

# The Curse of the Cubs

## EXT. CAFÉ PATIO - DAY

*STEVE sits at a table. Reads sports page. Wears "CUBS" jacket. NOLAN, a homeless bum, grabs the rest of the paper.*

NOLAN: You reading this part of the paper?

STEVE: No...go ahead. I just need the sports page.

NOLAN: Anything exciting?

STEVE: Yeah! The Cubs are making a run for it. They might actually win a pennant.

NOLAN: So?

STEVE: So? It could be their first World Series appearance in over 50 years!

NOLAN: Big deal. *(sitting down, uninvited)* Every time the Cubs win a pennant, tragedy strikes.

STEVE: What are you talking about?

NOLAN: 1945. It was their last pennant, right?

STEVE: Yeah?

NOLAN: It was a war year. *(leans in)* The real players were in Europe. Fighting the Germans.

STEVE: A pennant is a pennant!

NOLAN: What about 1929? The Cubs win the title, then BAM – The Great Depression!

STEVE: You can't blame that on the Cubs.

NOLAN: Oh, I suppose it was all Hoover's fault.

STEVE: What about the thirties? The Cubs had quite a dynasty back then. Charlie Root. Hack Wilson.

NOLAN: What? With all the turmoil overseas? How could the other players concentrate? They had ancestors in the Old World.

STEVE: What turmoil?

NOLAN: Hitler.

STEVE: What!

NOLAN: He was making his rise to power.

STEVE: Now you're really stretching it.

NOLAN 1932? Hitler received his German citizenship. 1935? Germany repudiated the "Treaty of Ver-Sails".

STEVE: Versailles?

NOLAN: (firmly) Ver-sails! 1938? The Nazis moved into Austria, making war inevitable.

STEVE: What's your point?

NOLAN: Every incident coincided with the Cubs winning the pennant.

STEVE: Thanks for the history lesson, but I don't see the connection.

NOLAN: A mere coincidence? I think not. The pattern has been unfolding since the beginning of baseball.

STEVE: Please.

NOLAN: 1918? Another Chicago pennant. Another war year!

STEVE: You're really starting to tick me off.

NOLAN: Then there was 1910. The Cubs win the pennant, and Congress passes the "Mann Act", prohibiting the transportation of women across state lines for immoral purposes.

STEVE: I can't wait to see this logic.

NOLAN: How could all the other players reach their peak performance levels unless they...(gesturing)...you know?

*STEVE folds his paper. Prepares to leave.*

STEVE: I've heard enough.

NOLAN: Wait! I haven't even gotten to their pennant of 1908? They outlawed the spitball that year, changing the game forever. And the year before that – "The Financial Panic of 1907".

STEVE: (*glances at watch, stands*) Oh...look at that. I'm late for my meeting.

NOLAN: (*grabs him*) Before you leave, let me tell you about the first pennant the Cubbies ever won.

STEVE: I really have to go.

NOLAN: 1906. It all started out innocently enough, but people should have seen the hand-writing on the wall. The Cubs were World Champions! They won it all that year! But what happens? The San Francisco Earthquake – and - Typhoid Mary!

STEVE: (*sits back down*) Next, you'll blame the Cubs for Vietnam.

NOLAN: (*calmly*) Chicago was in contention throughout the sixties.

STEVE: This is the most ridiculous crap I've ever heard in my life. You can find something tragic every year to coincide with every World Series ever played. Ever!

NOLAN: No...just the Cubs.

STEVE: What about 1984? That was a pretty peaceful year.

NOLAN: That was a divisional title. The Cubs lost to San Diego in the playoffs.

STEVE: Divisional Champs! A pennant is a pennant!

NOLAN: Okay, fine. 1984 was one of the darkest times in U.S. History.

STEVE: How so?

NOLAN: Reagan got re-elected.

STEVE: Good point.

NOLAN: You better hope the Cubs don't win another title – or Dan Quayle might end up in the White House.

STEVE: Someday! The Cubs WILL win!

NOLAN: Oh, sure. Psychic experts predict they'll take it all in 2099.

STEVE: (perks up) The end of the century?

NOLAN: And the end of the world!

STEVE: You really have it in for the Cubs, don't you?

NOLAN: I'm just sick and tired of seeing all the pain and suffering they've inflicted on innocent people.

STEVE: What's your team anyway?

NOLAN: (*quietly, embarrassed*) The Red Sox\*.

**\*EDITOR'S NOTE:** This sketch was written before the 2004 World Series, and one of the writers is a Cardinals fan, who is still in denial.