

HOME RUN DERBY

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TEASER

INT. RESTAURANT - DINING TABLE - NIGHT

FRANKO, 45-M, Italian - well dressed and suited for fine dining, sits at a dining table across from his wife JACKIE, 44-F, also well dressed - in a nice restaurant in the city.

The WAITER approaches the table. He takes their finished dinner plates off the table and walks away, carrying their plates in hand.

There is a dead silence, an unpleasant emptiness between Franko & Jackie at the table. They both wait for the other to say something. Jackie finally looks to Franko.

JACKIE

Well?

FRANKO

Well... What?

Jackie gets upset. She removes her napkin in a respectable public manner and places it on the table.

JACKIE

That's it! I can't do this anymore!

Franko turns his head, looking away, he utters under his breath.

FRANKO

Oh shit! Here it comes.

Jackie signals the waiter over to the table.

The waiter approaches the table and places the bill fold-up on the table.

Jackie places her credit card in the bill fold-up and hands it back to the waiter. The waiter leaves the table to cash-out the bill. Jackie redirects her attention back to Franko.

JACKIE

It kills me to say this Franko, but
I think we might be done.

Jackie prepares to leave. She gathers her things together and pulls out her phone.

FRANKO

What? Seriously! Jackie... Are you serious right now?

JACKIE

Yes, I'm serious! Look at you, you're miserable.

Now Franko gets worked up. He grabs his napkin off his lap and tosses it on the table. The napkin swirls over the table, floating in a perfect spiral. Franko could care less.

FRANKO

You got to be shitting me! At least have the damn decency to tell me what the hell this is all about?

Jackie shrugs. She rises out her chair and leans over the table. Jackie gets right in Franko's face.

JACKIE

Tell me... what do you want?

Franko scoots forward in his chair and leans right back. Franko gets right back in Jackie's face.

FRANKO

I want you. I always have, and you know it.

JACKIE

You got me. Tell me, what else do you want?

Franko leans back into his chair. He looks around the restaurant.

The restaurant guest nose into Franko and Jackie's now public personal drama. Women raise eyebrows at Franko. One gentlemen (FRANKO's FAN) silently lip-syncs to Franko, "You got this!"

Franko turns away from the gentlemen. He takes a deep calm breath and looks back at Jackie.

FRANKO

You know what... I don't know what to say, I really don't.

Jackie leans back. She gathers her things and stands up.

JACKIE

The man I married... would have answered that question.

Jackie rolls her eyes and pushes her chair in.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
I need some time.

Jackie Takes her key off her keyring and sets the key on the table.

JACKIE (CONT'D)
You have until the end of spring
break to find yourself. One week...
then... I make my final decision.

Franko turns his head and gazes around the restaurant.

Women in the restaurant shrug with pride, embracing Jackie's Feminine empowerment. The now (FRANKO'S FAN) gentleman, silently lip-syncs, "Take it!"

Franko agrees with the gentlemen's advice and nods very smoothly, unnoticed by Jackie. Franko turns back to Jackie.

FRANKO
I have until the end of this week.

Franko picks Jackie's key up off the table and hands the key back to her firmly.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
You take the house. I'll go visit
my mother.

JACKIE
Your mother?

FRANKO
Hey... You're the one who said I
should go find myself. Right?

Franko looks to the gentleman in the restaurant.

The gentleman (FRANKO'S FAN) gives Franko two big thumbs up. He silently lip-syncs, "Smart move!"

Jackie turns her head. She looks to the direction Franko is looking.

The gentleman evades cleverly. He does not get caught. He raises his eyebrow (face gesture) to Jackie with discern, as if he is just being nosey.

Jackie sways her head back to Franko.

JACKIE
Hmmm... Your mother's. That just
might work.

Franko stands up and gathers his things together.

FRANKO
I'll be out of the house by the
time you get home.

Franko dashes out the restaurant distraught.

The women in the restaurant smile as if they won.

The waiter returns with the receipt.

THE WAITER
Your receipt, ma'am!

Jackie signs the receipt. The waiter takes the receipt and
walks away.

EXT. RESTAURANT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Franko hops into his vehicle. He backs out of the parking
space, and drives off.

INT. RESTAURANT - WAITER STATION - NIGHT

The waiter steps to his service station. He closes the bill
from his computer. He shakes his head in reference to the
couple's public actions. He looks at the tip on the bill, he
notices the tip amount is generous.

THE WAITER
Thank you! Please, come again.

END OF TEASER

INTRO CREDITS & TITLE

MONTAGE - FRANKO DRIVES HOME

Flash Movie Title: "HOME RUN DERBY"

Roll Intro Credits:

Montage - Sequence of Shots: CLIPS

- Franko drives onto the highway
- Driving CLIPS
- Stops for gas
- More driving CLIPS
- Road signs
- Gassing up
- More driving CLIPS
- Using toilets (LOL)
- More driving CLIPS
- Checking Google Maps
- Shopping for road snacks and drinks
- Driving and munching
- Franko reaches his hometown (EXIT SIGN)
- He exits the Highway to his hometown

END OPENING CREDITS

ACT 1

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Franko drives his super cool ford mustang sports car into the drive way and parks the car.

MOM, Senior citizen in her house robe with curlers in her hair, rushes out the front door of the house ecstatic and excited.

MOM

Franko, is that you? Oh my god, it is you. what a surprise.

Franko's little brother, THOMAS, 39M, Italian - in a nice clean short sleeve polo and casual pants - steps out of the front door and onto the front porch area. He stops on the front porch.

THOMAS

May the ambience of grace, dance to the rhythm of your sweet returning symphony.

Franko pops the trunk open and steps out of the car. He proceeds to the rear of the vehicle and gets his suitcases out of the trunk.

Mom walks over to Franko standing at the back of his car. She puts her hands on her elderly hips.

MOM

What's all this? Where's Jackie?

Thomas stands on the front porch, looking at the situation.

THOMAS

Uh-oh! I think somebody's getting a divorce.

Franko closes his trunk. He grabs all of his things.

FRANKO

Let me get my stuff inside, mom. Then we'll talk. Promise!

Thomas reaches his hands up and grabs the top of the porch exterior trim.

THOMAS
Yup! Somebody definitely screwed
up.

Franko walks up to the front porch where Thomas is standing.

Thomas grabs the front door and holds it open for Franko.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Welcome home, big brother.

FRANKO
Glad to see you too, Thomas.

THOMAS
The weather man says it doesn't
look like the sun is shining in
lover's lane today.

FRANKO
It's not!

Franko goes inside with his stuff.

Mom follows Franko inside.

Thomas steps inside the house and closes the front door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SUNSET

Mom stands in the kitchen. She cooks a nice meal for everyone
to enjoy. The pots on the stove steam.

Franko walks into the kitchen.

FRANKO
This kitchen is cooking like hot
fire, momma.

Mom looks at Franko like he is out of his mind, talking like
that to his mother. She settles herself.

MOM
You just wait until you taste this
hot fire.

Franko leans over mom's shoulder. He looks at the pots as
they steam on the stove top.

FRANKO
No one makes it like you, mom.
You're the best.

Franko kisses mom on the cheek, and she smiles.

Thomas walks into the kitchen. He grabs a box of snack crackers and a soda can out of the fridge.

MOM
Don't ruin your appetite. I'm
making supper.

THOMAS
Smells delicious, mom.

Thomas puts the crackers back, and walks out of the kitchen.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT - SUNSET

The sun fully sets over mom's house. The sky turns to night.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - DINING AREA - NIGHT

Franko sits at the dining table by himself. He looks into the kitchen where mom is finishing up dinner.

FRANKO
Ah! It's nice to be home. Are you
sure it's cool, mom?

Mom walks into the dining area and sits down next to Franko.

MOM
One condition. Shoot it to me
straight. No bullshit!
Tell me what happened?

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas sits in his sofa chair in the living room. He turns down the volume on the TV and leans his ear towards the kitchen to snoop into Franko and mom's conversation.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - DINING AREA - NIGHT

Mom gives Franko the eye. She waits for his explanation.

Franko, unaware of Thomas' snooping, sits back in his chair.

FRANKO
Jackie's upset with me.

MOM

Upset?

Franko leans forward, as he opens up to mom's council.

FRANKO

She actually threatened to end it.

MOM

Threatened to end it. Could there be someone else?

FRANKO

I don't know. I haven't gotten a whiff of anything like that.

Mom holds her chest and exhales a big relief breath. She reaches out and places her hand on Franko's hand.

MOM

What exactly did she say?

FRANKO

She called me miserable, and said she can't take it anymore. Told me I have til the end of this week to find myself, or else.

MOM

Or else?

FRANKO

That's what she said, mom. No bullshit.

MOM

Watch your mouth in this house, sunny boy.

Mom stands up. She chuckles, as she ready's herself to get dinner out of the kitchen.

MOM (CONT'D)

Well, good for her.

Franko ponders in confusion at mom's reply.

MOM (CONT'D)

She's right you know.

FRANKO

So, your taking her side.

Mom walks back to the kitchen.

MOM (O.S.)
Yup, I'm taking her side.

Franko stands up, as mom walks off in to the kitchen.

FRANKO
Tell me. What does that even mean?
Find myself.

Mom walks back into the dining area with plates in her hand.
The plates are loaded with that good home cooked style meal
no one can resist.

MOM
That's up to you. You're just going
to have to find that out on your
own.

Mom puts the dinner plates on the dinner table.

Franko sits back down.

Mom places Franko's plate in front of him.

MOM (CONT'D)
Don't worry. I raised you boys
right. You'll figure it out.

FRANKO
If you say so, mom.

Mom opens the dining area drawers and grabs napkins and
silver wear. She turns around with the silver wear and
napkins in her hands.

MOM
Yup! Now, let's eat.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Thomas sits in his sofa chair with his ear leaned toward the
dining area, ease dropping on Franko and mom's conversation.

MOM (O.S.)
Thomas!

THOMAS
What?

MOM (O.S.)
Supper's ready.

THOMAS

Coming.

Thomas picks up his TV remote from his sofa chair arm rest. He pushes the remote button and turns off the TV. Thomas gets up out of his chair and walks to the dining area.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - DINING AREA - NIGHT

Franko, Thomas, and Mom sit at the diner table. Mom places her hands on the table in prayer.

MOM

Thank you lord for this blessed meal, and for my two wonderful sons. This we pray and give thanks, in Jesus name, Amen.

FAMILY

(All Together)

Amen!

They eat. Mom looks at Franko as he stuffs his mouth with food.

MOM

Don't worry! You're welcome to stay. You're always welcome home.

They all enjoy a family meal together. One big happy family.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

A finger pushes the front doorbell.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

Franko's childhood best friend, JAMES, 45-M, stands at the front door dressed in a tropical Hawaiian shirt, dress shorts above the knees, grey socks, white sneakers, and a safari style hat. (Silly looking)

James paces around as he waits for Franko to answer the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - DAY

Franko (in his PJ's) walks to the front door and opens it.

James stands outside the front door as it opens.

Franko looks at James' attire. He firmly glances at his friends silly appearance.

FRANKO

If you need a date pal, I can call
a hotline right now for ya.

JAMES

Don't be pissing in my paradise.
I'm not the one who needs to find
himself.

They eyeball each other for a second, a hard stare. Then they both smile excited. Franko reaches out for a good bro hug.

FRANKO

Damn it's good to see you, James.
How you been?

They greet each other graciously. Franko leans back and looks at James' ridiculous outfit again.

FRANKO (CONT'D)

And what exactly do you call this?

JAMES

Better than a grown man answering
his mother's door in his PJ's at
10:30am.

FRANKO

It's Ok! I'm off this week, what's
your excuse?

JAMES

Yeah! That's what I hear. Now, go
get ready! I'll be back in twenty
minutes. You and I are going to
Riverside.

FRANKO

See you in twenty.

James walks away from the door and heads toward his sports car parked on the street. He has the convertible top down.

Franko closes the door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRANKO'S BATHROOM/BEDROOM - DAY

MONTAGE - FRANKO GETS DRESSED

SEQUENCE OF SHOTS: CLIPS

Bathroom:

- Franko gets a shower.
- Brushes his teeth.
- Shaves his face.
- Plucks his nose hairs.
- Moisturizes his skin.
- Puts on deodorant.
- Combs his hair.

Bedroom:

- Franko dances into the bedroom.
- Opens his suitcase.
- Places clothes on his bed.
- Looks out the window.
- Sees James coming down the street. (Through window)
- Franko Sees his old Baseball Jersey in closet.
- Looks back out the window. (James is getting closer)
- Puts On outfit. (Jersey and Denim shorts)
- Grabs his old ball cap and put's it on.
- Looks at himself in the mirror. He looks cool again.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

INT. JAMES CAR - DRIVING TO RIVERSIDE #1 - DAY

James drives his convertible sports car with the top down, music up, and the breeze flows. Franko rides in the passenger seat. James looks at Franko's outfit, The old jersey and the denim shorts. He makes a sudden unexpected right turn.

FRANKO

Where you going? Main Street's that way.

JAMES

Oh no! If you jersey up, I jersey up. Ain't no half-stepping out here, player.

James makes another turn, turning onto his street.

FRANKO

You're going to jersey up?

JAMES

Won't take nothing but a second.

Franko looks at James' ridiculous outfit.

FRANKO

If you say so!

EXT. JAMES HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

James pulls up and parks his sports car at the front curb, roadside, outside of his house. He quickly gets out of the car and runs into his house.

Franko patiently sits in James' parked car with the top down. He looks around the area.

FRANKO

Wow! This place still looks the same.

James runs out of the house wearing his jersey and denim shorts (No ball cap). He gets back into the car. He faces Franko as he puts the car in drive.

JAMES

Nothing but a second!

James Hits the gas, and the sports car drives off.

INT. JAMES CAR - DRIVING TO RIVERSIDE #2 - DAY

James (driving his sports car with the top down) turns onto Main Street at the edge of town.

JAMES

You're going to love Riverside.

FRANKO

Really?

JAMES

Hottest place in town.

FRANKO

Alright! Let's do this!

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

James' car (Sports car with top down) cruises Main Street with James and Franko in the car.

INT. RIVERSIDE BAR & GRILL - DAY

Franko and James walk through the front door of the Riverside Bar & Grill. They stop at entrance hub area. They glance around.

Description: The restaurant is a riverside sports bar with a dining area. It has TVs over the bar, team pendants hanging, beer signs on the walls, and twinkling white Christmas lights wrapped around the roof pole bars. The glass back wall is windowed with a open patio door. The patio overlooks the river from the shoreline. The speakers play music, or the game when playing.

James and Franko stand at the hostess desk.

MIKEY (O.S.)
There you guys are.

Franko turns his head and sees MIKEY, 46-M, Bodybuilder - wearing his old team jersey with gym pants and sneakers.

FRANKO
Mikey?

Mikey walks up, wraps his arms around Franko and lifts him up in air. He swings Franko around (embracing him) and then puts him down. Mikey wraps one hand around Franko's back neck.

MIKEY
I hear you been acting like a mid-aged sourpuss.

FRANKO
Who said that?

MIKEY
A little twittery bird told me.

Mikey lets Franko's neck go.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
C'mon! Tables over here.

They walk away from the hostess stand. Franko, James, and Mikey approach the table. The whole gang (Group) is sitting at the table.

There is: (CHARACTER LIST)
JOEY (45M) Asian - played left field.
FREDRICK (46M) African American - played first base.
JUAN (44M) Latin American - played short stop.
DOUG (46M) Mixed W/B, light skinned, played center field.
CHAD (38M) White male, youngest of group, the water-boy.

NOTE: Franko was pitcher. James was catcher. Mikey played right field.

The whole gang is wearing their old jerseys. Some have ball caps and some don't. Chad is wearing his water-boy t-shirt. The group at the table greets Franko with a big celebration.

GROUP

Hey!

Franko approaches the table (Excited).

Mikey wraps his arm around Franko's neck (head-lock). He slightly pulls Franko's head closer.

MIKEY

I don't hang around no sourpuss's.

Franko looks up at Mikey seriously.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

I don't want no negative vibes
bringing me down. You know what I
mean?

FRANKO

Got it!

MIKEY

Good! I love you brother. I'm
always here, right here. Know it!

Mikey releases Franko. They sit down and join the table.

The WAITRESS, 25-F, perky positive attitude - comes from the kitchen through the walk way door. She approaches the table to take their order.

WAITRESS

What's up, what's up, guys?

GROUP

What's up, what's up.

WAITRESS

You guys ready to order?

JAMES

Bring it!

They all order. The waitress walks away to put the order in.

Franko confronts his friends at the table.

FRANKO

What's up with the jersey's?

JUAN
Hey, You jersey up.

JOEY
We jersey up.

James throws his his hands up.

JAMES
Ain't no half-stepping up in here,
players.

The waitress approaches the table with a pitcher of beer and glasses. She walks around the table and serves the beverages. She notices something odd about the back of their jersey's.

WAITRESS
Why do you guys all have your first
names on the back of your jersey's?

James finger gestures the waitress over toward him. The waitress walks over to James and leans down. James whispers gently to the waitress.

JAMES
Our coach was a drunk.

The waitress stands up and steps back, shocked.

WAITRESS
Seriously?

FRANKO
It's true. No joke.

James finger gestures the waitress again. The waitress leans down again. James whispers gently to the waitress.

JAMES
You see... Once upon a time in
America... that actually existed.

The waitress looks up at the table.

DOUG
At least we didn't run laps --

GROUP
-- We ran beer-runs.

MIKEY
Hey! Don't dog beer-runs. We all
turned out Ok.

Mikey flexes his arm muscles to the waitress.

WAITRESS

Oh! no you didn't. That's crazy.

The waitress chuckles and walks off, but suddenly turns back around to the table.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

I kinda like it.

The waitress winks at the guys and dances away.

The gang (Whole Group) lift their glasses, toast to coach.

JAMES

To coach!

GROUP

Coach!

They all drink.

BREAKING NEWS: RIVERSIDE BAR & GRILL - TV SCREEN - DAY

TV SCREEN: The TV presents a sports headline.

The breaking news report grabs the whole restaurant's attention. The report is disappointing. Everybody shouts at the TV.

INT. RIVERSIDE BAR & GRILL - DAY

The waitress walks out of the kitchen, through the walk-way with a tray of food in her hands. She approaches the table to serve the food.

WAITRESS

Order up, boys! Who's hungry?

Individuals at the table randomly respond.

GROUP

(Randomly))

Over here! That's me! Sit that baby right here.

The waitress serves the plates and walks away.

They all chow-down (EAT).

EXT. RIVERSIDE BAR & GRILL - PATIO - DAY

Franko steps outside the open glass patio doorway with a tall glass of beer in his hand. He walks to the railed edge of the patio dock (overlooking the river). Franko leans on the rail and sips his beer. He enjoys the view of the river.

Boats pass by the restaurant. A couple of people are fishing on the river sides. The current of the water creates small waves that splash against the shoreline rocks.

Franko smiles and takes another sip of his beer.

James steps outside the open glass patio doorway and accompanies Franko.

JAMES

Did I tell you this place was great... or what?

FRANKO

Not bad!

James sits down in a patio rocking chair. He starts rocking.

Franko joins. He sits in the rocking chair next to James, and rocks along. They both take a good sip of their beers.

JAMES

what's up with you and Jackie?

Franko pauses. He looks at James.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Hey! I'm just here to help!

James leans towards Franko.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You know I dig you guys. I was your best man. C'mon, talk to me.

FRANKO

Honestly, I don't know what's up. That's the truth.

MIKEY (O.S.)

I do... You're a sourpuss.

Mikey walks up and approaches Franko and James from behind.

JAMES

Hey, Mikey... that's enough.

Mikey leans on the patio railing.

MIKEY

No! Sorry, James... But our brother Franko here needs our help, and I'm here to help a friend in his time of need.

Mikey gets off the rail and wraps his arm around Franko.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

I'll never back off for any brother.

FRANKO

I'm listening, Mikey.

James leans back and sips his beer.

Mikey leans down toward Franko.

MIKEY

The first step to solving a problem is recognizing there is a problem.

James And Franko look at Mikey with interest.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

You need to wake-up. Like now!

Fredrick, Doug, and Chad walk out of the open glass patio doorway. They look around and see Franko, James, and Mickey by the edge railing.

FREDRICK

Look, We're missing all the action.

CHAD

What action?

DOUG

C'mon! Let's get in on this.

Fredrick, Doug, and Chad walk toward Franko, Mikey, and James. They join the party.

FREDRICK

We miss anything?

JAMES

Not really!

FRANKO

Mikey's my therapist now.

Franko stands up.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
You know what?

Franko leans against the patio railing next to Mikey.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
Count me in.

Franko wraps his arm around Mikey.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
So, where do we start?

Mikey gets pumped up (Excited). He puts up his hands for a big hi-five.

MIKEY
Yes! That's my bro.

Franko and Mikey hi-five. Mikey raises his glass.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
A toast... To Franko.

They all raise their glasses and drink.

A splash of water hits the rocks next to the edge of the dock. The wind carries the water. The water splashes the guys. It's just a small splash.

James cracks up as he laughs in his rocking chair (dry).

The waitress steps out of the open glass patio doorway and approaches the group. She is still amazed by their Jerseys, and is fascinated by the fact they all have their first names on the back of their jerseys.

WAITRESS
I'm curious, how were you guys...
when you played?

FREDRICK
We won county.

DOUG
1st place.

WAITRESS
Nice!

FRANKO
County champs!

The waitress hi-fives Mikey.

WAITRESS

Did you guys go to state?

James urgently stands up and wraps his arm around the waitress gently. He whispers in her ear.

JAMES

We don't talk about that.

The group zips their lips and looks away. (Crickets)

WAITRESS

My Bad!

FRANKO

It's Ok!

Franko wraps his arms around Mikey and Fredrick.

FRANKO (CONT'D)

It was a long time ago.

The guys nod.

CHAD

No regrets... fellas!

WAITRESS

You guys are awesome.

The waitress pats Chad on the butt.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Great attitude!

The waitress walks away. She walks back into the restaurant through the open glass patio doorway.

Juan and Joey walk out the open glass patio doorway. Juan has a pitcher of beer in his hands for refills. Juan and joey join the patio party. Juan pours refills into their empty glasses.

Franko sits back down in the rocking chair. His butt is still wet from the splash. He takes a second to get comfortable. Franko looks up they group circled around.

FRANKO

We could have won state.

James swiftly sits down next to franko and leans in close.

JAMES

Seriously! You're bringing this up.

The guys bring it in close. They all huddle up.

JOEY

Wait! what are we talking about?

JUAN

State!

DOUG

I thought we all agreed --

FREDRICK

-- We took an oath of silence,
Franko.

They all look at Mikey.

MIKEY

You want to talk about it. Ok!
Let's talk about it.

FRANKO

Exactly! Thank you... Mikey!

James rocks back in his rocking chair.

JAMES

Ok! But this was your idea, not
mine.

James grabs Juan's pitcher. He drinks what's left from the
pitcher itself. He takes a big huge gulp, swallows, and then
lets out a loud burp.

CHAD

What did you guys do that night?

James puts the empty pitcher of beer down.

JAMES

I'll tell you what we did. We stole
the coach's beer and went to that
little league field.

Franko chuckles as he looks up at Chad.

FRANKO

We got totally wasted.

JAMES

Don't forget the best part. How we managed to play the drunkest game of Home Run Derby.

CHAD

Home Run Derby, seriously!

JUAN

Yeah!

DOUG

Funny! Coach never found out we took his beer.

FREDRICK

Of course not! His drunk ass thought he drank it all.

They all laugh.

JOEY

I remember that.

CHAD

So wait, you guys through the finals.

The group looks at chad. The tension rises, one might wonder if chad might get a butt-whooping.

JAMES

We didn't through the game.

The group tension releases.

FRANKO

Hey! We did our best.

FREDRICK

Our shitty best.

They all nod in agreement as Mikey steps to the center of the circle huddle.

MIKEY

I got to be honest with you guys, since we are talking about this. That night was the most fun I ever had with you guys.

CHAD

Well, that's too bad.

The group looks at Chad.

FRANKO
Why's that?

CHAD
I missed out. I always miss out.

Franko moves toward Chad. He wraps his arm around chad.

FRANKO
Well, not anymore.

The group looks at Franko.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
What do you say guys? Let's do it.

James leans forward and scoots to the edge of his rocking chair.

JAMES
Do what?

FRANKO
Let's play some Home Run Derby.

CHAD
When?

JOEY
Saturday's good for me.

DOUG
Wait! Are we doing this?

FRANKO
Yeah! Saturday... Noon... The
Backlot.

James stands up (Excited).

JAMES
Oh! Game on, bitches!

James lifts his head up to the heavens and shouts.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Backlot baby!

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - SUNSET

Franko walks in the door buzzed from drinking. He staggers around (deciding which way to go). He hears the TV PLAYING in the living room.

FRANKO

Yup! That will do.

Franko wonders into the living room where his mother is on the couch watching TV. She mutes the TV.

MOM

Finding yourself... Are we?

FRANKO

What?

MOM

You look like you had a good day.
You're glowing!

FRANKO

That's not glow. It's a beer buzz.

Franko smiles (proud to be buzzed and feeling good).

MOM

That's not just a buzz. You look happy. I haven't seen you this alive in long time.

FRANKO

Ok, Mom.

MOM

Good! Now take your drunk ass upstairs to your room and sleep it off. Ain't no walking around this house drunk. You know the rules.

FRANKO

Yup! See you in the mourning.

Franko staggers out of the living room and heads towards the stairs.

MOM

Good boy!

Mom turns the TV back on (Unmute's TV).

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - STAIRWAY - SUNSET

Franko walks to the stairway and stops.

MOM (O.S.)
(Shouts)
And take a shower.

Franko acknowledges Mom and walks up the stairs.

Thomas comes down the stairs and the two meet mid stairs.
Thomas shifts to the side and makes way for Franko to pass.

THOMAS
Say hey swaying sailor, you drunk?

FRANKO
Buzzed!

THOMAS
Watch out for that last step.

FRANKO
Yup!

Franko passes Thomas and steps up the stairs (they both smirk a grin cunningly). Franko stumbles his way up the stairs to the top.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SUNSET

Thomas walks into the living room and sits down next to mom.
She mutes the TV.

MOM
Did Franko get up the stairs Ok?

THOMAS
He's a big boy, ma.

MOM
You should be struggling with those stairs too.

THOMAS
Don't push, mom. He's got his friends and I've got mine. It's totally fine the way it is.

MOM
You two should spend time. That's
all I'm saying.

THOMAS
We will... Promise.

MOM
Good boy!

Thomas gets up and kisses his mother good night.

THOMAS
I love you, mom.

MOM
I love you, too.

Thomas exits the living room.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRANKO'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Franko steps out of his bathroom wearing his PJs. He gets into his bed and lies down. He rolls over and looks out the window to the stars and night sky.

FRANKO
Jackie... What have you got me
into?

Franko rolls back over, turns off the light and goes to sleep.

INT. MAIN STREET/CAFE - DAY

Franko sits in a cafe on Main Street with a cup of coffee and a finished lunch plate on the table. He drinks his coffee and looks out the cafe window.

Through the cafe window, Franko sees Mikey in the gym across the street. Mikey is a personal trainer in the gym. Mikey is coaching and assisting people getting into shape.

Franko puts cash on the table (paying his check). He gets up and exits the cafe. He walks across the street (Main Street) toward the gym.

INT. MAIN STREET/GYM - DAY

Franko walks into the Main Street gym.

MIKEY (O.S.)
Hey, look who it is.

Mikey walks up to greet Franko at the front desk (They fist bump). Mikey wraps his arm around Franko and turns to everyone in the gym. He introduces Franko to his co-workers and regulars standing around.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
Hey guys! This is Franko. Me and
this guy go way back.

The gym members and staff welcome Franko graciously.

Mikey releases his arm from around Franko. He walks Franko over to the snack bar area.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
You came to the right place.

They both sit at the snack bar table.

FRANKO
Nice gig!

MIKEY
This place could use a little fine
tuning if you ask me, but that's
just my opinion.

FRANKO
This place ain't so bad.

MIKEY
What do you say we get a round in?
See if we can wake up some of
those... well, what's left of
those.

FRANKO
Thanks for the confidence boost.

Franko takes a good look around the gym.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
I could use a work out.

Mikey stands up.

MIKEY
That's the spirit.

Pumped up and exited, Mikey CLAPS his hands together.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

That's a no sourpuss attitude.

Franko and Mikey walk to a simple arm-lift work station machine. Franko Sits down upright in the machine chair and grabs the handles.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

We'll start simple. We're not going to build muscles. We're just going to wake these old rotten tomatoes up. See if we can squeeze some ripe T-juice.

Mikey resets the weight low on the back of the machine.

MIKEY (CONT'D)

Nice and simple. Let's get loose baby.

MONTAGE - FRANKO WORKS OUT

- Franko working out. (Various workouts)
- Mikey showing Franko various workouts.
- Franko sweating while working out.
- Gym members and staff members (In&Out) Participation.
- Harder various Workouts. (Pushing harder)
- Last shot: Group cheering for Franko. (Celebration Shot)

END OF MONTAGE

INT. MAIN STREET/GYM - FRONT DESK - DAY

Mikey SLAMS a case of Protein shakes (12 pack) on the front desk counter from beneath. He pulls out his personal bottle of multi-vitamin pills and healthy diet Supplements from his pocket and pours two pills into his hand.

MIKEY

Here, Take these.

Mikey opens one of the protein shakes. He slides the shake over to Franko, and hands him the pills.

FRANKO

What's this?

MIKEY
Supplements. And... your shake.

franko nervously takes the items.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
Fitness is twenty-five percent
workout, and seventy-five percent
diet, Franko.

FRANKO
Nice to know.

Franko puts the pills in his mouth. He chases them down with
a sip of his protein shake.

MIKEY
Think Tylenol, for Your muscles.

FRANKO
What do I owe you?

MIKEY
This one's on me. It's a gift.

FRANKO
Thanks!

Mikey puts a couple supplements into a zip-lock bag. He hands
the zip-lock bag to franko.

MIKEY
On the house, brother.

Franko accepts. He puts the zip-lock bag in his pocket and
grabs the case of protein shakes off the counter.

FRANKO
See you Saturday?

MIKEY
Oh yeah! Backlot... Baby.

They hi-five.

Franko turns and exits the gym.

Mikey heads back into the gym workout area and starts working
out with the members.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

The DOORBELL RINGS.

Franko answers the door (dressed).

James stands outside the door.

JAMES
You ready?

FRANKO
One second! Come on in.

James steps inside and brushes his shoes on the mat.

Franko closes the front door.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRANKO'S BEDROOM - DAY

Franko opens the bedroom door and James walks into the bedroom. Franko walks in behind James and closes the door.

James looks at all of Franko's memorabilia (trophies, plaques, and pictures).

JAMES
Wow, I didn't know you kept this stuff.

FRANKO
Me neither.

JAMES
This is amazing. You kept everything.

Franko finds his wallet (in yesterday's pants).

FRANKO
Ah! There it is.

Franko pulls out his wallet and puts it in his back pocket.

JAMES
You got enough for cleats?

FRANKO
I don't need cleats.

James pulls a framed picture off the shelf (Senior Year Pic: a picture of Franko pitching on the mound during their last baseball game). James flashes the picture to Franko.

JAMES

You sure about that? It's been
along time since you've been on a
pitcher's mound.

FRANKO

I'll be fine.

James laughs at Franko as he puts the old picture down.

JAMES

Oh! You'll be fine... Is that a
fact?

FRANKO

That's a fact.

JAMES

Ok superstar! Grab your glove...
Let's see what you got.

Franko grabs his old glove out of the closet and places the
glove under his arm (Glove has a baseball inside).

They both walk out and Franko closes the bedroom door.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Description: In the back of the neighborhood there is a pee-
wee little league baseball field. The field is for little
toddler kids. The field is smaller than regular fields. They
call this field, "The Backlot." They got the name from their
favorite childhood baseball movie.

Franko and James step onto the Backlot baseball field through
the dugout fence.

JAMES

Ready?

FRANKO

I was born ready!

JAMES

You sure?

FRANKO

Oh! I see you got jokes today.

Franko and James approach home plate together.

JAMES

Ok, superstar! Your up!

Franko pauses and looks around.

FRANKO

Man, this place hasn't changed a bit.

They both embrace the view for a brief moment. Then Franko walks to the pitcher's mound.

James gets into his catchers position at home plate (At James' age, he is a little soar as he crouches).

Franko takes the pitcher's mound to pitch. He prepares.

James places his catchers mitt into position.

JAMES

Just take it nice and easy...
Nothing fancy.

Franko winds up and throws a nice pitch over the plate into James' glove.

James catches the ball.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Not bad!

James stands up to throw the ball back to frank.

Franko catches the ball. He winds his arm in a circle (loosening his arm).

James crouches back into his catcher's position (more loose this time).

JAMES (CONT'D)

Ok! Now... Bring the heat.

Franko winds up and pitches a decent fast ball. A perfect strike over the plate.

James catches the ball.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Nice!

FRANKO

Like riding a bike.

James stands up and throws the ball back to Franko.

Franko catches the ball.

James gets into his catcher's position. He shuffles his feet and gets a good ground stance.

JAMES

Give it all you got this time. No holding back.

Franko places his foot on the mound and gets a good foot setting by placing his foot right on the edge of the mound to give himself the stamina he needs to throw his fast ball.

FRANKO

You sure?

JAMES

Bring it!

Now confident, Franko winds up all the way to pitch.

FRANKO

Ok! you asked for it. Here it comes.

Franko throws a hard fast-ball as hard as he can, holding nothing back, as the ball leaves Franko's hand, he slips off the mound (Dry dirt) and falls to the ground (Franko busts his ass).

The ball goes flying over James' head and hits the fence behind home plate. James gets up and runs to the mound to check on Franko.

Franko lies on the ground in agony, feeling like a sore old man as James reaches the pitcher's mound.

James stands over Franko.

JAMES

Are you alright?

FRANKO

Yeah! I just busted my ass.

JAMES

No shit, sourpuss!

Franko looks at James (WTF Face).

James stands over Franko with his hands on his hips.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Cleats!

Franko nods in agreement as he reaches his hand out for assistance to get up.

James laughs at Franko lying on the ground as he reaches out and pulls him up.

JAMES (CONT'D)
If only I had a camera... You'd be trending.

FRANKO
Fifty kay views.

JAMES
Way more! You really busted your ass good.

Franko stands up and brushes himself off.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I told you! It's been along time since you been on the mound.

FRANKO
I stand corrected.

JAMES
you ready to go get some damn cleats now?

FRANKO
That sounds about right.

Franko and James leave the mound and head to the car parked in the parking lot.

INT. SPORTS STORE - DAY

Description: The sports store is a mega super-store complex of all sporting goods (from sports to outdoor life products).

Franko and James enter the sports store. They stop at the inside entrance hub and look around.

FRANKO
Look at this place.

JAMES
Imagine if we had this growing up.

FRANKO
Beats the sports isle at K-Mart.

They read the department signs hanging from the ceiling and find the baseball department section.

JAMES

Ah! Baseball... This way.

They both grab individual shopping carts. Franko and James bump carts (Horse play) as they head to the baseball section.

People in the store look at them like they are crazy.

Juan stands at the cashier register, he is the cashier. He looks over and sees Franko and James bumping carts.

JUAN

Hey! No bumping the carts in the store.

Juan stands firm at his register.

JUAN (CONT'D)

Yeah! I'm talking to you. No bumping, got it?

Franko and James turn to Juan at the register.

FRANKO & JAMES

(Together)

Got it!

Franko and James turn slowly and begin walking to the baseball section.

Juan turns to the customer at the register. The customer tries to act like he is not involved. Juan begins to ring the customer up (shaking his head).

JUAN

You believe these guys?

Franko and James reach the baseball section.

Franko walks to the pants rack and shifts through pants (Eyeing each pair).

James walks to mitts and tries on a catcher's mitt. He punches his hand into the mitt, testing the performance and feel.

Franko slides through a couple more pair of pants and finds a pair he likes. He pulls the pants off the rack and holds them up. He turns to James with the pants in his hands.

FRANKO
What do you think of these?

JAMES
Sweet digs!

Franko folds the pants neatly and gently places the pants in his cart.

James picks up another catcher's mitt. He puts the mitt on and punches his hand into the glove.

FRANKO
How's it feel?

JAMES
Like a glove.

A salesman walks up (The salesman is Joey).

JOEY
Nice glove! you got good taste.

Franko and James are excited to see their good friend Joey (Fist bumps). Joey is happy to assist them.

JOEY (CONT'D)
What's up... fellas?

JAMES
Getting that prep, player.

JOEY
That's what's up. You know what, I got you. Follow me!

James and Franko follow Joey around the store section.

SALESMAN
So, what do we need today?

FRANKO
Pants!

JAMES
Gloves!

FRANKO
Balls!

JAMES
Bats!

JOEY
Anything else?

Franko and James look at each other.

FRANKO & JAMES
(Together)
Cleats!

MONTAGE - SHOPPING FOR GOODS

- Salesman (Joey) shows various sports attire.
- Gloves
- Bats
- Bat donuts
- Batting gloves
- New cutting edge sports tech

- They check out various sporting goods.
- Shopping carts get filled with various sporting goods.
- Final shot: They stand and look at the shoe wall.

END OF MONTAGE

James grabs a pair of bad-ass steel cleats off the wall.

Juan passes by and stops.

JUAN
This is no good.

Juan walks away and heads back to his register.

James is confused. He turns to Joey.

JAMES
What's Juan mean? No good!

Joey inspects the cleat in James hand.

JOEY
It's only one game.

JAMES
So?

Joey takes the cleat from James' hand and puts it back on the shelf.

JOEY

So, why pay this for only one game.
I got something better, something
more universal.

Joey leads them over to a different section in the shoe department. He grabs an athletic (low-top) all purpose rubber cleat outdoor hiking shoe. Joey hands James the shoe.

JAMES

Hiking shoes! Are you kidding me?

JOEY

Universal. All purpose outdoor
athletic shoe.

Joey grabs another demo shoe off the wall and hands it to Franko.

Franko inspects the shoe.

FRANKO

Not bad!

JAMES

You serious?

FRANKO

Joey might actually on to
something.

James reconsider's and looks at the shoe deeper. James nods his head in approval.

Joey grabs two (New) shoe boxes from the shelf. He hands them them the shoe boxes.

JOEY

These will work, and afterwards,
you can use them for other stuff. I
think you'll be more than
satisfied.

JAMES

How much?

Joey points to a sign above the display.

JOEY

Half-off! Look, on sale.

FRANKO & JAMES

(Together)

Nice!

Franko and James place the shoe boxes in their carts.

EXT. SPORTS STORE/PARKING LOT - DAY

Franko and James walk out of the store with their carts full with bags.

FRANKO
I think Joey made his sales quota
today.

James pops his trunk open with a button on his keychain.

Juan & Joey come out of the store entrance door.

JOEY
Good to see you guys. Thanks for
stopping by.

Juan points his finger. (Straight Face)

JUAN
No bumping the carts.

Juan holds his serious face, but shortly smiles with love.

JOEY
See you guys Saturday.

Joey and Juan go back inside the store.

Franko and James walk to the parked car in the parking lot.

FRANKO
Can I ask you something?

JAMES
Shoot!

Franko and James reach the car and put their items in the trunk of the parked car.

FRANKO
How did you know I was home?

JAMES
Thomas called. He told me
everything.

Franko pauses, James closes the trunk.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Don't get worked up. He was just
looking out for you. I got my
concerns too.

FRANKO
About what?

JAMES
If you want to talk... let's walk.

Franko and James walk together to put the carts away in the
parking lot.

JAMES (CONT'D)
You want it straight?

FRANKO
(Sarcastic)
Please! Tell me... what's up?

James shifts his attitude, he gets a little upset with
Franko.

JAMES
What's up? You tell me... What's up
with you, man?

FRANKO
Huh?

Franko's reaction (WTF Face). The two stop in the parking
lot.

JAMES
You don't call no more. You never
come around, and if you don't mind
me asking, did we do something to
piss you off or something?

FRANKO
No!

James shakes his head at Franko's response. He looks up to
the sky. (To the heavens)

JAMES
No! He says.

James looks back at Franko.

JAMES (CONT'D)
I tried to contact you like four
times last last year.
(MORE)

JAMES (CONT'D)

You never returned any of my messages. What's up with that?

FRANKO

My bad!

JAMES

Damn right that's your bad. I don't deserve that shit... At all!

James grabs his empty cart and walks to put the cart away.

Franko follows.

FRANKO

Is this Jerry Springer, or Dr. Phil?

JAMES

Oh! We're way past Springer, maybe Phil can help.

James turns around back at Franko.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Then again... Maybe not.

Franko steps up beside James and they walk together.

FRANKO

Wow! I didn't see this coming.

JAMES

Hey! I'm still here tho... Right?

Franko nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)

You just remember, You find out who your real friends are on bottom.

Franko nods again.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Wife problems... Mid-life drama... Maybe it's not completely rock bottom, but here I am. look around, Franko. We all are, right here, right now... Your friends.

James takes a deep breath and chills out.

They put the carts away and start walking back to the parked car together.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Look, all I'm saying is we don't deserve to be shut out. You been shutting us out for a while. That's all I'm saying.

FRANKO

I hear you.

JAMES

Don't take it the wrong way.

They reach the car.

JAMES (CONT'D)

We just miss you, bro. That's all.

They both get into the car and close the doors.

INT. JAMES CAR - DRIVING - DAY

James drives the car and Franko sits in the passenger seat. The two are silent and very chill.

James makes a right turn.

JAMES

You alright?

FRANKO

Everybody is jumping on my shit.

James adjusts the AC to get a cool breeze going.

JAMES

I'm not jumping on your shit, I'm trying to help you out.

FRANKO

(Sarcastic)

I'm just trying to find myself... Remember?

James makes a left turn.

JAMES

You don't need to find yourself. You just need to be you.

FRANKO

Be me?

JAMES

Yeah... You! Come around more often... Hang out... Do shit!

FRANKO

Do shit?

James shifts lanes.

JAMES

Yeah... Do shit! Quit acting like such a damn sourpuss.

FRANKO

(Sarcastic)

You want me to return your calls?

JAMES

Yes! I want you to return my damn calls. That's not too much trouble for you is it? I wouldn't want to ruin your big plans.

Franko pulls out his phone. He changes James' notifications from off to on. He shows James the screen.

FRANKO

There, I turned on notifications. Cool?

JAMES

Very cool! It's about time.

James checks his mirrors.

FRANKO

Glad we got that straight.

James turns to Franko.

JAMES

Good! Now, you need to get straight with your brother Thomas.

FRANKO

Thomas?

James makes a turn. He turns the wheel sharp.

JAMES

I got mad love for your brother. Maybe you should too, but that's between you two.

FRANKO
Noted! We'll talk.

JAMES
Good! Brother's got big love for
you man.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT/DRIVEWAY - DAY

James' sports car pulls up to the curb of Franko's mom's house and stops.

Franko gets out of car and closes the door. He gets his stuff out of the trunk and walks into Mom's house.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - DAY

Franko walks in the front door with all his stuff from the store. He sets his bags down by the door. Franko looks out the door as he closes it. He waves goodbye to James.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT/DRIVEWAY - DAY

James waves and drives off.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - SUNSET

Mom picks up the phone off the kitchen wall and dials out.

The PHONE RINGS.

Jackie answers the phone on the other end of the line.

JACKIE (V.O.)
Hello.

MOM
Jackie darling... what are you
doing Saturday?

JACKIE (V.O.)
Oh! I don't know.

MOM
You should come. I think you will
like what you see.

JACKIE
Let me think about it.

MOM
Good girl! Momma's here for you
darling... always.

Mom hangs up the phone.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRANKO'S BEDROOM - DAY

NOTE: The next mourning.

Franko lies in his bed sleeping. He wakes up to a knock at his bedroom door.

FRANKO
Who is it?

THOMAS (O.S.)
It's Thomas, you decent?

Franko rolls over and makes himself decent.

FRANKO
Yeah! Come on in.

Thomas opens the door and walks in. He has 3 rolls of coins in his hand. He places the rolls on Franko's dresser.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
What's that?

THOMAS
Coins... for the batting cage.

FRANKO
Batting cage?

THOMAS
I thought you might want to loosen
up, before tomorrow.

Thomas grabs a protein shake from the 12 pack on Franko's dresser and tosses the can to Franko sitting in his bed.

FRANKO
Do you want to come along?

THOMAS
I can't today. I got a date with my
girlfriend.

FRANKO
Wait! You got a girlfriend? When
did this happen?

Thomas leans against the doorway.

THOMAS

Where you been? Yeah! I got a girl.
I've had one for quite some time.
Maybe, if you kept in touch you
would know things like this.

A CAR HORN HONKS outside the window. It's Thomas' girlfriend.

Thomas dashes to the window and looks out the window.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I gotta go. We'll talk after
supper.

Franko eases toward to window trying to get a peak.

FRANKO

Ok! Have fun!

Thomas walks out of the room and closes the door.

THOMAS (O.S.)

Have fun at the cage.

Franko gets up and goes to the window. Franko watches Thomas walk out of the house from his bedroom window.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRONT/DRIVEWAY - DAY

Thomas walks to his girlfriend's car. Thomas' girlfriend gets out of the car to hug and smooch with Thomas. They greet each other and then they both get into the car and drive off.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRANKO'S BEDROOM - DAY

Franko stands at the window looking outside.

FRANKO

Not bad!

Franko turns from the window. He looks at his new baseball gear lying against the wall in shopping bags. He walks to the dresser and picks up the roll of coins on his dresser. He looks at the coins in his hands.

FRANKO (CONT'D)

The cage.

He looks at the clock on the wall. The clock reads,
"10:00AM."

EXT. BATTING CAGES - PARKING LOT - DAY

Franko drives his car into the parking lot and parks his car. He steps out wearing nice sneaker shoes (not cleats), gym pants, and a white T-shirt with the sleeves rolled up. He walks toward the clubhouse shop.

INT. BATTING CAGES - CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Franko walks into the clubhouse. He looks around and walks over to the counter where Chad stands behind the counter.

FRANKO
What's up, Chad?

Chad slides to the back end of the counter, away from Franko.

CHAD
Be with you in one second, Franko.

2 KIDS (little league baseball players) walk out of the back. They trot towards the exit door.

KIDS
(Together)
Later coach.

CHAD
Later guys! Work on that eye
contact. It's all in the eyes boys.

The kids smile as they open the clubhouse door and walk out the door.

Chad slides back from the far edge of the counter. He moves closer to Franko.

CHAD (CONT'D)
I had a feeling you would be
stopping by sooner or later.

They hi-five greet each other.

Franko leans on the counter in front of Chad. He reads the name tag on Chad's shirt, 'Coach Chad.'

FRANKO
Coach?

CHAD
I coach little league now.

FRANKO
No argument there, big Coach Chad.

CHAD
Thanks! You here to hit some balls?

FRANKO
Why not.

Chad points out the window to the batting cage lanes.

CHAD
Lane three is all yours.

Franko grins as he looks back at chad.

FRANKO
My favorite lane.

Chad comes around from behind the counter.

CHAD
Hey! Before you start, come check
this out.

Chad walks Franko into the back office.

In the office, Chad pulls out Franko's old batting cage bat.

Description: The aluminum bat still has small dents and
nick's, but it's still usable.

Chad hands the bat to Franko.

CHAD (CONT'D)
This should bring back some old
memories.

Franko takes his old favorite bat. He grips the handles and
gets a good feel for the bat.

FRANKO
The old man kept it.

Franko looks at the bat holder and sees four other bats. He
raises an eyebrow to Chad.

CHAD
Your not the only one, Franko.

Franko chuckles.

FRANKO
Nice to know.

Chad starts to close up the office.

CHAD

Now, I think lane three is calling
your name.

FRANKO

Well, lets not keep it waiting.

They both exit the office.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - BATTER'S BOX/LANE 3 - DAY

Franko walks to lane 3 and stops at the fence gate. Franko glances at the other cages, the pitching machines, and the field. He puts on his helmet and batting gloves.

Franko steps into the batting cage and pulls out his coin rolls from his pocket. He puts the coins on top of the coin operation machine.

Franko breaks open the first roll and puts his first coin in the machine. He steps to the batting cage plate and takes his stance.

FRANKO

Ok, sourpuss! Let's see what you
got.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the first pitch.

The ball flies toward the plate fast. Franko swings and misses.

FRANKO (CONT'D)

Damn!

Franko gathers himself together for the next pitch. He takes his stance at the plate.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the pitch.

Franko swings hard and completely misses again.

INT. BATTING CAGES - CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Chad stands at his counter. He looks out of the clubhouse window at Franko while he works.

CHAD

Keep your eye on the ball. Let it
come to you.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - BATTER'S BOX/LANE 3 - DAY

Franko stands at the plate ready to bat. He grips his bat tight.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the pitch.

Franko zooms his vision and focuses on the ball coming. The ball flies toward the plate.

Franko swings and HITS (CRACK OF THE BAT&BALL) the ball.

The ball bounces off the ground and hits the pitching machine fence hard.

Franko stands at the plate as he watches the ball.

FRANKO
That's a start.

Franko gets back into his batter stance at the plate.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
You got this, sourpuss.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the pitch.

Franko swings and HITS (CRACK OF THE BAT&BALL) the ball.

A decent hit, the ball flies into the field.

Franko stands at the plate as he watches the ball.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
Decent!

The ball hits the ground out in the field.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the pitch.

Franko stands at the plate not paying attention to the pitching machine. The pitched ball comes unexpectedly WIZZING at Franko while he stands. The ball flies toward Franko.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
Oh, Shit!

Franko jumps back for safety.

The ball misses Franko and hits the fence.

INT. BATTING CAGES - CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Chad stands at the counter inside, watching out the clubhouse window. He laughs at Franko as he watches.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - BATTER'S BOX/LANE 3 - DAY

Franko gathers himself together and steps back to the plate. He takes his batter stance. He grips his bat firmly.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the pitch.

The Ball flies toward the plate.

Franko swings and completely misses.

FRANKO
You gotta be shitting me.

Franko gathers himself together and steps back to the plate. He takes his batter stance.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the pitch.

The Ball flies toward the plate.

Franko swings and HITS (CRACK OF THE BAT&BALL) the ball.

The ball flies into the air.

Franko smiles and quickly resets for the next pitch. He grips his bat and leans his head as he squints his eyes at the machine.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
Not this time, buddy.

The pitching machine cranks back.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
Show me what you got.

The pitching machine turns off (His coins are up).

Franko unsets and stands at ease. He looks at the machine.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
I got all day.

MONTAGE: FRANKO BATS/THE CAGE

Sequence of shots: CLIPS

- Franko hitting balls
- Franko missing balls
- Franko hits pop ups
- Franko hits ground balls
- Coins get fewer
- Chad watches
- Franko hits a monster hit.
- Last shot: The ball flies in the air, lands in deep field.

END OF MONTAGE

Franko stands at the plate after hitting a monster hit. HAND CLAPPING comes from behind the batting cage fence. Franko turns around to look.

Doug & Fredrick stand behind the fence with their kids by their sides. 3 KIDS (all boys). Fredrick has two sons and Doug has one son. They all finish clapping.

FREDRICK

Oh Baby!

DOUG

Nice hit.

Franko steps to the cage fence.

FRANKO

Needs work!

Fredrick grabs the fence with his hands and fingers.

FREDRICK

At least you can admit that.

Franko nods. He sees the children.

FRANKO

So, what's this?

FREDRICK

Next level!

The kids step up to the fence.

Franko lowers his bat and takes a restful stance.

Doug steps to the fence.

FREDRICK (CONT'D)
Franko... meet the kids.

DOUG
Kids... meet Franko.

KID #1
Nice to meet you, Franko.

FRANKO
Nice to meet you.

Franko smiles.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Chad walks out of the Clubhouse and blows his coach whistle.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - BATTER'S BOX/LANE 3 - DAY

Fredrick and Doug gather the kids.

FREDRICK
Alright now, ya'll go with Coach.

DOUG
Be good, and have fun.

The kids walk off toward coach Chad.

Doug cuffs his hands to his mouth (making a bullhorn).

DOUG (CONT'D)
They all yours, Coach!

EXT. BATTING CAGES - CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Chad waves back and confirms.

CHAD
On it!

The kids trot inside the Clubhouse with Coach Chad.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - BATTER'S BOX/LANE 3 - DAY

Fredrick & Doug turn back to Franko through the cage fence.

FRANKO
Looks like Chad is a good coach.

FREDRICK
Chad do his thing, bro.

DOUG
Them kids love Chad. He's good with them.

Fredrick grabs the fence.

FREDRICK
I see you out here gettin' your game up.

Franko gently picks up his bat and grips it.

FRANKO
You guys gonna give me shit too?

DOUG
Hell no!

FREDRICK
You do your thing. Take care of your business.

Fredrick and Doug look at each other proudly, then they both look back at Franko.

FREDRICK (CONT'D)
We respect that shit.

DOUG
One hundred!

FREDRICK
We just like you. Wives... Family... kids!

DOUG
We understand responsibility.

Franko opens the gate door and steps out. He comes around to the guys. They bro hug each other.

FREDRICK
Let me see this bat.

Franko hands Fredrick the baseball bat.

Fredrick takes the bat and grips it good.

Franko turns to Doug.

FRANKO
I think he wants some.

FREDRICK
You good with that?

FRANKO
Oh! I'm good with that.

Franko hands Fredrick his batting helmet.

Fredrick puts on the batting helmet and walks into the cage.
He drops a coin into the coin machine and steps to the plate.

FREDRICK
Let me show you how we do this.

Fredrick plants his feet and takes his batter stance.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the pitch.

The Ball flies toward the plate.

Fredrick swings and completely misses.

Franko and Doug Laugh.

FRANKO
Stay focused! Let it come to you.

Fredrick turns and gives Franko a (Don't try me) eye.
Fredrick is not paying attention to the pitching machine, he
is standing on the plate.

The pitching machine cranks back and throws the pitch.

The ball ZIPS through the air toward Fredrick standing on the
plate with his back turned to the machine.

Fredrick takes the hit from behind and arches his back.
Fredrick is in pain, wobbling his steps, he reaches for his
backside.

FREDRICK
Son of a...

Franko and Doug make a (OH! FACE).

DOUG
Damn!

EXT. BATTING CAGES - CLUBHOUSE - DAY

Chad and the kids stand outside the clubhouse (They were watching). The kids laugh. Chad looks at the kids.

CHAD
See kids, that's exactly why we
always pay attention.

The kids nod (yes) at Chad and his advice.

EXT. BATTING CAGES - BATTER'S BOX/LANE 3 - DAY

Franko and Doug stand at the fence behind Fredrick in the cage.

FRANKO
You ok?

Fredrick stretches and twist his back.

FREDRICK
Yeah! I'm good!

FRANKO
There's no shame in quitting.

Doug taps Franko on the shoulder.

Franko turns to Doug.

DOUG
He ain't gonna quit.

Franko turns back to look at Fredrick.

Fredrick gathers himself together and steps back to the plate. He takes his batter stance and gets ready for the next pitch.

Fredrick looks (hard/tuff) at the pitching machine.

FREDRICK
So, you want to play... Huh!

The pitching machine winds up and pitches the ball.

The ball flies toward the plate.

Fredrick times the ball. He waits for the right moment and then swings and HITS (CRACK OF THE BAT&BALL) the ball.

The ball grounds a line drive to the field.

Fredrick immediately drops the bat and squeezes his hands together.

NOTE: The vibration of the contact (Bat to Ball) stung his hands. It stings.

Fredrick squeezes into fist (Pumping his hands).

Franko and Doug look at each other.

DOUG & FRANKO
(together)
Batting gloves.

Fredrick gives up and walks out of the cage squeezing his hands. The machine pitches a ball behind him. He doesn't care and gives up. He exits the cage.

Franko and Doug stand fence-side.

FRANKO
For the record... It was decent
hit.

FREDRICK
Thank you! At least someone
acknowledges facts around here.

FRANKO
You're welcome.

Doug chuckles.

FREDRICK
Yeah! Tell it to the hand... after
it stops stinging.

Franko gathers his belongings and they all walk toward the clubhouse together.

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - DINING AREA - NIGHT

Franko, Mom, and Thomas sit at the dining table together (they have just finished a nice family dinner). Mom stands up and clears the table. She walks out.

Franko and Thomas both sit at the table.

FRANKO
I guess it's time we talk.

Thomas looks the back porch area.

THOMAS

Porch?

Franko nods.

They both get up from the table.

EXT. MOM'S HOUSE - BACKYARD PORCH - NIGHT

DESCRIPTION: The beautiful backyard grass glows emerald green under the night sky and porch lights. Freshly cut and trimmed grass, all the way to forest tree line. There is a dirt path through the forest and the path entrance can be seen from the porch view. The porch is well light and the deck has carpenter wood flooring and nice wooden benches by the hand rails.

Franko and Thomas step outside of the glass sliding door and sit down on the back porch benches.

FRANKO

How did your date go?

THOMAS

Good! How about the cages?

FRANKO

Just what the doctor ordered.

THOMAS

I thought that might cheer you up.

FRANKO

James told me what you did.

THOMAS

Did he?

FRANKO

It's cool... I get it. Maybe, it's time we talk... for real.

THOMAS

You want to do this now?

FRANKO

Why not? Good of time as any.

Thomas stands up.

THOMAS

Not here.

Franko stands up.

FRANKO

Where?

Thomas looks to the path opening trail in the backyard.

THOMAS

The Spot!

Franko looks at the opening. He turns to the sliding glass door.

FRANKO

I'll get the beers.

Franko walks inside to get the beers.

Thomas opens a box on the wall. He pulls out two flashlights and closes the panel box door.

Franko steps back out onto the porch with a two closed beer bottles. He passes one to Thomas (They do not open the beers).

Thomas hands Franko a flashlight.

THOMAS

Let's go!

Thomas turns on his flashlight.

The two walk toward the forest path opening in the backyard.

EXT. BACKYARD PATH - NIGHT

Franko and Thomas walk the dark path together with their flashlights on, into the forrest. They walk to the end of the path, close to where (The Spot) is located.

FRANKO

This path seems a lot wider than it used to be?

THOMAS

You noticed.

FRANKO

So, it's not just me?

THOMAS

That was a fun day. You really missed out.

Franko looks around.

Thomas flashes his flashlight to The Spot area.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

There it is.... Wait til you see
this.

They reach The Spot. Franko and Thomas step off the path.

EXT. THE SPOT - NIGHT

DESCRIPTION: The Spot is a place where Franko and Thomas used to go as kids. Memories of their childhood. The Spot was just a dirt patch on the shoreline of a creek that ran thru the woods of their backyard. It's not a big creek, but nice enough to hold some small minnow-size trout and crawfish. Thomas has now renovated the area. The Spot is now up to date and looks nice.

Thomas and Franko approach The Spot.

Thomas walks over to a round wood pole that's wired up electrically. He opens a box panel and flips a switch.

Two lights placed high up on the tree poles, turn on just enough to light the spot with a orangish red camp-fire light setting.

Franko looks around and sees a new wood deck overlooking the creek (nicely polished), hand rails, chairs, and a wooden coffee table between the chairs.

FRANKO

You did all this?

THOMAS

What do you think? You like It?

Thomas reaches out his beer to toast Franko.

Franko is happy to oblige and the two toast (tap bottles). They both pop open their beers and take a big sip of their fresh ice cold beers.

Thomas walks to the chairs and sits down comfortably.

Franko joins and takes his seat. He looks around the place.

FRANKO

This new spot rocks!

Thomas leans back comfortably.

THOMAS

We had to widen the path to get this lumber in. You should have been here. Man, you have missed out on so much lately.

Franko takes a sip of his beer and leans back.

FRANKO

I don't mean to!

THOMAS

I know!

Thomas puts his drink down on the table.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Let me ask you something. Look at me... Tell me, what do you see?

FRANKO

I see my brother.

THOMAS

You see your little brother.

Franko pauses.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

What you don't see... is a grown man. A responsible adult who loves his family and his friends.

FRANKO

And apparently has a girlfriend.

THOMAS

Smoking hot girlfriend!

They both chuckle.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

Seriously, do you think I'm some grown ass man who lives at home off his mother?

FRANKO

I've never said that, ever.

THOMAS

You don't have to, but I got news for you buddy. I'm not that guy.

FRANKO

But... You do live at home with
mom.

Thomas grabs his beer off the table and stands up.

THOMAS

Did it ever occur to you. Maybe...
I like living at home.

FRANKO

Nope! Who the hell wants to live at
home with their parents?

Franko sips laughing sarcastically.

Thomas raises his eye to Franko, Trying to hold a straight
face... he can't do it. He chuckles in laughter.

They both settle down after laughing.

THOMAS

Hey! Just so you know, mom's cool.
She's a lot of fun to be around.

FRANKO

Don't make me jealous now.

THOMAS

But... I don't live off her. I do
have a job. Heck, I probably make
more money than you do.

Franko sips his beer and places the bottle on the table.

FRANKO

I doubt that.

Thomas sits back down and sets his beer down.

THOMAS

What do you pull a year?

FRANKO

I would say I do Ok. Round about
sixty a year. How about you? What
do you make?

THOMAS

Around one twenty... Easy!

Franko is shocked.

FRANKO
Seriously, what do you do?

THOMAS
I write loans for the hospital. I
took a course online. I'm living
nice, man. It's a good job, and...
I get to help people.

Thomas picks up his beer, leans back, and sips.

Franko stands up and walks to the rails over-looking the
creek.

Thomas puts his beer back on the table.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
You know when you left...

Franko turns and looks at Thomas.

Thomas leans forward.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
It was great.

Franko pauses and stands confused.

FRANKO
Wait... It was what?

Thomas stands up.

THOMAS
Great!

Thomas smiles at Franko.

Franko leans his back against the hand rails.

Thomas walks to the rail and joins Franko side by side.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
For the first time in my life, it
was just mom and me. I got to step
up and be the man around here. It
really felt great.

FRANKO
HUH?

Thomas leans over and picks up a stone off the ground.

THOMAS
Don't you get it?

FRANKO
Get what?

THOMAS
I'm here... So, you can be there.

Thomas tosses and skips the stone down the creek.

Franko leans over to pick up a stone for himself.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Do you really think you could be
where you are now, if mom needed
you?

Franko, bent over with a stone off the ground in his hand,
turns around to look at Thomas.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
No! You couldn't.

Franko stands up with the his stone in his hand.

FRANKO
Good point!

Franko tosses and skips his stone down the creek.

The stone skips down creek.

THOMAS
All I'm saying is... Me, being
here... Maybe... not so bad!

Thomas and Franko both lean against the railing and sip beer.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
The question right now is... where
are you?

Franko jokingly gets hyped up (Playful) and raises his hands
in the air. He shouts.

FRANKO
I'm at THE SPOT... Bitch.

Thomas chuckles, he can't resist.

They both settle down.

THOMAS

Do you remember your wedding day.
Right before you left to the city
with Jackie.

FRANKO

My wedding day?

THOMAS

Right here! Do you remember what
you said?

Franko thinks and ponders as he tries to remember.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

I do!

Thomas leans close and wraps his arm around Franko.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You said, life's too short, live
every moment while you still can.
Don't waste a single moment.

Franko smiles with ease and peace of mind (he remembers).

THOMAS (CONT'D)

The moment you arrived, I could see
it all over your face. But...
then... I remembered.

Thomas unwraps his arm around Franko and leans back.

FRANKO

What?

Thomas looks at Franko with brotherly love and compassion.

THOMAS

Your my brother, Franko.

Franko smiles with appreciation.

THOMAS (CONT'D)

You always had my back. Now, maybe
it's my turn to get yours.

FRANKO

Well said.

They both lean back and sip beer.

THOMAS

I don't want to see you miserable.
So, I called the guys. I thought it
might help.

Franko points his finger at Thomas with the beer still in his hand.

FRANKO

It did... A lot!

THOMAS

Maybe, now you can start seeing me
for who I truly am. More than just
your little brother.

Franko nods. He turns to the creek and spots a small fish jumping in the water.

FRANKO

Remember fishing in this creek.

Thomas turns as he overlooks the creek.

THOMAS

I wouldn't eat a damn thing that
came out any of these creeks these
days.

They both laugh while looking at the creek together. They stand over-looking the creek and sip beer together.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

NOTE: SATURDAY/GAME DAY

INT. MOM'S HOUSE - FRANKO'S BATHROOM/BEDROOM - DAY

MONTAGE - FRANKO GEARS UP

-- Franko wakes up
-- Gets a shower
-- Brushes his teeth
-- Combs his hair
-- Gets dressed (in game clothes)
-- Preps/Prepares his gear
-- Last shot: Franko stands (dressed) in front of a mirror with his gear in his bag (over his shoulder).

FRANKO
Let's play ball!

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Franko drives into the parking lot with his MUSIC BLASTING (playing loud). He bounces his head to the music, looks cool, and shows off for his friends. He parks his car.

James drives into the parking lot with his top down. He cruises around the parking lot playfully (shouting out, having fun, ready for a good time).

JAMES
Oh yeah, baby! It's about to go down.

Franko throws his pointer finger to James. He points his finger and nods his head (It's a bro thing).

James points back to Franko and nods as well. James parks his car right next to Franko's car.

The whole gang (group) comes together in the parking lot.
They all grab their gear and head for baseball field.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

The group walks to the dugout and places their gear down (in the dugout). After everyone is situated, they gather in a huddle outside of the dugout (ball field side).

JAMES
Everybody remember the rules?

JUAN
Three outs and you're out.

DOUG
Anything not a home run is a out.

FREDRICK
Including fouls and tips.

CHAD
Three strikes at the plate...
counts as one out.

JUAN
Three outs and you're out.

FRANKO
A home run counts as one point.

JAMES
Whoever has the most points at the
end of the game, wins.

JUAN
Three outs... and you're out, baby.

Mikey leans forward to the center of the huddle.

MIKEY
Alright! Everybody, hands in...
Let's go.

The group puts their hands together in the huddle.

GROUP
(chants)
1,2,3, Let's go!

They break from the huddle and take to the field.

Description: THE LINE-UP/Roster

Franko - Pitcher
James - Catcher
Doug - Infield between 1st & 2nd base
Fredrick - infield between 2nd & 3rd base
Mikey - Left field
Juan - Center Field
Chad - Right field
Joey - Subs for whoever's batting

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Behind the home-run fence is a row a residential houses. In one of the homes is a guy named INDO, 42, originally from India.

Indo steps outside of his sliding back door. On his back porch, he sees the guys take the field.

INDO

No... No way! Are you kidding me?

Indo grabs a nearby chair and sits to watch.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko and James walk towards home plate together. As they take the field, Franko looks to the outfield and sees Indo.

FRANKO

Holy shit! Is that Indo?

James looks to the outfield.

JAMES

Oh! That's definitely Indo.

Franko and James reach home plate together. James reaches out to hand Franko the game ball (baseball).

FRANKO

This just got interesting.

James slaps the game ball into Franko's glove.

JAMES

Hey! This was your idea.

Franko chuckles.

FRANKO

Let's play some ball.

JAMES

That's what we came to do.

Franko walks away toward the pitcher's mound.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo sits in his chair, he hasn't been this excited in years. Like a child at a circus, he sits (Smiling). He claps his hands like a fan at ball game.

INDO

Ok! Let's Play ball.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Mikey takes left field in the outfield, near Indo.

MIKEY

Yo, Indo! What's up, buddy? Long time no see.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo stops smiling. His face turns pale. He swallows nervously after looking at Mikey now.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

James stands at home plate. He raises his arms and shouts.

JAMES

Let's play some ball, fella's.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo stands up.

INDO

Yes! Let's play some ball... Let the ball play begin.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

The of the guys (ALL) turn and look at Indo confused. (WTF Face)

Juan cuffs his hands like a bullhorn to his lips.

JUAN
Yo Indo... I got your ball play
right here, buddy.

Juan grabs his nuts (Private parts) and pushes his pelvis at
Indo.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo's face changes. (Indo's WTF face)

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Everybody laughs at Indo's expression.

Franko stands on the pitcher's mound looking at Indo. He
turns to James at the plate.

FRANKO
Some things never change.

James stands on home plate.

JAMES
Let's hope not. You ready?

Franko prepares to pitch. (Loosens up)

FRANKO
Ready!

James squats into position.

Joey (first batter up) steps into the batter's box and takes
his stance at the plate.

James sets himself. He looks up at Joey.

JAMES
These cleats are amazing.

Joey looks down.

JOEY
Told ya!

JAMES
Ok! Get ready... Here it comes,
Joey.

Franko winds-up for the first pitch. He pitches the ball. The
pitch is way outside (Not even close to the plate).

James lunges to catch the bad pitch. The ball bounces off the dirt and hits the fence behind the plate. James rushes to retrieve the ball.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo jumps up out of his seat.

INDO
Last time Franko found a plate...
Was at momma's dinner table.

He laughs to himself.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Mikey (in the outfield) looks at Indo.

MIKEY
You Ok, bro?

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo stops laughing. He quietly hesitates and calmly sits back down.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko catches the ball thrown back by from James. He talks to himself as he settles on the mound.

FRANKO
C'mon, Franko! Just get the damn
ball over the damn plate.

Franko settles down. He winds up and pitches the ball. The pitch is decent, the ball flies over the plate.

Joey swings and hits the ball.

The ball flies to center field. The ball bounces off the home-run fence (No home-run).

James stands up at the plate. (Next to batter Joey)

JAMES
Out! That's one, Joey!

Joey looks at James.

JOEY
Not too bad... for my first hit.

James squats back down and takes his catcher's stance.

MONTAGE - JOEY AT BAT

-- Franko pitches
-- Joey misses (strike)
-- Franko pitches
-- Joey hits grounder line drive (Grounds out)
-- Franko pitches
-- Joey hits home run (Right field)
-- Franko pitches
-- FINAL SHOT: Joey misses (Strike 3 - 3rd out)

END OF MONTAGE

Joey stands at home plate.

James stands up with the ball in his glove.

JAMES
I love you like a brother, but
that's strike three... You're out!

Joey walks off.

James takes off his catcher's mitt (His hand stings). He flexes his fingers.

Franko looks on.

FRANKO
You alright?

JAMES
Yeah! Give me a sec...

FRANKO
You got it.

James clenches his fist.

Chad stands in right field and shouts to James.

CHAD

There you go. Squeeze it out.

James nods at chad. He puts back on his catcher's mitt. He punches his fist into his glove and gets a good feel.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo sits in his chair eager to shout something, he can't resist.

INDO

You want some flapjacks to go with that batter?

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Doug, in the infield, turns around toward Indo (WTF FACE). He turns to Fredrick.

DOUG

Oh hell naw! I know Indo ain't talking no shit.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo sits proud, like a child, and smiles.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Juan steps into the batter's box and takes his batting stance.

Franko winds up and pitches. A nice pitch over the plate.

Juan swings and hits the ball perfect. (NICE HIT)

The ball flies high into the air. Wait! The The ball flies hard and fast in Indo's direction.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo suddenly sees the ball coming. He notices it's coming right at him. He freezes for a moment. (Freeze Face)

The ball comes directly at Indo (hard & fast).

Indo leans to the side. He dodges the ball in a near miss, but completely falls over out of his chair.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Juan stands at the plate, he looks at Indo. He shouts to Indo in the outfield.

JUAN
Knock, knock!

James looks up at Juan.

JAMES
Who's there?

Juan looks down at James.

JUAN
Oh! He's not going to be there for
a while... Now.

James chuckles.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo gets up. He brushes himself off and shouts to players on the field.

INDO
I'm ok.

Indo picks up the baseball and throws it back.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

James stands up at home plate and shouts.

JAMES
That's one for Juan.

James pats Juan on the back.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Nice hit.

JUAN
I missed!

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo picks up his chair, sets it back up, and sits down.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko stands on the mound. He chuckles.

FRANKO

Now, that's entertainment.

Chad walks out of the dugout with his bat. He steps to home plate. He taps his cleats with his bat. He steps into the batter's box and he takes his stance.

MONTAGE - CHAD AT BAT

-- Franko pitches

-- Chad hits a nice home run

-- Franko pitches

-- Chad hits fowl ball

-- Chad hits another home run

-- Franko pitches

-- Chad hits grounder to Fredrick (Fredrick makes the play)

-- Franko pitches

-- Chad hits third home run

-- Franko pitches

-- Chad hits pop up

-- LAST SHOT: Mikey catches (Makes the play)

END OF MONTAGE

Mikey Throws the ball to Franko, and shouts the Chad.

MIKEY

I see working at the cage has its
benefits.

Franko catches the ball on the mound.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo stands up and claps, a round of applause for Chad.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Mikey joins Indo's hand clap, he claps his hands as well.

MIKEY

That's the spirt. Way to go, Chad.

Franco walks to home plate to talk to James.

James stands at the plate.

JAMES

Who's next?

FRANKO

Beats me!

JAMES

Do you think you're ready for the big guy.

FRANKO

Why not!

Franco cups his hand like a bullhorn and shouts to Mikey in the outfield.

FRANKO (CONT'D)

Mikey... You're next big guy.

Mikey stands in left field and shouts back.

MIKEY

Here I come, Baby.

Mikey runs to home plate.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo Pulls out an umbrella and opens it. He makes a shield with his umbrella.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Mikey steps into the batter's box with his bat. He takes his stance. He looks at Franco on the mound.

MIKEY

Let's see what you got... Sourpuss!

James chuckles.

Franko stands on the mound.

FRANKO

You want some sweet and sour to go
with that fried chicken.

James looks up at Mikey.

JAMES

You gonna let him talk to you like
that?

Mikey looks at James in his catcher's position.

MIKEY

I Like my protein shake just The
way it is.

James shuffles his feet, gets a good stance.

JAMES

Fitness is twenty-five percent
workout. Seventy-five percent diet.

Mikey pats James on the back. (Bro Pat)

MIKEY

Hey... You learned. I'm proud of
you, buddy.

Mikey gets back into his batter stance.

James reaches out his glove.

Franko winds-up and pitches. A Fast ball right over the
plate.

Mikey swings and misses, Strike one.

Franko winds-up and pitches. Another Fast ball right over the
plate.

Mikey swings and misses, Strike two.

James pulls the ball out of his catcher's mitt.

JAMES

When's the last time you worked out
those eyes, Mikey.

Mikey looks down at James.

MIKEY

Ha! Ha! Very funny.

James throws the ball back Franko on the mound.

Mikey gets into his batter stance.

MIKEY (CONT'D)
That's not be a bad idea. A
simulator in the gym might do the
trick.

Franko winds-up and pitches. He throws the fastest stinger
fast ball right over the plate.

Mikey swings and misses, Strike three.

James catches the ball in his mitt and the dust flies in the
catch.

JAMES
Out! That's one, Mikey.

James' hand stings, he takes his mitt off and clenches his
fist.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo comes out of his house with a Drone. He flies the Drone
into the air. (He flies it with a remote control).

EXT. THE BACKLOT

Fredrick sees Indo flying the drone and shouts out.

FREDRICK
Hold on! Time out!

Indo's drone is flying around the outfield. All the players
are looking at the drone flying around.

Joey (Subbing for Mikey) in the outfield walks closer to
Indo.

JOEY
Indo... What are you doing, man?

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo stands on his porch with his drone remote in his hands.
He looks at Joey.

INDO
Putting something in the air.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko laughs on the mound.

Mikey steps back into the batter's box.

MIKEY

I'll put something in the air.

James gets ready.

JAMES

Ladies and gentle, let the show
begin.

Franko winds up and throws a nice pitch over the plate.

Mikey swings and hits the ball. (it's a Pop up)

The ball goes straight up. (High up)

Mikey and James both look up.

MIKEY

Shit!

James stands up to catch the ball. He goes all-pro on the attempt to catch the pop up.

Mikey (joking around) begins to wrestle with James for the ball (total interference horseplay). Mikey tries to block James from catching the ball.

The ball flies in the air as they wrestle back-n-forth.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo pulls out a fly swatter and swings it around in the air.

INDO

Get... Out... Of... Here... Shew!

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

James and Mikey wrestle for the fly ball.

JAMES

No cheating. No cheating... Mikey.

Mikey laughs, he enjoys frustrating James and he still pushes him.

James stands his ground and pushes back. James reaches out his catcher's mitt. James catches the ball.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Ha! I still caught it. That's two... Mikey.

Mikey releases James.

MIKEY
Lucky catch!

They walk back toward the plate.

JAMES
Should count as three.

Mikey turns around.

MIKEY
Hey! No cheating... James.

James throws the ball back to Franko.

Franko catches the ball and stands on the mound.

FRANKO
Shall we wait til the dance is over, fella's?

James and Mikey walk stand at home plate.

MIKEY
Hey James, Look! Sourpuss got jokes.

They both look at Franko.

JAMES
Ha! ha! Very funny.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo dances to some (classical) MUSIC. (The Indo waltz)

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

James and Mikey stand at the plate looking at Indo.

MIKEY
Does that guy ever change?

JAMES
This is probably the most fun that
guy has had in a long time.

MIKEY
I'm with you on that.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo dances to some (classical) MUSIC. The MUSIC speeds up.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

MONTAGE - FREDRICK & DOUG AT BAT

NOTE: INDO Waltz MUSIC Plays - Indo dances Randomly (CLIPS)

-- Franko pitches
-- Doug hits a home run
-- Franko pitches
-- Fredrick hits the ball
-- Chad catches a fly ball
-- Franko pitches
-- Doug hits a home run
-- Fredrick hits a home run
-- Franko pitches
-- Juan makes a great catch play
-- Franko pitches
-- Fredrick misses (STRIKE)
-- Doug hits a home run into Indo's backyard
-- Indo throws the ball back
-- Franko pitches
-- James catches
-- LAST SHOT: Fredrick hits a home run.

END OF MONTAGE - MUSIC STOPS

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

James stands at home plate and shouts.

JAMES
Who's next?

Franko walks to home plate.

James takes off his mitt and places it under his arm.

JAMES (CONT'D)
What's up?

FRANKO
I got an idea.

JAMES
Shoot!

Franko turns toward Indo in the outfield and shouts.

FRANKO
Indo!

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo sits comfortably with a drink in his hand.

FRANKO (O.S.)
C'mon, your next.

Indo stands up (completely shocked). He looks around. He does not know quite how to respond. He looks back at Franko and points to himself.

INDO
I... Play?

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko stands by James waving Indo to come.

FRANKO
Yeah! You play... Come on!

EXT. THE BACKLOT/INDO'S PORCH - DAY

Indo stands with excitement.

INDO

I play!

Super excited (almost not knowing what to do). Indo puts his drink away. He moves closer to the home run fence.

INDO (CONT'D)

I play!

He jumps over the fence and onto the field.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko waves Indo to come bat.

All the guys clap for Indo and cheer him on as he runs to home plate.

MIKEY

You got this, Indo.

James and Franko stand at home plate.

JAMES

Does this guy even know how to play?

Franko places his hand on James' shoulder.

FRANKO

Who cares!

Doug joins Franko and James at home plate.

DOUG

He's watched us for years. He's got to know something.

They look at Indo coming.

Franko Releases his hand from James.

FRANKO

We're not kids anymore. Let the guy have some fun.

JAMES

Right on! Let's make his day.

DOUG

True that!

Doug trots back to his position.

Indo runs to home plate excited. He stops in front of Franko and James.

INDO
My names Eddy... By the way.

James hands Indo the bat.

JAMES
Nobody gives a shit, Indo.

Franko pats Indo on the back.

FRANKO
You're up big guy!

Franko walks back to the mound.

Indo and James stand at the plate. Indo looks at James.

INDO
So, what do I do?

JAMES
You bat!

Indo crouches down in the batter's box.

INDO
This changes everything.

Indo is excited. He swings the bat and gets a feel for the bat. He likes it.

James is nervous with Indo swinging the bat.

JAMES
Just take it easy. Eye on the ball.
When you feel it... Swing.

James shuffles his feet and gets into position.

Indo holds his bat like a star wars lightsaber.

INDO
Use the force.

James smiles at Indo's silliness. He looks up at Indo.

JAMES
May the force be with you.

Indo is ready. He takes his batting stance.

Franko winds up and pitches. He throws a nice lob pitch over the plate.

Indo swings and hits the ball. (He smashes the ball).

The ball flies over the home run fence.

Indo stands proud with a big smile on his face.

Doug looks at Fredrick in the infield. (SHOCK FACE)

DOUG
Indo can Hit.

Fredrick looks back.

FREDRICK
Ain't that some shit.

The ball comes flying back to Franko on the mound. Franko catches the ball on the mound. He turns to Indo at home plate.

FRANKO
Nice hit!

MONTAGE - INDO AT BAT

-- Franko pitches
-- Indo hits home run
-- Franko Pitches
-- Indo hits the ball
-- Joey makes the catch
-- Franko pitches
-- Indo hits a home run
-- Franko pitches
-- Indo hits a pop up
-- LAST SHOT: Doug makes a great catch.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

A car pulls into the parking lot and parks. The car door opens. Jackie (Franko's wife) steps out of the car.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Chad sees Jackie. He waves to her.

CHAD
Hey, Jackie!

Franko (on the pitcher's mound) hears Chad. He turns and looks over at Jackie standing in the parking lot.

FRANKO
Time out!

James stands up.

JAMES
Go ahead! It's all you, man.

Franko runs toward the parking lot.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Franko trots over to greet Jackie. He reaches his arms out to greet her with a hug.

Jackie reaches her arms out as well.

Franko wraps his arms around Jackie and kisses her. He leans back and looks at her (still in his arms).

FRANKO
What in the world are you doing
here?

JACKIE
Your mom called.

Franko smiles.

FRANKO
Good ole' mom.

Jackie smiles.

Franko releases his hug. He eyes Jackie's outfit get-up. Franko finds her outfit, jokingly distasteful.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
Damn girl! What... In the hell are
you wearing?

Jackie puts a serious face on. (WTF FACE)

JACKIE
Seriously?

Franko chuckles.

FRANKO
I'm starting to see what you're
saying. Do you need a week to...
find yourself.

JACKIE
Oh! No you didn't.

Franko laughs (Burst out laughing). He comes in for a kiss.

FRANKO
Oh! Yes I did.

Jackie smiles.

He kisses her. Franko whispers in her ear.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
We're definitely going shopping
later.

Jackie puts on a big smile and flaunts flirtasigouly.

JACKIE
I like the sound of that.

FRANKO
If you like that, You're going to
love this.

Franko looks at Jackie, while he holds her.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
You were right... about everything.

He kisses her on the cheek.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
No more sourpuss... promise.

She squeezes him back.

JACKIE
I missed you.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

James stands at home plate next to Indo.

JAMES
Hey Indo, do you think they got a
hallmark card for this?

Indo laughs.

INDO
They got a card for everything.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/SIDELINE BLEACHERS - DAY

Franko walks Jackie to the bleacher stands. Jackie sits.
Franko leans in, towards Jackie.

FRANKO
We're almost done.

Franko leans in even closer.

FRANKO (CONT'D)
Hey... Jackie.

JACKIE
What?

FRANKO
That's a terrible cheerleaders
outfit.

Franko laughs and trots back to the field.

Suddenly, all of the wives, kids, and friends come walking
over to the bleacher seats. They join Jackie and sit down to
watch the game. They all sit down in the bleachers.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

The guys are all standing around the infield.

DOUG
Do you see what you done started?

FREDRICK

That's fam bro... They can watch
all day. Bout time they showed up.

James steps into the circle of guys.

JAMES

Maybe, it's time we open up to some
changes, fella's.

The group nods and agrees.

Doug shakes his head at the group.

DOUG

Thanks for making me feel like
shit.

Juan wraps his arm around Doug.

JUAN

Anytime, homie!

They all laugh.

Franko runs up to the group in the infield.

FRANKO

Ok... Let's finish this.

They break from their group huddle and take to the field.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

A car door opens in the parking lot.

Thomas gets out of his car wearing his softball team uniform.

Thomas' girlfriend is also with him. She gets out of the car
too.

Thomas and his girl walk 'LIKE A BOSS' towards the field.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko and James stand at the mound. (Looking at Thomas)

EXT. THE BACKLOT/SIDELINE BLEACHERS - DAY

Thomas' girlfriend sits in the bleachers. She joins the
others.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Thomas walks out of the dugout and onto the field. Thomas turns to everybody and shouts out.

THOMAS
This one's mine.

Indo walks up and attempts to give Thomas the game ball (baseball).

Thomas pulls out his Softball from his mitt. He holds the ball in front of Indo's face.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
Thanks! But I brought my own today,
buddy.

Thomas puts the softball back in his glove. He pats Indo on the shoulder, and walks to the mound.

Franko and James stand at the mound. James looks at his catcher's mitt.

FRANKO
What's up?

JAMES
Softball!

FRANKO
Softball?

JAMES
You do know your lil bros' team is
the softball league champions?

Franko looks at James.

FRANKO
Really?

James pats Franko the back.

JAMES
Lil bro's got skills.

James walks off to home plate.

Thomas walks up.

Franko stands at the mound.

THOMAS
This has been coming for a long
time. Today... it comes.

FRANKO
Not today lil Brother.

THOMAS
New rules! You get one out.
Champs rules!

FRANKO
Game on! Bring it!

THOMAS
Now... It's my time.

FRANKO
If you say so.

MONTAGE - FRANKO FINDS HIMSELF

POV - Franks View - Visual Perspective

SLOW MOTION Caption: (Play (MOOD) MUSIC - SOFT)

- Franko looks around.
- He sees his best friend playing catcher.
- His wife in the stands.
- His family cheering.
- All of his friends in the field.
- (Most of all) he sees his brother take the mound.

NOTE: In this very moment, Franko has found himself. His own
personal true happiness. Something that makes him truly
happy. Just having fun with everyone he loves in one moment.

- Thomas looks at Franko and smiles.
- LAST SHOT: Franko smiles.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko steps into the batter's box.

James gets into his catcher's position.

JAMES

And now ladies and gentlemen... the
moment we have all been waiting
for.

Franko looks down to James.

FRANKO

I like it!

Franko lifts his head and takes his batter stance.

Thomas stands on the mound.

Thomas places his pitching hand over the top of the softball
to give his pitch a spiral (Spinning downward to the ground)
motion.

Thomas winds up for the pitch. He pitches the ball (Softball
underhand). The ball leaves Thomas' hand.

The softball floats in the air perfectly (Spirals in a
downward motion). The ball floats so high in the air. it gets
lost in the flares of the sunlight.

POV - FRANKO'S VIEW - VISUAL PERSPECTIVE

-- Franko sees the softball come out of the sun glare.

END OF POV

Franko grips his bat tight. He puts his bat all the way
behind him for a mighty swing.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/SIDELINE BLEACHERS - DAY

Everyone cheers Franko on.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko swings with all his might. He hits the ball.

The spiral is too much force for Franko, the ball grounds.
The ball bounces off the dirt (dust cloud).

The ball bounces right towards Thomas on the mound.

Thomas catches the ball in his glove after it bounces off the
ground. Thomas (with the ball caught in his glove) looks at
Franko and shouts.

THOMAS
You're out!

Franko smiles at Thomas on the mound.

FRANKO
Nice pitch!

Thomas points his finger at Franko.

THOMAS
Thanks! I had a good teacher.

James stands up and shouts out.

JAMES
That's game boys!

EXT. THE BACKLOT/SIDELINE BLEACHERS - DAY

The crowd cheers. (Everyone cheers)

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko walks to meet Thomas on the mound. He opens his arms to give his little brother, a brotherly hug.

James Sees the bro hug.

JAMES
Bro-hug. Oh! I'm so in.

James runs to the mound.

Franko and Thomas bro-hug on the mound.

James runs in and joins.

All the players run up and join in.

In the middle of this amazing Bromance group hug and bouncing around, Franko embraces his little brother.

FRANKO
It's your time!

THOMAS
No! Maybe... It's our time.

Franko wraps his arm around Thomas.

FRANKO

Our time... I like that.

Everyone starts jumping around. celebrating absolutely nothing, for no reason, as if they won the world series, which makes no sense, but let's sell it anyways.

They all jump for joy.

Oh what the heck, the crowd in the stands comes onto the field to joins in as well. Everybody jumps for joy together.

Suddenly, a POLICE SIREN.

They all stop and look to the parking lot.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

OFFICER CHARLE (Middle age male cop) Steps out of his squad car with his bullhorn in his hand. He clicks the button and puts the device to his mouth.

OFFICER CHARLEY

You guys don't mind if I ask what's going on here?

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Everyone stands together as a group.

James steps outside the group circle towards the officer.

JAMES

Just playing the most awesome game of home run derby ever, officer.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Officer Charlie makes a confused face. (WTF FACE)

OFFICER CHARLEY

Home run derby.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Franko steps out next to James.

FRANKO

We're residents here. We all live in the neighborhood.

Thomas steps out. (He knows the officer)

THOMAS
No trouble here, Charlie.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Officer Charley is pleased. (He knows Thomas)

OFFICER CHARLEY
(Bullhorn)
Ok! sounds good... I was just
checking on ya!

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Thomas walks toward to dugout.

THOMAS
Thanks Charley.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Officer Charlie puts his bullhorn away.

OFFICER CHARLEY
Good to see you, Thomas.

Charlie gets back into his car.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

The group starts heading towards the dug out.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Charlie (now in his squad car) rolls his window down.

OFFICER CHARLEY
Make sure you guys clean everything
up before you go.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - DAY

Juan salutes officer Charley.

EXT. THE BACKLOT - PARKING LOT - DAY

Officer Charlie drives off.

EXT. THE BACKLOT/SIDELINE BLEACHERS - DAY

The group stands by the bleacher area.

Franko wraps his arm around Jackie. Franko turns to the group.

FRANKO

Hey... guys... What do you say we
all go to Riverside... On me?

JAMES

Oh! Hell yeah!

Everyone cheers. Everyone is excited to go to Riverside.

Jackie looks at Franko.

JACKIE

What's Riverside?

Franko looks at Jackie.

FRANKO

You'll love it.

James butts in.

JAMES

Hottest place in town.

Jackie turns back to Franko.

JACKIE

Hottest place in town?

Franko kisses Jackie on the cheek.

FRANKO

The best!

They all clean up their stuff.

Franko wraps his arm around Both Jackie and Thomas while walking. Franko looks at Thomas.

FRANKO (CONT'D)

Hey! I found it.

Thomas wraps his arm back around Franko.

THOMAS
Found what?

FRANKO
Myself!

Thomas looks at Franko. Inspects him.

THOMAS
Yeah, you look like you found it!

Franko smiles.

Thomas smiles back. He looks at Jackie and winks at her.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
She knew you would.

Franko turns to the group walking.

FRANKO
Now... It's our time.

Indo creeps into the group.

INDO
Me too.

James wraps his arm around Indo.

JAMES
You too... Eddy!

Indo smiles.

They all walk to their cars. They get into their cars and drive off.

THE END