

# Game of Our Lives

## ***“Game of Our Lives”***

*by Just John Persaud, Amorette “Epiphany” Lormil, Christopher Simpson, and Isabella Ramirez*

We come from 100 years running 100 yards  
Learning and unlearning,  
Unlearning and relearning  
Finding comfort in uncomfortable situations  
We spent 550 days with empty stadiums  
holding onto nothing but memories and hope  
but now the time has come for everyone to remember  
what it feels like to erupt with cheer  
To bump into another human body  
To leap  
To feel the rumble of the stands  
To watch our players fall  
and get back up again  
All it takes is  
A ball  
A breath  
A bond  
A bronze bust  
To spark a new beginning

It be player  
To scout  
To coach  
An honoring of the fans  
Each Sunday bringing life to a living room  
Church isn't the only place we find refuge

A space where families let down their defense  
This field is full of safeties  
Though thousands of tackles tattoo the green grass  
Of a Gridiron game that was never dull

Pigskin to tailored suits  
Laced up cleats  
A sleeve  
A shield  
A dream

Each heart beat tethered to a thunderous  
Knock on the door  
Because in this game  
Where getting knocked down is part of the playbook  
And rising again is the contract  
Hard work and dedication is the key to this  
A world  
A platform (  
A path to the rest of your life  
Or at least, just the start of it

From 10,000 hours to lifetime legends  
We are every bit touchdown  
as we are trust and triumph,  
Except this type of victory don't got no score,  
If this year showed us anything it's that  
we ain't afraid to play overtime,

We hone huddles until our teammates are charged with determination,  
Until a nation drips with pride from every united cry  
When teams clash with a barrage of  
Colors and numbers  
Fans recognize our greatness  
Witness downpours of our struggle  
And watch us reign supreme  
Even when cardboard fans packed the stands,  
we never stood idly on the sidelines,

The millions at home found solace in our game,  
Sported players' names on their backs like capes  
Cause sometimes our heroes wear  
Helmets and shoulder pads  
Our stars fight like gladiators and get to shake hands after  
Each touchdown dance a tribute to the culture  
Each autograph a reminder of  
The logo  
The dream  
The dap  
The hug  
The salute  
The huddle of trust  
Each face behind a mask  
Could be any one of us.

Ultimately, this is our game  
This is the 2021 Hall of Fame