curtis goes into his wind up and throws a pitch high and down the middle that is popped up.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that is a high pop up in the infield-

Nelson at third base calls it off.

NELSON

I got it! I got it!

Nelson camps out near the third baseline and catches it like there was nothing to it.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And Nelson camps out near the third baseline and catches it as that is going to be one out here in the 9th inning for the Bellmen.

The crowd cheers as the ball gets tossed back into Curtis on the mound.

EDDIE

Two more baby, two more!

Curtis rubs his hands together to keep warm as he prepares to face the next batter.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And that is going to bring up Leskanics here at the plate he has a .276 batting average and hoping he can get something started here for the Reds.

Curtis goes into his windup and throws a pitch on the outside part of the plate that gets squibbed off the end of the bat toward Eddie at second base.

EDDIE

Oh, piece of cake.

Eddie fields it perfectly and throws it onto first like he has all the time in the world. The first baseman catches it and the crowd roars even louder knowing they are one out away from victory.

JACKIE MOSS

And that is going to bring up Williams once again as the last hope for the Reds as the Bellmen are now one out away from reaching October baseball.

Lowe gets the ball tossed back into him and takes a deep breath. He takes off his hat for a moment and rubs his hands through his hair trying to remain calm. He puts his hat back on as Williams gets into his batter's stance and awaits the pitch. Lowe goes into his windup and throws a wild pitch inside that just barely hits Williams in the ribs. The crowd groans in disapproval.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)

And look out that is going to hit Williams right in the ribs as he is going to take first base.

(MORE)

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 So now the Bellmen have one on and
 two out with the tying run at the
 plate as Ted Butler walks up toward
 home plate.

Coach Cooke calls out to Curtis.

COACH COOKE
 That's ok Curtis, focus on the
 batter.

JASON FREEMAN
 Come on Curtis, you can do this!

Lowe gets the ball and heads back toward the mound, trying so
 desperately to get the last batter out. Lowe gets back toward
 the mound as once again a "Let's Go Bellmen" chant breaks out
 amongst the fans.

EDDIE
 Let's go Curtis, end this thing!

NELSON
 Throw the freakin' cheese man!

Lowe is on the mound throwing from the stretch as he looks
 over at the runner at first for a moment. Lowe then throws a
 pitch on the inside corner of the plate that gets called for
 a strike.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
 And that's going to be called a
 strike, although I don't think
 Butler agrees with him.

The ball is tossed back to Lowe on the mound as the crowd
 cheers and grows louder with every anticipating pitch.

JACKIE MOSS
 Two out here in the 9th inning as
 the Bellmen one out away from
 reaching the postseason.

JASON FREEMAN
 Let's go Curtis! Fire it in there!

COACH COOKE
 Come on Lowe, you got this!

Lowe settles in onto the mound and throws from the stretch
 once more. This time though, Butler smacks an inside
 curveball high into left field. The crowd becomes silent as
 they await to see where it comes down.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
That's a curveball that Butler got
a good piece of hitting it high and
deep to left.

Jason starts running back once again.

JASON FREEMAN
Oh shoot.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.)
Freeman heading back-

Jason is running back in slow motion and realizes he soon must be reaching the warning track. Jason realizes as well that the ball is not as crushed as he thought it initially was and breaks for a moment trying to figure out where it is without overrunning it.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
-still going back-

Jason then runs back once again toward the wall and realizes it is at least high off the wall. Jason takes a leap toward the wall with his right leg first and his glove over his back shoulder.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
-he leaps-

Jason leaps toward the wall and catches the ball in his glove as he keeps it from going over the wall. As he comes down, his right leg goes into the wall and there is a loud snap hear as his knee bends in an awkward position a Jason lets out a loud cry in pain. The rest of Jason's body hits the wall, and he hits the ground with the ball still in the web of his glove. The scene resumes in regular time and crowd explodes in approval that he made the catch. Meanwhile, the rest of the team immediately starts running out toward him as he likely just injured himself pretty bad and Jason continues to lay there on the ground with the ball in his glove.

JACKIE MOSS (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And he caught it! I don't believe
it! Jason Freeman just snagged a
potential game tying home run and
has saved the playoff hopes for the
Bellmen!

As the team gathers around him, the crowd continues to cheer, but this time not as loudly as they notice Jason is hurt pretty badly. The Bellmen team swarm around him in left field as Eddie motions over to Coach to get over there as soon as possible with his hand. The screen then fades to black.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

The screen fades up as there is a cemetery shown somewhere. The setting is mostly green, but there is some crabgrass to imply it is late winter or early spring. The sky is mostly clear, and there are some birds chirping off in the distance. There are rows and rows of graves, and slowly, the sound of a car engine grows, and a car rolls up. The car comes to a stop and Jason Freeman on crutches steps out of the passenger side door, while Jackie steps out of the driver's side. As she gets out of the driver's side door, she opens the door behind her and pulls out a little baby stroller to imply there is a child with her. Jason starts using the crutches and starts moving down a row of graves as Jackie follows behind her.

JASON FREEMAN

It should be here somewhere.

Jason is moving on the crutches as he looks up and down the headstones until finally, he comes to one he recognizes about halfway down the row. Jackie stops from a distance and lets Jason look upon the headstone. Jason moves closer to it on his crutches, gazing upon it like he is in some kind of trance. Jason then begins to speak.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I brought my friend Jackie here today, and her new adopted son.

Jason struggles to find the words he wants to say.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry about what happened Jess. I know there's nothing I can say or do to change what happened. But I want you to know I've tried every day since you went away to be the man you deserved. I've been trying to make good.

Jason reaches into his pocket.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I know I probably didn't deserve a second chance, but I've been trying so hard to make it worth the while. Which is why I feel it only fair that you deserve this.

Jason pulls out an authentic Bellmen World Series ring and leaves it on the base of her headstone.

JASON FREEMAN (CONT'D)

I want you to know I didn't waste
it. And I don't plan on ever
wasting it.

Jason quietly sighs and puts his hand on the top of the headstone. He smiles and fights through the few tears that stream down his face. He moves away on his crutches, and the camera slowly turns to focus on the World Series ring at the base of the headstone. The camera focuses on the ring for a moment and then the screen cuts to black.

Credits.