

COOPERSTOWN
(The Catch)

Written by

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Based on Cooperstown Dreams Park

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FADE IN:

1 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD, WARMINISTER, PA - DAY 1

SUPERIMPOSE June 1964

Little league baseball field on a beautiful summer's day, two 12-year old boys baseball teams playing, parents cheering in the stands. One boy (CHARLIE_12) in right field looking to the stands for parents who are not there. Looks back and forth from batter and stands. Ball is hit, Charlie slow to react and runner gets to second. COACH_LITTLE_LEAGUE gives negative coaching.

Coach Little League
Right Field, get your head in the
game!

2 EXT. BASEBALL FIELD, WARMINISTER, PA 2

Game over, Charlie_12's team wins, players run to parents, Charlie_12 looking for his parents but there is no one there for him.

MONTAGE BEGIN:

-Parents and players leaving one by one.
-Parking lot empties, Charlie_12 alone.
-Charlie_12 starts to walk home dejected.

MONTAGE END:

3 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD - DAY 3

SUPERIMPOSE 4 Years Later

High school baseball tryouts, boys dressed in all sorts of jeans and regular, non-uniform shirts are throwing the baseball around preparing for try puts. Coaches watching as they workout. There is a sign in table outside the dugout "Sign in" and CHARLIE_HS in line with completed forms ready to go. Charlie hands the form to the ASSISTANT who looks it over.

ASSISTANT
Excuse me. It's 'Deceased' not
dead.

CHARLIE HS
What's that?

ASSISTANT
(Rude and Sarcastic)
On the form where you wrote 'Dead.'
Is his name Dead or is he deceased?

CHARLIE HS
(Embarrassed)
He's deceased. Two years ago.

ASSISTANT
(Rude)
Learn the difference. Now get on
the field with the others and warm
up.

Charlie goes and starts warming up.

4 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD - CONTINUOUS 4

Charlie is throwing the ball back and forth with the other
players. He looks good, not out of place skill wise.

COACH HIGH SCHOOL
Okay boys lets get started.

He point to a group of players.

COACH HIGH SCHOOL (CONT'D)
You boys take play first.

He points to Charlie's group.

COACH HIGH SCHOOL (CONT'D)
Okay you boys line up at shortstop
and lets see what you can do.

The boys all queue up. The Coach hits grounders to shortstop.
Charlie turn comes, he catches it and throws to first well.

5 INT. HIGH SCHOOL OUTSIDE COACHES OFFICE 5

High School kids, dressed for school walking between classes
Charlie_15 is moving against the grain to get the team roster
results. Bumps into a FRIEND

FRIEND
Where you off to?

CHARLIE_HS
 Coach's office. Got to see my name
 on the final roster.

MONTAGE BEGIN:

- Charlie_HS RUNS through the crowd to Coach's office
- List on the wall entitled "Final Team List 1967" Charlie_HS is scanning list, his name not on it.
- VERY Dejected Charlie_HS leaves down crowded hallway.

MONTAGE ENDS:

6 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD - DAY 6

SUPERIMPOSE, ONE YEAR LATER

High school baseball tryouts, boys dressed in all sorts of jeans and regular, non-uniform shirts are throwing the baseball around preparing for try outs. Same Assistant at the table as last year. Charlie hands him the form. Assistant checks the form sees 'Father: Deceased.'

ASSISTANT

You're back. Going to give it the old Sophomore try.

CHARLIE_HS

(Excited)

Yes sir. I got it this year.

ASSISTANT

(Sarcastic)

Sure. Go

Charlie runs off to join the group.

7 INT. HIGH SCHOOL OUTSIDE COACHES OFFICE 7

High School kids dressed for school walking between classes. Charlie_HS is hurrying through the crowd to see the list.

MONTAGE BEGIN:

- Charlie HURRIES to Coach's office
- List on the wall entitled "Final Team List 1968" Charlie is scanning list, his name not on it.

- Disappointed, Charlie leaves.

MONTAGE ENDS:

8

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

8

SUPERIMPOSE, TWO YEARS LATER

Boys throwing the ball around same Assistant at the table as last three years. Charlie_HS hands him the form. Assistant takes the form without checking it. One Player, PLAYER_HS suggests Charlie can't get on the team.

ASSISTANT

So, fourth time's the charm? You know no senior walk on has ever made the team here. PAUSE. Go.

Charlie_HS runs off to join the group.

Assistant coach looks at Charlie as he is running off and quietly says.

ASSISTANT (CONT'D)

(Sympathetic)

Good Luck

HS PLAYER

Trying again Charlie?

CHARLIE HS

Hell Yeah. Got it this year.

HS PLAYER

You know Coach has the players he likes. I don't think he is happy you are here.

They both look off to the coach who appears to give a look of disapproval.

CHARLIE HS

I guess he doesn't like cutting the same guy four years in a row.

(Excited)

What is he going to do? Fire me?
(pause) Lets play ball.

9 INT. HIGH SCHOOL OUTSIDE COACHES OFFICE 9

High school kids dressed for school walking between classes
Charlie_HS is moving along with the crowd.

MONTAGE BEGIN:

- Charlie_HS WALKS to Coach's office with the crowd.
- List on the wall entitled "Final Team List 1970" Charlie_HS is scanning list, his name not on it.
- Not surprised, Charlie_HS leaves.

MONTAGE ENDS:

10 EXT COOPERSTOWN MAIN STREET, NEW YORK, 10
SUPERIMPOSE Cooperstown New York 2017

CHARLES, heavy, obviously out of shape, 6 feet tall and grey hair. He has short, conservative haircut and outfit driving onto main street of Cooperstown, driving slowly, watching people, kids in baseball uniforms, adults with team jerseys, baseball is everywhere. Drives slowly past Baseball Hall of Fame, stops, then parks, walks to entrance. Stands on steps and looks at the main sign "Hal of Fame."

11 INT COOPERSTOWN BASEBALL HALL OF GAME 11

CHARLES walking around stops at several exhibits. Stops in front of Mike Schmidt plaque. BILLY and two boys approaching, talking about baseball, pass in front of Charles, stop. Billy points to the plaque.

BILLY

(speaking with respect.)
My Grandfather's favorite player.

JOSH

Kidding? Look around; Kofax,
Gibson, DiMaggio, Ted Williams,
best hitter ever, and Schmidt is
his man?

BILLY

He says he was the best third
baseman in the history of the game,
bar none.

JOSH

What about Brooks Robinson?

BILLY
Pure fielder for sure, but Schmidt
outhit everyone. And He played
for Phillies.

JOSH
What is it with your Pop and the
Phillies?

The boys walk away but Billy looks back at the plaque

BILLY
(Quietly to himself)
Memories

Billy walks away, with just a glimpse of Charles. Charles
looks to the plaque. Adults walking by.

PAUL
We need to get going, game starts
soon.

FRANK
Who we playing first?

PAUL
Kids from Tennessee, the Dodgers,
then this afternoon Strike Force
from Florida.

FRANK
Are you kidding? 103 other teams in
the tournament and we get two
winners from last year.

PAUL
Doesn't matter. Love of the game
Frank, Love of the Game.

They walk out and Charles follows.

12 EXT COOPERSTOWN DREAMS CAMP, NEW YORK 12
Bright sunny day at Cooperstown Dreams Camp. There are 104
youth baseball teams there for the competition along with
parents and fans. Excitement fills the air. Enter Charles..

Charles drives into the park, parks his car, observes the
activities and familiarizes audience with the Park.

MONTAGE BEGIN:

- Charles drives into Park looks at the "Cooperstown Dreams
Park" sign. Drives to parking lot.

- Charles standing at Parking Lot A and observing the game going on in Field Number 4, which has the best spectator viewing outside of a dugout seat.
- Charles walking to Little Majors Stadium, walks inside and observes games.
- Charles walking towards Baseball Village and observing all the barracks of the kids participating.
- Charles walking towards Fields 15 and 18, stops at concession stand.
- Charles looks at the four fields and walks to Field 15, stopping at the third base side Home team entrance.

MONTAGE END:

13 EXT. COOPERSTOWN DREAMS CAMP, NEW YORK - CONTINUOUS 13
 Inside field 15 two teams are preparing for their first game. The coach of the Home team is CHARLIE, who is energetic, in-shape, 6 feet tall, solid, long grey hair, features very similar to Charles. (Charlie's name is never spoken until the last scenes, always referred to as Coach or dad). Observation area is beyond the team dugout and runs down the foul line to fence. Parents and others watch the game from there sitting on plastic chairs, one row deep. SOPHIE, daughter of Charlie, middle-aged mother is there along with the other Home team parents.

MONTAGE BEGIN:

- Two teams take their positions in the dugout awaiting the start of the game.
- Parents fill in their viewing area and take a plastic chair and move to the rail and grab spot to view the game.
- A woman (SOPHIE) sits at the end of the viewing area and watches the pre-game activities.
- The Coach (CHARLIE) is with the team watching them stretching and getting prepared for the game.

MONTAGE ENDS:

14 EXT. SPECTATOR BOX - DAY 14
 Sophie sitting by herself at the end of the Spectators viewing area. Players are warming up before the first inning of Game. Charles walks up to Sophie and gets introduced to JENNY.

Charles pointing to an empty seat

CHARLES
Anyone sitting here?

SOPHIE
No, it's open.

Charles sits and watches the warmups for a few moments.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Which one is yours?

Sophie points to the teams warming up.

CHARLES
Oh. None. I was passing through
and saw the sign. I love baseball
and never been here so I decided to
stop and just watch a little.

SOPHIE
Nice.

CHARLES
Yours?

SOPHIE
Shortstop. (Pauses) Her name is
Jenny.

CHARLES
A girl! Wow. That's.... Inspiring.

SOPHIE
Well she loves the game more than
anyone I ever knew, except maybe
her grandfather. She's good and its
what she wants.

CHARLES
I could imagine that she's had some
resistance to her being on a boy's
team.

SOPHIE
Well, some, oddly enough not from
the boys, never been the players.
Parents for the most part.

Charles just gives an inquisitive look.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Depends on where they play. Some places are still, shall I say very backward in their thinking. At times we get the 'Hey little girl go play with your dolly,' or stuff like that. Other places see her as a baseball player.

CHARLES

Did she have trouble making the team?

SOPHIE

Her grandfather is the coach.

15 EXT SPECTATOR BOX - CONTINUOUS

15

Home team takes the field and the fans cheer. The first batter walks up to the plate. Two umpires, UMPIRE1 and UMPIRE2 call the game. The umpire takes his position behind the catcher, points to the pitcher.

UMPIRE1

Play Ball

They watch the first batter who hits a pop fly to short outfield, First Out.

-Second batter strikes out.

-Third batter hits a ball up the middle for what appears to be a sure single. Jenny goes deep in the hole, makes the catch and guns it to first. The first baseman makes a good stretch, runner out for the first out. Home team fan cheer as team runs off the field.

Sophie turns to Charles.

SOPHIE

And it doesn't hurt that she is as fast as the wind and has a gun for an arm.

Charles watching the teams exit the field as the Coach gives First base player and Jenny High Fives as they enter the dugout.

CHARLES

Coach seems nice. Is he a good coach?

Sophie looks at the coach for a moment as if trying to decide.

SOPHIE

(Pensive mood)

He's different. He is more of a manager than an baseball instructor. He never played the game, organized baseball that is. Never made the team, tried a lot. But, he loves the game that's for sure.

CHARLES

That's a good thing. Seems like coaching is his thing.

SOPHIE

Well some think so.

16 EXT BACKYARD SOPHIE HOUSE - DAY - FLASHBACK

16

SUPERIMPOSE Four Years Ago

Backyard with *Pitchback* Catching Net set up behind the house. Charlie helping BILLY_11, age 11, with his pitching. JENNY_8 (age 8) is watching. Charlie and Billy have been throwing and now are finishing up. Jenny_8 watching.

CHARLIE

Okay Billy, that's enough for the day. Don't you think? (pause)
Let's clean up.

Billy_11 starts to pick up balls. A few are off to one side where Jenny_8 is watching. Charlie pointing to the baseballs next to Jenny_8.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Hey Jenny, throw me those will you please.

Jenny_8 picks up one and throws it. Awkward, uses wrong first step, ball barely makes it to Charlie. They finish cleaning up.

17 EXT. BACKYARD SOPHIE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

17

Billy, leave the balls. Jenny come on over here. Billy_11 departs and Jenny comes over. Charlie picks up a ball and makes a throwing motion.

CHARLIE

Don't aim the ball Jenny, It's Step and Throw. You are right handed so take a step with your left foot and THEN throw with your right hand.

Charlie puts Jenny in front of the net and has her throw a couple and they miss the entire big net.

HOURS PASS

18

EXT. BACKYARD SOPHIE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

18

Jenny_8 throwing the ball well and hitting the target

CHARLIE

You are doing really well. But that's should be enough for one day.

JENNY_8

Just a little more. Can't I try pitching some. Like Billy?

CHARLIE

Okay. Just a few. Let me show you.

He shows Jenny_8 the motion.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Does the motions as he explains. One, feet together, ball in the glove. (pause) Two, right hand draws back. (Pause) Three, take a step with your left foot (pause) Four, throw, follow through, right leg stepping forward.

JENNY_8

Okay.

Jenny takes the position and Charlie counts and she executes the four count motion. Jenny throws it and it hits the net. She is excited. She takes another ball and tries again. This time she does it all at once, the ball misses the net and crashes through the window.

JENNY_8 (CONT'D)

On no! Mom is going to kill us.

CHARLIE

What's she going to do? Fire me?

They start to clean up.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
I'm going to tell your Mom Billy
did it.

Jenny laughs and feels better.

19 EXT. SPECTATOR BOX - DAY - BACK TO PRESENT

19

Bottom of the First. Jenny (age 12) leadoff hitter. Visitors in the field, Jenny's team up to bat. Jenny standing at the batter's box so very anxious to hit. Other team still warming up. An OBNOXIOUS PARENT taunts Jenny and HOME TEAM PARENT responds.

Charles watching a little surprised at Jenny waiting to hit already while the other team is just getting on the field.

CHARLES
I see your Jenny is ready to bat.

SOPHIE
She is always lead off and always
anxious to hit.

Umpire cleans the plate, takes his position, signals to the pitcher.

UMPIRE1
Play Ball

Pitcher throws a strike

UMPIRE1 (CONT'D)
Strike.

Helling from the stands to his pitcher, teasing Jenny

OBNOXIOUS PARENT
Hey she's girl, not so fast.

Pitcher throws a strike

UMPIRE1
Strike.

From the stands to his Jenny, teasing Jenny.

OBNOXIOUS PARENT
Welcome to baseball little girl.

He gives man next to him a high five.

Jenny hears him but pays no attention. Pitcher bears down, throws, Jenny crushes the ball and it goes to the wall in left field. Jenny does not hesitate and goes right for second, slides into second base ahead of the throw.

UMPIRE2

Safe!

The home teams cheers. Jenny dusts herself off without fanfare.

CHARLES

Ah, fast as well.

SOPHIE

Like I said, she loves baseball.

HOME TEAM PARENT

(In response to Obnoxious Parent)

Hey Jenny! Not bad for a girl.

Jenny beams a smile. Takes a lead and gets ready to run.

SOPHIE

She leads the team in hits. No home runs, not the power hitter.

CHARLES

Yes I see, more like Richie Ashburn than Mike Schmidt.

SOPHIE

A Philly Fan! Most wouldn't know Ashburn.

CHARLES

Over 2200 hits, 950 walks and 199 stolen bases, just 22 homer run in 12 seasons. The man could play, he knew the value of just being a base runner.

SOPHIE

You should talk to my dad, he loves the Phillies. We went to the Baseball Hall of Fame yesterday. I thought he was going to cry when he stood in front of Mike Schmidt's display.

Game continues. Hitter drives ball and Jenny scores. Crowd cheers. Sophie and Charles applaud.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

A real Phillie fan. So where did you grow up?

CHARLES

Near Philly.

(Changing the subject)

And the next question is who makes the best Philly Cheese Steak? Pat's or Geno's? The answer is neither. It's the old local place for sure.

SOPHIE

You're right about that. (pause)
Cheese Wiz, Really?

CHARLES

Sacrilege.

Third out and teams change.

Sophie notices his wedding ring.

SOPHIE

So you are married. Children?

CHARLES

(Reports but not forthcoming. This is not part of his life that is going well.)

Yes to both. Married forever, two kids.

SOPHIE

Are they sports fans as well?

CHARLES

(Sad. Apprehensive)

No, not at all. They did not get into sports, and their kids are more computer game kids. I did 25 years in the military and have been a salesman since I retired. On the road a lot. Went for the steady income thing you know.

SOPHIE

My father, the coach, could have taken a lesson from you. He was military, left after 17 years. Mistake. I cannot tell you how many times we've "talked" about that decision.

Sophie turns to look at her father.

20

INT. MILITARY HOME - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

20

SOPHIE_15 (15 years old) is sitting on the second floor hallway. The wall is open down to the living room and she can hear the conversation below but cannot be seen by her parents below.

CHARLIE_40 (age 40) in military uniform is in the living room with his wife, WIFE_1. Both standing, she is angry and yelling.

WIFE_1

I told you but do you listen to me?
No. You had to report it. (pause).
What did you think the Army was
going to? Give you a parade?

CHARLIE_40

I had to report it. You know I did.

WIFE_1

And now they pass you over for
Lieutenant Colonel. Big hero. Dudley
Do Right strikes again. What is it
with you? Why do you always have to
fight the system?

CHARLIE_40

You could not expect me to walk
away from it?.

WIFE_1

You told your boss that's what you
had to do. You did that. The rest
was just your damn ego.

CHARLIE_40

Ego? Christ you don't have a clue
what I am about do you?

WIFE_1

I know that you went over his head
and when he didn't do what you
wanted you went to the IG for
Christ sake.

CHARLIE_40

I am an Officer in the United
States Army I have duty to the
soldiers in my command and the
country.

WIFE_1

You have a duty to me and the kids.
That's what your duty is. (pause)

She lights a cigarette.

WIFE_1 (CONT'D)

A One-star general was forced to
retire and a Two-star got
transferred to some meaningless
assignment at some Bum-fuck depot.
You think they were going to forget
about it?

CHARLIE_40

I knew there would be some
consequences.

WIFE_1

You think?

Frantically pacing.

WIFE_1 (CONT'D)

So now what? Seventeen years of
short tours and deployments, you
away, me taking care of the kids
myself, moving all the time; we
moved nine times, and thats just me
and the kids. We did it all. The
command time, the schools, Christ
you almost died twice.

CHARLIE_40

(Saying it quietly.)
Three times.

Wife looks back, having not heard him clearly then ignores
him.

WIFE_1

So now what? I hang around an
entire year with all the other
wives talking about me. How **we** got
passed over. The wife of the Major
who wasn't smart enough to keep his
mouth shut. Wait until the next
promotion board, which they will
screw you again and then I hear it
all over again from those women. I
don't think so.

CHARLIE_40

What are you saying? I should resign?

WIFE_1

Yes. We can get started in civilian life.

CHARLIE_40

This is not over. I can work hard, get an outstanding rating and the board will reconsider next year.

Wife_1 walks out of the room. Turns to her and continues loud enough for her to hear.

CHARLIE_40 (CONT'D)

I have an outstanding record, I can overcome this.

Wife_1 returns and walks right up to him.

WIFE_1

You HAD an outstanding record. It doesn't matter anymore. The Army doesn't promote you Generals do, and you hurt two of their own and they want you gone.

CHARLIE_40

I'm not quitting.

WIFE_1

Fine. You can stay in the Army. But its without me and the girls.

CHARLIE_40

Until I fix this? Where will you go?.

WIFE_1

Fix this? Get your head out of your ass soldier. There's no fixing this. And I am not going to live with mom until this blows over. I will divorce you and take the kids.

Charlie is shocked and reels back in reaction.

WIFE_1 (CONT'D)

I'm not going to be the ridicule of jokes. Resign and we start making real money in the civilian world like real people or I'm gone.

She starts to walk away then turns back.

WIFE_1 (CONT'D)

You know there isn't a judge who will give an active duty military man who can be deployed without warning the kids over a loving, caring mother.

CHARLIE_40

You wouldn't.

WIFE_1

I know you could give a crap about me but the girls are a whole different story. Stay and you lose them. Simple as that.

Wife walks out leaving Charlie standing there.

21 EXT. SPECTATOR BOX - DAY - BACK TO PRESENT 21

Sophie in spectator's area watching the game. Watching her father coach the team. Charles is not present.

MONTAGE BEGIN:

- They watch the game for a few minutes.
- Sophie looks to the scoreboard. Visitors 2, Home 3, Inning bottom of the 3rd.
- Batter singles, second batter flies out.
- Jenny up hits single, two on. Lots of cheering.
- Third batter strikes out. Fan complain about the strike zone. - Fourth batter walks and home team is cheering madly, ready to break open the game, bases loaded.
- Batter hits fly, outfielder makes a good catch, third out, no score.

MONTAGE END:

22 EXT. SPECTATOR BOX - CONTINUOUS 22

Sophie in the spectator area, Charles returns with food. Teams changing, Jenny not on the field. Sitting down Charles shows sandwich to Sophie.

CHARLES
No food for you?

SOPHIE
(Half-joking)
That's not food. And for God sake
do not get the Philly Cheese steak.

CHARLES
Cheese wiz?

SOPHIE
Cheese wiz!

CHARLES
There really ought to be a law.

Observes the players. Notices Jenny not there.

CHARLES (CONT'D)
Daughter not playing?

SOPHIE
Dad....Coach..Has a policy that
everyone plays. Any player can play
any position. Everyone sits out one
inning and everyone plays the same
amount.

CHARLES
How does that play with the
parents? You know how some of them
can be.

SOPHIE
Do I ever.
(Becomes pensive,
reflective)
I really wonder sometimes about
people. Here we are in Cooperstown,
New York; some people travel
thousands of miles to get here so
their kids and play baseball. This
is Cooperstown, the home of the
Hall of Fame, it's the Holy Grail
of baseball fields for kids. No,
its not the same as playing in
Fenway Park or Wrigley Field, but
that's the pros. For 99 percent of
these kids this is the best
baseball it will ever be and some
parents... they just don't get it.

CHARLES

For them its about winning not the game.

SOPHIE

Yeah.

CHARLES

And sometimes it's not about the child, its about the parent. "My Kid won the game." They're really saying "I won the game."

SOPHIE

Yeah.

Looking back out at the kids playing.

CHARLES

All my life I wanted to play the game. When I was a kid we didn't have a real field we had a vacant lot. We used my father's lawn mower to cut the weeds and have an infield, used cardboard for bases. We had one ball and a couple of wooden bats that had cracks and we had used electrical tape to hold them together. It was a different kind of game for sure.

He looks into the sun and warmed his face as if it brought him great medicine.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

How many times was it the bottom of the ninth, we were losing and I hit the home run that won the game. I can remember running the bases slowly and hearing the crowds cheer.

He turns to Sophie.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Of course all the other kids had gone home by then.

SOPHIE

My dad used to say the same thing only Sandy Kofax was on the mound and he couldn't strike him out.

CHARLES

I think every boy in my day had their baseball fantasy. When I think about it Baseball has kept me sane. My father was gone when I was young; things were hard, but that crappy field and cardboard bases was my...

SOPHIE

Field of Dreams?

CHARLES

In a manner of speaking I suppose. No matter how bad it got in the Army, the cross road I faced, or, (pause) my marriage, or these lonely nights on the road, I always went back to that time. Every Spring the snows would melt away, the darkness of being poor and alone would be replaced by baseball. First Spring training and we got all excited about the possibilities - this was the year for the pennant no doubt. Then it was summer and the majors hit the field. We saved our three dollars, sat in the cheap seats and cheered for our team. Hot dogs and peanuts. (pause) That one time when everything was good, when there were no bad guys just bad pitches and the only villains were the Yankees. I had dreams and now ... nightmares...Paths not taken.

Sophie looks to him in sympathy not knowing what to say.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

(Catching himself and moving the conversation back to the parents' behavior)

Oh yeah, I just don't get it how they can be so hard on the kids, even cruel, (pause) and why we let them do it.

SOPHIE

I'm with you on that for sure.

Sophie looks to the dugout where Coach is talking to the kids in the dugout. Charlie is clapping and encouraging the kids. She looks to him and remembers.

23

INT. PIZZA PARLOR, GEORGIA - DAY - FLASHBACK

23

Pizza place crowded with players and parents all eating or getting ready to eat. While other teams are playing these kids are between games. There is a banner above the counter welcoming the kids to the "Macon Georgia Tournament." Sophie is with some of the team parents at a table away from the counter and the other team. Charlie is there buying pizzas for his team and standing by the counter. In the back are coaches with their teams. There is a very large man (BIG COACH), baseball cap on, standing next to his seated team he is angry and lecturing the kids. A parent (PARENT AT TABLE) sitting with Sophie also sees the situation and implores Sophie to intercede

PARENT AT THE TABLE

Is Coach, going to join us?

SOPHIE

The kids have two hours before the next game so he is getting them pizza and they are going to eat at the ball field. Actually I told him we were going to McDonalds before we met up with you so he doesn't know we are here.

On the other side of the room the Big Coach is berating his players.

BIG COACH

I am telling you boys that game was pitiful; you didn't field, didn't hit I don't know what you were doing out there but it wasn't baseball.

He moves around the kids, getting them to look at him and then cower as they fear him. He looks at one boy.

BIG COACH (CONT'D)

Shortstop? Nothing but errors. You disgust me.

He walks over to one young boy.

BIG COACH (CONT'D)

What were you doing out there? Pitching? I don't think so.

(MORE)

BIG COACH (CONT'D)
 Little girls throw better than you.
 Pitiful.

Charlie hears the other coach as does everyone close by.
 Charlie leaves the counter and goes to the coach.

CHARLIE
 (Quietly)
 Excuse me.

The Coach, four inches taller and forty pound bigger looks
 down at him but says nothing.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 I don't think it is helpful to talk
 to the players that way.

BIG COACH
 (Sarcastic)
 Oh you don't?

CHARLIE
 No. I suspect by the way you are
 talking they lost and anyone can
 see they already feel bad enough

BIG COACH
 Listen asshole, I'll talk to my
 players anyway I see fit. So get
 out of my face before I hurt you.

Charlie looks around and sees the hurt faces of the boys, he
 looks like he is going to retreat.

CHARLIE
 Can I speak to you outside?

Big Coach smiles and points the way to the door.

Charlie and Big Coach leave Sophie can see them though the
 windows as they walk around to the back of the restraurant out
 of sight.

PARENT AT THE TABLE
 That guy is going to murder Coach.
 He should stay out of it. (pause)
 Someone...you should go out there
 Sophie.

A couple minutes pass. The Big Coach walks back into the
 restraurant, his face is red on one side, he is limping and
 holding his neck as if it was sore. He stood inside the door
 for a moment and straightened himself.

He took his hand away from his throat and Sophie could see red marks where a hand had grabbed him very hard. The man snuck a look back to see if Charlie was there, saw he was at the counter, and then walked as well as he could to his team.

BIG COACH

(Humbled)

I want to apologize to you, the entire team.

He reaches for the boy he insulted who reels back anticipating being hit.

BIG COACH (CONT'D)

Especially you. I was overcome by the moment and said things I should not have said.

He looks back to Charlie who is not watching.

BIG COACH (CONT'D)

It won't happen again.

Dejected he sits.

Charlie leaves with his stack of pizza boxes without acknowledging anyone there or that the event happened.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

(Speaking to Sophie.)

What the hell happened here?

Sophie looking to the man, now seated quietly.

SOPHIE

(Disgusted)

My father kicked the crap out of him.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

What? That guy? He is massive.. He's he's...

SOPHIE

He's just big. Big is not a problem, trained would be a problem. My father was...is a soldier and as he often says "The Army never taught me to fight, just to kill. The hard part is not to."

PARENT AT THE TABLE

Fight?

SOPHIE

Kill.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

(Somewhat bewildered)

Does he do this often?

SOPHIE

No. He's not a crazed killer or vigilante, but if he sees someone being mistreated, God forbid a child, he has a hard time restraining himself.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

And that's a bad thing?

SOPHIE

When we were in the Army we lived in Germany. We took a day trip to Strassburg in France; you can take day trips like that when you live in Europe.

INTERCUT WITH:

24 EXT FRANCE, STREET - DAY

24

Charlie_40, wifel, Sophie_15, DAUGHTER2 walking in the streets of small town in France, walking down a not so crowded street, on opposite side of the road there is a homeless man on the ground and three men standing next to him.

Walking with family, Charlie sees homeless man, runs to help.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

We were just walking down the street, dad, mom, me and my little sister, when we came across three men harassing a homeless man. One of them knocked him to the ground and then they all started beating him. Dad just said "stay here" then went after them.

25 INT. PIZZA PARLOR, GEORGIA - DAY

25

PARENT AT THE TABLE

And... What happened?

SOPHIE

It was over quickly, he was like
some sort of whirlwind.

26 EXT FRANCE, STREET - DAY

26

Charlie_40 takes on all three men, beats them with moves he
mastered in the Army. Two men go down and stay down. One man
pulls a knife, Charlie, breaks his arm and the man runs off.

SOPHIE (V.O.)

He ended up breaking one man's
knee, the second man's nose was
bleeding like a faucet, both went
down and did not get up. The third
ran away holding his arm, I think
dad broke it.

INTERCUT END:

27 INT. PIZZA PARLOR, GEORGIA - DAY

27

PARENT AT THE TABLE

Awesome.

SOPHIE

Awesome? One of them had a knife
and tried to stab him. He could
have been killed. He had a family
to think about. What would have
happened to us if he had?

Watching the Big Coach who is constantly looking behind him
and out the window.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

(Momentarily Speechless.)

That was something. I never thought
he'd do that.

SOPHIE

He can't just let things slide,
never could, always has to be the
hero.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

(Looking at the Big Coach
now being quietly scolded
by his wife.)

I wonder if he will do it again.

SOPHIE

I suspect not, at least not around here.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

Why do you say that.

SOPHIE

Do you see the man's neck. I suspect while my father was choking the life out of him and he told him if he did it again he kill him.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

Jesus.

SOPHIE

I doubt if he would approve.

PARENT AT THE TABLE

I'm sorry.

SOPHIE

Don't be. You didn't do anything

PARENT AT THE TABLE

I know, and I am sorry. I should have said something.

Sophie looks to him confused.

PARENT AT THE TABLE (CONT'D)

The boys....They boys are eating, smiling.

Sophie sees the boys now relaxed.

28

EXT. BALLFIELD - DAY - BACK TO PRESENT

28

Back in the game fourth inning underway, visitors score three and go into lead 5 to 3.

Sophie watching game. Jenny back at shortstop.

MONTAGE BEGIN:

- Teams playing, one runner on second, scoreboard Visitor 2, Home 3, no outs.

- Visitor batter hits to outfield, runner scores, runner to first. Scoreboard Visitor 3, Home 3, no outs.

- Visitor hitter to Jenny, misses ball, runner at first and second. Scoreboard Visitor 3, Home 3, no outs.

_ Catcher throws to first, not in time, runner goes to third

- Visitor batter hits to Jenny deep in hole, throws to second, out, throw late to first, safe runner. Scoreboard Visitor 4, Home 3, 1 out.

- Visitor hitter to outfield, caught, runner moves to third. Scoreboard Visitor 4, Home 3, 2 outs.

- Visitor hitter to outfield, single, runner scores. Scoreboard Visitor 5, Home 3, 2 outs.

- Visitor hitter to second base, caught, flips to Jenny runner out. Scoreboard Visitor 5, Home 3, 3 outs. Teams change positions.

MONTAGE END:

Sophie exits the Spectator Box.

29

EXT. OUTSIDE SPECTATOR BOX - CONTINUOUS

29

Sophie is on the cell phone talking to husband TOM. He has landed and will be there soon. He will miss first game but there for the rest of the tournament. She is pleased he is early. Sophie makes a call on cell phone.

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)

Hello. Where are you?

TOM (V.O.)

Just landed at Albany. I'll get the rental car the head out to the Park, 15 minutes more here and 90 driving, so under 2 hours I'll be there.

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)

That's great. I thought you would not make it until tomorrow at the earliest.

INTERCUT WITH:

30

INT. ALBANY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NY - DAY

30

Tom walking to the Car rental counter dragging luggage.

TOM (INTO PHONE)
 The sales pitch went well, the client loved it so I turned it over to Carla, she can attend the dinner tonight and follow-up meeting tomorrow with the procurement people. She's got it.

At the rental car counter.

TOM (TO RENTAL CLERK) (CONT'D)
 Reservation.

Gives her his card.

TOM (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)
 So tell me how's it going?

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)
 Great. First game underway, Jenny is doing wonderful. The other team just scored but its early.

Takes the keys from RENTAL CLERK and exits the door towards the rental area.

TOM (INTO PHONE)
 What about Billy?

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)
 He's in town at the Hall of Fame with Sam and his parents. It's the only day Sam's parents can go so I said it was okay to miss Jenny's first game; we are going to be here at least four days and seven games. Besides, he's 15 and between his constant requests for money for the concession stand and his new found interest in girls I needed the break.

Opens the rental car. Puts bag in trunk and gets into the car.

TOM (INTO PHONE)
 So whose all there?

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)
 The usual. Barb is alone, Kevin had to work.

TOM (V.O.)
 On his secretary.

SOPHIE (ON PHONE)
I don't get it but it works for
them.

Starting car and moving out.

TOM (INTO PHONE)
Pretty understanding. Would that
work for me? Carla's pretty hot.

SOPHIE (ON PHONE)
Oh of course baby. You know me,
whatever my man needs.

Entering highway.

TOM (INTO PHONE)
You are the Bomb.

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)
You know whatever is good for you
is good for me. (Pause) But it may
not work for Dad however. Let me
ask you. How do you feel about
living the rest of your life
without a penis?

TOM (INTO PHONE)
Ouch! You always know the right
thing to say dear. Speaking of
speaking. Have you spoken to dad?

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)
Just to say hello and good luck
before the game.

TOM (V.O)
You need to... The trip... the post
trip.

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)
Yeah I know.

TOM (V.O)
Anything else going on? Any
interesting relatives show up.

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)
No. Oh, there is one guy. He just
stopped in to watch, older guy,
reminds me of Dad only tame.

TOM (INTO PHONE)
 A tame Dad? Now that would be
 something. Got to go, traffic, see
 you in 90.

SOPHIE (INTO PHONE)
 Bye.

Puts the phone away.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
 The Bomb? Tom, how old are you?
 Sometimes I wonder about you.

31 EXT. SPECTATOR BOX - CONTINUOUS 31

Inning five. Home team goes ahead. Sophie returns to her
 seat, Charles is not present. Home team is at bat and Charlie
 is outside the dugout talking to the first batter.

Charlie returns to the dugout, sees Sophie and waves. From
 the Spectator Box Sophie acknowledges the wave with a half-
 hearted wave back.

32 INT. SOPHIE'S HOME - NIGHT - FLASHBACK 32

Sophie and Charlie fighting over his choices. Sophie and
 Charlie are in the kitchen, Charlie has glass of ice tea,
 Sophie has a soda. They are chatting.

Charlie looks at the clock, almost 9 PM

CHARLIE
 Hey I have to get going soon.
 There's something I want to let you
 know.

SOPHIE
 What's that?

CHARLIE
 After Cooperstown I am ending the
 old coaching career.

SOPHIE
 Really Why?

CHARLIE
 I'm moving.

SOPHIE
 Moving? Away? Where?

CHARLIE

Well its a move in a sense. I am finally going to take the big trip across America I have always wanted to do.

SOPHIE

Okay. Where are you going?

CHARLIE

I am going to visit the National Parks. Just drive and go kind of thing. What I have always talked about.

SOPHIE

How? I mean like driving or flying and renting a car what.

CHARLIE

I bought a RV

SOPHIE

I don't understand.

CHARLIE

I am going to drive across country in an RV and see the desert and mountains and such. You know?

SOPHIE

I don't understand.

CHARLIE

It simple I get in the RV, point it west and go.

SOPHIE

I don't understand. You're broke. You can't afford to travel.

CHARLIE

I bought a RV. I gave up the apartment, sold the big stuff and I am putting the small stuff in storage.

SOPHIE

I don't understand.

CHARLIE

Stop saying you don't understand

SOPHIE

(Pause) I don't understand. You gave up you place, bought an RV and you are going to travel.

CHARLIE

See you do understand.

SOPHIE

(Exasperated)
How long will you be gone?

CHARLIE

Until I'm done.

SOPHIE

And when you come back, where are you going to live?

CHARLIE

You know me, one thing at a time.

SOPHIE

(Angry)
One thing at a time? Christ dad what are you thinking. You are 65, no money, no home, divorced twice, what the hell dad?

CHARLIE

No need to get crazy over this. Its just a trip.

SOPHIE

Just a trip? What are you smoking? Unless you won the lottery, the last time we checked you spent the last four years paying off your business debts and that poor excuse of a relationship you called a second marriage and the cash drawer is empty.

CHARLIE

I can manage.

SOPHIE

You can manage? Really? You divorced mom, and that one I'll give you, we all agree she's the she bitch from hell, she out of all our lives which is wonderful but that was a hundred years ago.

(MORE)

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Then you married wife number two,
or as your kids call her, 'What
have you bought for me lately?' She
convinces you to open a real estate
business and what happens

CHARLIE

The crash.

SOPHIE

(Angry and loud)

The Crash! The business goes bust
and the bitch takes off and what
the you didn't give her in the
divorce you gave to the creditors.

CHARLIE

True enough. What's done is done.

SOPHIE

(Angry)

Jesus Dad. What is it with you and
the women in your life? You have
worked all your life. Your first
full time job was what? When you
were fifteen, clean dishes?

CHARLIE

Fourteen and it was cleaning
toilets at a swim club. The dish
thing was promotion.

SOPHIE

This isn't funny

CHARLIE

It's kind of funny.

SOPHIE

(Trying to regain
composure)

Dad what is it with you and women?
I understand things don't work out
and there are divorces but do you
have to give them everything? They
get the house and you get a broken
heart.

CHARLIE

Not anymore. The next time I fall
in love I am just going to buy a
house, give it to her and leave,
and avoid the broken heart.

SOPHIE
Not funny Dad.

CHARLIE
Again. Kind of funny.

SOPHIE
Where you going to live when you
finish this trek across the
country.

CHARLIE
Well its going to be awhile for one
thing. Like I said I am going to
see the desert and such but also I
want to go to as many Major League
baseball parks as I can.

SOPHIE
Where are you going to live dad?
(Pause) Are you moving in with my
sister? If she knew about this and
didn't tell me..

CHARLIE
No. And you are the first to know.

SOPHIE
This doesn't make any sense.

CHARLIE
This isn't that big a deal.
(Getting frustrated and
angry)
I've wanted this forever, you know
that. God knows I'm not get getting
any younger. Its time.

Sophie goes to the living room and flops down in a chair,
Charlie follows Sophie into the living room.

SOPHIE
(frustrated)
Why can't you be like normal
people? They work, save, get a
place, live comfortably and enjoy
retirement. You give up two good
careers and you are left with what?
Nothing. For what?

CHARLIE
It called doing the right thing.

SOPHIE

(Furious)

Doing the right thing? Challenging
the Army? For What?

CHARLIE

I would have thought you knew.
(Pause). All I wanted was to be a
soldier. It happened and I had to
do something about it. That isn't
what I regret. I regret letting
your mother blackmail me into
leaving. I could have fought for
the promotion and fought her for
custody. You know what kind of
mother she was I had a chance of
getting custody, but I didn't. I
left, fell on my ass. Then I got
up, did the corporate thing and
rose to the top.

SOPHIE

And got fired.

CHARLIE

In a manner of speaking.

SOPHIE

You were making over a hundred
grand a year and you threw it away.

CHARLIE

I didn't throw it away.

SOPHIE

You threw your boss, the CTO out of
his own office. And if that was not
bad enough you drug him out of the
building by his collar and threw
him out of the building.

CHARLIE

In hindsight I could have been more
discreet.

SOPHIE

Discreet?

CHARLIE

You know the facts. He was new, he
hated military and while I was away
he fired both my AVPs who were both
ex-military.

SOPHIE

You could have gone to jail.

CHARLIE

The last thing that company wanted was publicity. They had enough problems with their data breaches.

SOPHIE

I don't know what to say to you Dad. You are like Don Quixote without the horse and Sancho. Fighting windmills and always losing. What do I say to my children? Your Grandfather is broke and homeless because he had windmills to fight. Jenny worships you and Billy thinks you are the a modern day John Wayne.

Sophie pauses, walks around.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

(Very Angry and loud)

If you go on this crazy trip don't think your kids are going to pick up the slack, say "Come stay with us." You have to be responsible.

Charlie stands walks over, kisses her forehead and starts to leave. Gets to the door. Turns back to her.

CHARLIE

I know I have not always done the smart thing, and at times been my own worst enemy. But I can tell you when I look in the mirror I see someone with self respect and that is everything to me. If nothing else I thought you would know that. (Pause) I may have lost battles but I have never been beaten, and this isn't going to beat me.

Charlie opens the doors and steps out.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

And you are so very wrong. I have you, your sister, and my grandchildren and right now thats all I need.

33 INT. SOPHIE'S HOME - CONTINUOUS 33

Sophie alone in the room. Sits there in the living room and stewes about what just happened. Hears the car drive away. Looks up and stands.

SOPHIE

"This isn't going to beat me."
What aren't you telling me dad.

34 EXT. BALLFIELD - CONTINUOUS - BACK TO PRESENT 34

Teams getting ready for the bottom of the last inning. Jenny's team getting ready to bat, visitors warming up on the field. Sophie and Charles siting, waiting, talking.

MONTAGE BEGINS:

- Charlie talking to his players in the dugout encouraging them.

- Visiting coach on the field with his players coaching them up before they go on the field.

- Visitors throwing the ball on the infield and outfield.

- Home team batter getting ready.

MONTAGE ENDS:

35 EXT. SPECTATOR BOX - CONTINUOUS 35

Team preparing for the last inning. Umpires talking with each other.

SOPHIE

So you said you have children.

CHARLES

Yes. Two daughters.

SOPHIE

Well I am sure you are their hero.
Great provider, hard-working role
model.

CHARLES

The truth be told Sophie I would
hope not.

SOPHIE

Sorry?

CHARLES

My daughters are.. Like their mother, big house, country club, social position over social conscience. Both are divorced. The truth be told I side with their ex-husbands. It was never good enough for the girls no matter what they did, how hard they worked. I really blame myself, their mother was the same and I, I let her be her and well then kids are her. When I left the army I chose not to be there, took the road job, more money, the wife liked that, but the real reason is I just couldn't live with her.

SOPHIE

You never know how life will turn.

CHARLES

I knew, and my children paid the price.

SOPHIE

How cool would it be if life were issued with one Do-Over chip that you just could give it to this Life Director and he goes, "Okay cut, lets back it up it from where she said, Let's go left, and this time go right. Ready Action."

CHARLES

Even if you could go back and take that other path, you wouldn't know if it would turn out any better in the long run.

SOPHIE

True enough. I guess just another chance to screw things up.

CHARLES

But if we got one chip to turn in to see what would have happened if other path had been taken. We could not change a thing about it, but maybe we could understand it better.

SOPHIE

I suppose. But got a few i'd like to change. (Pause) So what's next for you? Another game?

CHARLES

No. My time here is done.

SOPHIE

Going home? I hope not back on the road.

Charles just looks sad and looks out to the sky.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

CHARLES

I have cancer.

SOPHIE

(Taken back)

I.. I'm.. So sorry.

CHARLES

My doctor says I could beat it but I have kind of left myself go.

Taps his stomach

CHARLES (CONT'D)

You know. (pause) Its funny about that stuff. Beating it is so much more about attitude and conditioning than medicine more than I ever knew. He's not sure my body can handle the treatment. Go figure.

SOPHIE

I'm sure there is hope.

CHARLES

There was a time when I was young, fit and even hostile. I came to a cross road and I took the easy path. Everything changed after that. Never thought it would lead me here.

SOPHIE

I'm so sorry.

CHARLES

My own making.

(Upbeat)

Besides I met this guy at the doctor's office, he told me, "I may have lost battles but I have never been beaten, and this isn't going to beat me." Sort of gave me hope.

The crack of the bat alerts them of the game.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Hey game on!

36 EXT. SPECTATOR BOX - CONTINUOUS

36

Scoreboard Bottom of the 6th inning, Visitors 6 Home 3 no outs. Both beaches cheering.

MONTAGE BEGINS:

- First batter singles.

- Second batter hits, drive runner to second, out at first. One out.

- Jenny comes to bat, three balls, nothing to hit. Fourth pitch over the plate, HOME RUN. Crowd cheering, Jenny elated, her team at home plate jumping with excitement to welcome her. Fans all clapping and cheering

CHARLES

I thought she was not a power hitter?

SOPHIE

(Elated)

Her first home run. Can you believe it?

Sophie looks to the Scoreboard: Visitors 6 Home 5, 1 out

- Next batter doubles, crowd cheering wildly.

- Next batter line drive between second short, runner goes, second baseman makes great line drive catch, and the second baseman touches second before runner can get back, three outs. Game over. Visiting team celebrates. Home team stunned.

MONTAGE ENDS:

37 EXT. BALLFIELD - CONTINUOUS

37

Players line up and shake hands, return to their dugouts and gather their equipment.

SOPHIE

I am completely spent. That was..

CHARLES

Yes it was.

SOPHIE

It was exciting, nerve racking, tense, crazy and its the first game. We have at least six more to go. And its ONLY seven if we lose in the first round of the playoffs.

CHARLES

I don't think you are going to lose in the first round. So you should prepare yourself for lots of tense and exciting days.

Gathering her things and starting to exit.

SOPHIE

It have been a pleasure talking with you. Actually its been eye opening.

CHARLES

I have enjoyed the game.

Phone buzzes a text. Sophie checks it.

SOPHIE

Oh. My son is here. He was at the Hall of Fame. I'd like you to meet him.

Sophie leaves and looks for her son, does not see him. Sees Coach talking to the team and she goes to listen.

38 EXT. OUTSIDE DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

38

Coach is standing, back to the field fence, players sitting on the ground, some are drinking water, parents are close by but not within the circle. Coach tells the team what a great game they played. Sophie is watching.

CHARLIE

I am not going to ask you how you feel. Disappointed? Yes. I am too. We always want to win. After all who plays to lose the game?

LUKE

(Answers with excitement as if it were a real question)
The 1919 Blacksoxs.

CHARLIE

What?

LUKE

The 1919 Blacksox played to lose.

CHARLIE

Ah I see the tour of the Baseball Hall of Fame was not lost on you.

LUKE

Just letting you know I pay attention coach.

CHARLIE

That's good. Now if we can just get you to pay attention and layoff the high fast ball we all would be better off.

Team members laugh and one jokingly punches Luke.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Luke is right, they did play to lose and in doing so they have been immortalized as everything baseball is not. Baseball is a game of character, of integrity. Baseball is a challenge, its one batter against one pitcher each trying to win over the other. It is one boy...

Looks to Jenny

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Or one special girl, staring down the opposing player to get the big hit or the game ending strikeout.

(MORE)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Baseball is the sun on your face,
its the dirt you rub on your hands
before you grab the bat, it the
anxiety you feel when the hot
ground ball is coming right at you,
its the sound of the crack of the
bat, or the pop of the ball when
you catch it in your glove and the
runner is out. (Pause) No matter
how old your are, no matter how far
away from the game you get, when
you step on a field like this you
will be 12 years old again. That is
the magic of baseball.

Charlie kneels down on one knee.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

This is just our first game here,
and four hours from now you will
have your second. Before you come
to the field for that game I want
you all to go with your parents and
just walk the Park and be a
spectator and watch a game. The
most important thing for us to do
here is what?

Points to Jenny

JENNY

To have fun.

CHARLIE

To have fun. (Pause) There are 104
teams here and 103 will lose, you
have a one in 104 chance of being
that one team. If you play this
game for the love of the sport you
have a 100 percent chance of having
wonderful memory for the rest of
your life. Your choice.

Charlie gets closer to the players.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

I love this game, and I love you
guys.

Charlie stands.

Charlie looks to Charlie.

LUKE'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Its okay with me if you bench Luke
for the rest of the tournament.

39 EXT. OUTSIDE DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

39

Coach completes talk, kids break up to meet with family.
Sophie's son BILLY arrives, Sophie goes to Jenny.

SOPHIE
You guys were great today.

JENNY
Thanks mom.

SOPHIE
And don't worry about losing this
game, you have five more before the
playoffs.

JENNY
No worries Mom. Pop, Coach, says we
are just pacing ourselves, building
the betting odds.

SOPHIE
I'll bet he did.

Son Billy walks up.

BILLY
Great hit Jen. Tough loss.

SOPHIE
I didn't see you. Where were you.

BILLY
We forgot Jen was Home team and we
walked into the other side. Jen was
up so we didn't want to move and
miss it.

Billy hugs Jen.

SOPHIE
Your father is almost here. Left
early and will be here for the
second game.

JENNY
Great.

Sophie looking around but not seeing Charles

SOPHIE

There is someone I'd like you guys to meet. He was here just a moment ago.

BILLY

You mean Charles.

SOPHIE

(Surprised)

Yes. How did you know?

BILLY

He introduced himself when you were listening to Pop talk to the team.

SOPHIE

Interesting man I wanted to say goodbye. You met him?

BILLY

Yeah.

SOPHIE

What did he say to you.

BILLY

That he watched the game with you, and Jen is a super ball player; but my home run here three years ago was hit way further than her's.

Sophie looks around for Charles.

40

EXT. OUTSIDE DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

40

Parents go to their players, congratulations and encouragement are given. Parents and kids chatting and picking up their stuff. Coach is packing up his things in a bag. Sophie realizes Charles and Charlie are one and the same man.

Sophie hugging Jenny and looks up and sees coach packing his bag. She lets go of Jenny and looks at Coach

SOPHIE

Charles.

Sophie looks around searching. Then back to coach.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Charlie. No. Can't be.

Turns to Billy.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Where did Charles go?

BILLY
Not a clue. He just said hello
stuff you know then I watched Pop
taking to the team. Never saw him
leave.

Turning to Billy and Jenny

SOPHIE
Wait here for a minute I want to do
something with Pop.

41 EXT. OUTSIDE DUGOUT - CONTINUOUS

41

Takes Jenny's glove and ball and walks over to Charlie.

SOPHIE
How about a catch?

Charlie looks around confused.

CHARLIE
Me? Now?

SOPHIE
Yes. Come on. What's the matter? No
Game?

Charlie puts down his bag, takes out his glove.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)
Walks to the opening of the Ball
field.

CHARLIE
(Standing but not having
moved.)
Where you going

SOPHIE
On the field of course

CHARLIE

You can't play on the field. And they are getting ready for the next game.

SOPHIE

The next game doesn't start for 45 minutes. Besides.(pause) What are they going to do, Fire Me?

Charlie smiles and follows Sophie onto the field,

42

EXT. PLAYING FIELD - CONTINUOUS

42

Sophie takes Charlie on to the field for a catch. They spread apart and she throws him the ball.

CHARLIE

Not bad, Step and Throw. Don't tell me you have forgotten everything I taught you?

OBNOXIOUS PARENT

Hey, you can't play on the field. Its for teams only.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry..

Looks to Sophie and knowing how she feels about conflict begins to back away.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

We'll take it off the field.

SOPHIE

(Sophie interrupts)

I got this. My dad and I are going to have a catch right now sir. So if you don't mind.

Sophie throws ball back to Coach.

OBNOXIOUS PARENT

I do mind. And like I said girlie, no playing on the field.

Catches the ball and turns to the Obnoxious Parent.

SOPHIE

What's it to you?

OBNOXIOUS PARENT

This a baseball field, for BOYS
baseball, not catch and certainty
not for girls.

SOPHIE

Three things could happen right
now. First you can make a scene and
go get security. Not sure how that
plays with the kids. Second, you
can try to physically remove us and
I will kick your ass, which will
definitely not go well with your
mates over there who think you are
some kind of macho fool. And by the
way, if you put a hand on me
(pause) my father, that old man,
will most likely remove one of your
lungs. And lastly, the one I highly
recommend, you take your obnoxious
ass off this field and let us have
our catch.

Groundskeeper walked up and has been listening to the
altercation.

OBNOXIOUS PARENT

(Sees the groundskeeper.)

Well?

GROUNDSKEEPER

I got work to do in the outfield so
I don't have a problem with their
catch. So whatever works for me.
(pause) But if you're asking me, I
am kind of hoping you take choice
number two. And I got twenty says
this "girl" kicks your ass.

The Obnoxious Parent storms off.

43 EXT. PLAYING FIELD - CONTINUOUS

43

Charlie throws the ball to Sophie.

CHARLIE

You always got to be the hero.

SOPHIE

Learned behavior. And its not being
a hero, it called doing the right
thing.

CHARLIE

I finally get to play on a real
baseball field. So am I Kevin
Costner, is this my Field of
Dreams?

SOPHIE

No Dad. It's mine.

44 EXT. PLAYING FIELD - CONTINUOUS

44

Other sons and parents come on the field and start to have a
catch.

Camera pulls back showing all the fields in play and their
field with the parent-player catch underway.