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Field of Dreams

By Phil Alden Robinson

RAY:

John Kinsella.
It's an Irish name.
He was born
in North Dakota in 1896
and never saw a big city
until he came back
from France in 1918.
Settling in Chicago ,
he learned to live and die
with the White Sox.
Died a little
when they lost
the 1919 World Series,
died a lot when eight
White Sox were accused
of throwing that Series.
He played some
in the minors,
but nothing came of it.
Moved to Brooklyn in '35,
married Mom in '38,
was already an old man
at the naval yards
when I was born in 1952.
My name's Ray Kinsella.
Mom died when I was three ,
and I suppose Dad did
the best he could.
Instead of Mother Goose ,
I was put to bed
to stories of Babe Ruth ,
Lou Gehrig,
and the great
Shoeless Joe Jackson.
Dad was a Yankees fan then ,
so I rooted for Brooklyn .
In '58, the Dodgers
moved away , so we had to find
other reasons to fight.
We did.
When I chose a college ,

I picked the farthest
from home I could find.
This drove him up the wall,
which, I suppose,
was the point.
Officially, my major was
English, but really,
it was the '60s.
I marched,
I smoked some grass,
I tried to like sitar music,
and I met Annie.
The only thing we had
in common
was that she came from Iowa,
and I'd once heard of Iowa.
After graduation,
we moved to the Midwest
and stayed with her family
as long as we could,
almost a full afternoon.
Annie and I got married
in June of '74.
Dad died that fall.
A few years later,
Karin was born.
She smelled weird,
but we loved her anyway.
Then Annie got the crazy idea
she could talk me
into buying a farm.
I'm 36 years old,
I love my family,
I love baseball,
and I'm about to become
a farmer.
But until I heard the voice,
I'd never done a crazy thing
in my whole life.

MALE VOICE:

he will come.
If you build it, he will come.
Hey, Annie!

Annie, what was that?
What was what?
That voice just now.
What was it?
We didn't hear anything .
All right.

MALE VOICE:

he will come .
Okay, you must
have heard that!
Sorry. Hey,
come on in to dinner.
Let's go, pumpkin .
Is there, like,
a sound truck on the highway?
Nope. Hey, Karin ,
dinner's ready!
Kids with a radio?
Nope.
Hey, are you really
hearing voices?
Just one.
What did it say?
"If you build it,
he will come."
If you build what,
who will come?
He didn't say.
I hate it when that happens.
Me, too.

MALE VOICE:

he will come .
Build what? What is this?
Ray?
It's okay, honey. I . . .
I'm just talking
to the cornfield .
Anyway , I was walking down
along the street,
and I heard this voice saying,
"Good evening, Mr. Dowd. "
Well, I turned around,

and here was this big,
six-foot rabbit leaning
up against the lamppost.
Why did you do that?
It was funny.
Trust me, Karin .
It's not funny.
The man is sick. Very sick.
Karin , honey,
get your book bag . Let's go !
Hon , I'll take her today.
I've got errands
to do in town .
Far out.
Hey. What if the voice calls
while you're gone?
Take a message.

AN N I E:

Bye.
In all those years,
did you ever. . .
It's just I've heard
that sometimes farmers
in the field . . .
They hear things.
You know, voices.
You hearing voices?
No. It's just I heard
some farmers do.
I , of course, don't,
so I was wondering if I was
doing something wrong .
Did you . . . Did you ever hear
voices out there?
Who's hearing voices?
Ray is.
Out in the fields .
No, I'm not.
I'm . . .
(CRAZY PLAYING ON STEREO)
(RAY LAUGHING)
Noises. That darned tractor. . .
I'm just going to get

some 3-in-1 oil .
That ought to do it.
It was nice. . .
Nice talking to you .

MALE VOICE:

he will come .
All right, that's it!
Huh? Who the. . .
Who are you , huh?
What do you want from me?
Son of a. . .

MALE VOICE:

he will come .
If you build it. . .
If you build it,
he will come.

ANNIE:

this is like
an acid flashback, do you?
I never took acid .
Maybe you will someday.
It's like a flash-forward .
Annie, there's more.
Honey, why don't you eat
a little bit?
I . . . I think I know what
"If you build it,
he will come" means.
Why do I not think
this is so good?
I think it means
that if I build
a baseball field out there,
Shoeless Joe Jackson
will get to come back
and play ball again .
You're kidding?
Uh-uh .

ANNIE:

Yeah .

You're kidding .
Boy, I thought my family
was crazy, but this is
the craziest thing ever.
I know. It's totally nuts.
I mean , Shoeless Joe !
He's dead . Died in ' 5 1 .
He's dead .
They suspended him , right?
Right.
He's still dead?
As far as I know.

RAY:

Babe Ruth copied his swing?
If I did , I've forgotten it.
He was supposed to be
so graceful and agile.
I'd actually like
to see him play again ,
to let him play,
to right an old wrong .
Wait. Wait a minute, Bosco.
Are you actually thinking
of doing this?
No.
I mean , I can't think of
one good reason
why I should , but. . .
I'm 36 . I have a wife,
a child , and a mortgage,
and I'm scared to death
I'm turning into my father.
What's your father got
to do with all of this?
I never forgave him
for getting old .
By the time he was as old
as I am now, he was ancient.
I mean , he must have
had dreams, but he never did
anything about them .
For all I know, he may have
even heard voices, too,

but he sure didn't listen
to them .
The man never did
one spontaneous thing
in all the years I knew him .
Annie, I'm afraid
of that happening to me,
and something tells me
this may be my last chance
to do something about it.
I want to build that field .
Do you think I'm crazy?
Yes.
But I also think
if you really feel
you should do this,
then you should do it.
What the hell is he doing?
He's plowing under his corn .
Why?
Ty Cobb called him
the greatest left fielder
of all time.
He said his glove
was the place
where triples go to die.

KARLN :

RAY:

Lifetime average .356,
third highest in history .

KARLN :

Shoeless Joe?

RAY:

in the minors,
he bought a new pair of spikes
and hurt his feet.
In the sixth inning,
he took them off
and played in his socks.
The players kidded him,

called him "Shoeless Joe , "
and the name stuck.

MAN :

to lose his farm .

WOMAN :

RAY:

the Chicago White Sox ,
they threw the World Series.

KARLN :

RAY:

they lost on purpose .
Gamblers paid them to .
Except Shoeless Joe .
He did take their money ,
but nobody ever proved
he did one thing
to lose those games.
If he threw it,
how do you explain he hit . 375
for the Series and committed
no errors?
I can't.
Twelve hits including
the Series' only home run ,
and they said
he's trying to lose?
It's ridiculous.

RAY:

of baseball suspended eight
of the players,
including the great
Shoeless Joe Jackson ,
for life .

KARLN :

RAY:

let him play the game again .

My father said
he saw him years later
playing under a made-up name
in some 1 0th-rate league
in Carolina.
He'd put on 50 pounds,
and his spring was gone
from his step
but he could still hit.
Dad used to say
nobody could hit
like Shoeless Joe .
I think that's the first time
I've ever seen you smile
when you mentioned
your father.
Well . . .
I have just created something
totally illogical .
That's what I like about it.
Am I completely nuts?
Not completely.
It's a good baseball field ,
Ray.
It's kind of pretty, isn't it?
Mmm-hmm .
Any sign?
Something's going to happen
out there.
I can feel it.

ANNUNCER CN TV:

for the veteran southpaw,
his summer of woes continues.
That's four straight hits
in the inning.
Daddy, what's a "southpaw"?
It means
a left-handed pitcher, honey.
So how bad is it?
Well , considering how much
less acreage we have for corn ,
I say we'll probably
almost break even .

We used up all our savings
on that field , Ray.

Daddy?

Just a minute, Karin .

So what are you saying?

We can't keep the field?

Makes it real hard

to keep the farm .

Daddy.

In a minute, Karin !

There's a man out there

on your lawn .

I'll put up some coffee.

Why don't you go on outside?

Sorry.

I'll get some out there.

Hi .

Ray Kinsella.

Joe Jackson .

I bet it's good

to be playing again , huh?

Getting thrown out of baseball

was like having

part of me amputated .

I've heard

that old men wake up

and scratch itchy legs

that have been dust

for over 50 years.

That was me.

I'd wake up at night

with the smell of the ballpark

in my nose,

with the cool of the grass

on my feet,

the thrill of the grass.

Can you pitch?

Yeah ,

not bad .

Don't we need a catcher?

Not if you get it

near the plate.

Right.

I'm pitching

to Shoeless Joe Jackson .
N ice hit.
See if you can hit my curve .
You can hit the curve ball .
Put one right here, huh?
Right.
Right,
you're a low ball hitter.
Man , I did love this game.
I'd have played
for food money.
It was the game,
the sounds, the smells.
Did you ever hold a ball
or a glove to your face?
Yeah .
I used to love traveling
on the trains
from town to town .
The hotels,
brass spittoons
in the lobbies,
brass beds in the rooms.
It was the crowd ,
rising to their feet
when the ball was hit deep .
Shoot,
I'd have played for nothing .
It's my family.
What's with the lights?
Oh , all the stadiums
have them now.
Even Wrigley Field .
It's harder to see the ball .
The owners found
that more people can attend
night games.
Owners .
Mr. Jackson ,
this is my wife Annie
and my daughter Karin .
Ma'am . H i .
Are you a ghost?
Karin .

She's kidding .
That's okay.
What do you think?
You look real to me.
Then I guess I'm real .
Would you like to come inside?
Thanks. I don't think I can .
Can I come back again?
Yeah . I built this for you .
There are others, you know.
There were eight of us.
It would really mean
a lot to them .
Yeah , anytime.
They're all welcome here.
Hey, is this heaven?
No.
It's Iowa.
Where's he going?
I don't know.
We're keeping this field .
You bet your ass we are.
You're going to lose
your farm , pal .
How can you lose
something so big?
He misplaced the house once.
Yeah , but it turned up .
Ray, come on . Ray? Ray?
This stupid baseball field's
going to bankrupt you .
If you default on your loan ,
you're going
to lose everything .
My partners will give you
a fair price.
Thanks, Mark.
Thanks, Mark, but no.
No.
What are you holding
onto this place for?
You never liked Iowa.
That's not true.
You don't know

the first thing about farming .
I know a lot about farming .
More than you think.
Well , then how could you plow
under your major crop?
What's a crop?

ANNIE:

What's a crop?
Daddy,
the baseball game is on .
Excuse us.
Annie, I don't believe
this guy.
I'm trying to bail him out,
and he leaves
to watch television .
He used to be normal .
Yeah .
(LAUGHING)
Buck !

ALL:

MAN :

Hoy! Hoy! Hoy!
All right! Home base !
Watch Joe's feet.
A good left fielder
knows what pitch is coming .
He can tell
from the bat's angle
which way the ball's heading .
(ALL CHEERING)
Show off!
Stick it in your ear, Gandil .
If you'd have run like that
against Detroit,
I'd have won 20 games !
For Pete's sakes , Cicotte ,
that was 68 years ago.
Give it up !
Hey! You guys want
to play ball or what?

Muscle-bound jerk.
At least I got muscles.
At most you got muscles.
Come on , asshole ! Pitch !
Weaver, be nice.
Sorry, kid !
It's okay. I don't mind .

ALL:

Hey, hey, hey!
Ray? Honey, Mom
and everybody's leaving now.
Okay.
Oh , well , it was . . . You know.
Thanks for coming .
Ray, think about what I said .
I'm just trying to help .
I know.
Thought you two were watching
some game.
It's not really a game.
It's more like practice.
There's only eight of them .
They can't play a real game.
Eight of what?
Them .
Who them?
Them them .

RAY:

Karin , honey,
what are you watching?
The baseball men .

MARK:

Do you see
the baseball men right now?
Of course I do .
What, you really
don't see them?
It's not very polite
to try to make other people
feel stupid .
Mom , wait a minute.

Mom ! Wait a minute.
Dee. Dee, wait.
You don't see these people?
It's not funny, Annie.
They couldn't see it.
This is really interesting .
Hey, Ray, look at this.
Sixty-eight years
since I wore this uniform ,
still fits me like a glove.
You must keep
in pretty good shape.
Now let's see, I died in '70 .
That means I haven't had
a cigarette in 18 years.
You don't smoke, do you?
No.
Karin ! Ray! Dinner!
"Ray, dinner."
"Dinner, Ray."
All right, all right.
Come on .
Let's hit the showers.
See you later.
See you , guys .
I'm melting! I'm melting!

MAN :

That is so cool .

MALE VOICE:

What?

I'm sorry. What?

I didn't understand . What?

MALE VOICE:

Ease his pain . What. . .

What the hell does that mean ,
ease his pain?

What pain? All right.

Whose pain?

Thanks a lot.

Come on , honey, wash up .

We got the PTA meeting

after dinner.
Talking about banning
books again ,
really subversive books,
like The Wizard of Oz,
Diary of Anne Frank.
What happened to you?
The voice is back.
You don't have to build
a football field , do you?
He said , "Ease his pain ."
Ease whose pain?
I asked him . He wouldn't say.
Shoeless Joe's?
I don't think so.
One of the other players?
I don't think so.
This is a very nonspecific
voice out there, and he's
starting to piss me off.
I was having a fun day today,
a good day.
Want a fry?
And I say ,
smut and filth like this has
no place in our schools.
Fascist.
I'd like to ease her pain .
Mrs. Kessinik, Mrs. Kessinik.
That book you're waving about
is hardly smut.
It's considered by many
critics to be the classic
novel about the 1960s.
It's pornography!
No , no . The Supreme Court says
it's not.
And it's author, Mr. Mann . . .
Is sick !
Terence Mann is
a Pulitzer Prize winner.
He's widely regarded
as the finest satirist
of his time .

He's a pervert!
Probably a Communist, too !
What planet are
these people from?
Mr. Harris, the so-called
novels of Terence Mann
endorse promiscuity ,
godlessness,
the mongrelization
of the races,
and disrespect
to high-ranking officers
of the United States Army .
And that's why right-thinking
school boards
all across the country
having been banning
this man's S-H-l- since 1 969 .
Terence Mann?
You know why
he stopped writing books.
Because he masturbates.
Excuse me, madam .
Excuse me.
Terence Mann was a warm ,
gentle voice of reason
during a time
of great madness.
He coined the phrase,
"Make love, not war."
While other people
were chanting ,
"Burn , baby, burn ,"
he was talking about love
and peace and understanding .
I cherished his books,
and I dearly wish
he had written more.
Maybe if you had experienced
even a little bit of the '60s,
you might feel
the same way, too.
I experienced the '60s.
No, you had two '50s

and moved right on
into the '70s.
Annie, look at this.
Your husband plowed
under his corn and built
a baseball field .
Now, there's
an intelligent response.
The weirdo.
Annie. . .
Honey, it's all right.
I'll be cool .
At least he is not
a book burner, you Nazi cow.
At least I'm not married
to the biggest horse's ass
in three counties.
All right, Beulah ,
do you want to step outside?
Fine !

RAY:

All right, honey.
I've got a better idea.
Let's take a vote.
Who's for Eva Braun?
Who wants to burn books?
Who wants to spit on
the Constitution of the U nited
States of America? Anybody?
All right. Now,
who's for the Bill of Rights?
Who thinks freedom
is a pretty darn good thing?
Come on ! Come on !
Let's see those hands !
Who thinks
we have to stand up
to the kind of censorship
they had under Stalin?
All right. There you go.
America, I love you .
I'm proud of you .
Let's go.

We got to go.
This is great!

RAY:

I figured it out.
(WHOOPLING)
Was that great, or what?
I figured it out.
It's just like the '60s again!
I just figured it out.
"Step outside, you Nazi cow."
I know whose pain
I'm supposed to ease.
What?
I know whose pain
I'm supposed to ease.
I just halted the spread
of neofascism in America. . .
Terence Mann .
What about him?
That's whose pain .
You sure?
I was right about building
the field, wasn't I?
Well, what's his pain?
I don't know.
How are you supposed
to ease it?
I don't know.
Ray.
Well, Ann . . .
Look, he's my favorite writer,
too,
but what's Terence Mann
got to do with baseball?
Annie, it's incredible.
By the early '70s,
Mann decides people
have become either
too extremist
or too apathetic to listen .
So he stops writing books,
he starts writing poetry
about whales,

and then he starts fooling
around with a computer.
Know what he does now?
He writes software
for interactive
children's videos.
They teach kids
how to resolve
their conflicts peacefully.
God , what an amazing guy.
What's that got to do
with baseball?
In the April 1 962 issue
of Jet Magazine ,
there's a story called
"This Is Not A Kite."
It's not his best work,
but the story's hero
is named John Kinsella,
my father.
Wow.
What do you mean , "Wow"?
Big wow! What's it got to do
with baseball?
You drive.
Okay, the last interview
he ever gave was in 1 973 .
Guess what it's about.
Some kind of team sport.
Mann was a baseball fanatic.
Listen to this.
"My earliest recurring dream
was to play at Ebbets Field
"with Jackie Robinson
and the Brooklyn Dodgers.
"It never happened .
The Dodgers left Brooklyn .
"Ebbets Field is gone,
but I still dream that dream ."
That's sad .

RAY:

books of his generation .
He was a pioneer

in the civil rights
and the antiwar movement.
I mean , he made
the cover of Newsweek.
He knew everybody.
He did everything .
He helped shape his time.
The guy hung out
with the Beatles.
It wasn't enough .
What he missed was baseball .
Oh , my God !
What?
"As a small boy,
he had a bat named Rosebud ."
Give me that.
Sorry.
The guy hasn't been
to a baseball game since 1 958 .
So , in order to ease his pain ,
you're supposed to take him
to a ballgame.
Yes.
Ray, this is nuttier
than building
the baseball field .
No. No, it's not.
It's pretty weird ,
but building the field was
5 , 1 0% weirder.
I'm going to have
to nip this one in the bud .
We're having moderate-to-heavy
financial difficulties here.
And you can't take off
for Boston while we're
going broke in Iowa.
This is really
new territory for us,
but we're dealing
with primal forces of nature.
The prudent thing is not
to quibble over details.
Yeah , but why do you

have to go? Why can't
the voice send somebody else?
How about Shirley MacLaine?
Is she too busy?
What does this have
to do with you?

RAY:

to find out.
Ray, we are behind
on the mortgage. That field
ate up all of our savings.
We could lose this farm .
I won't even stay in motels.
I'll sleep in the car.
I'll beg for food .
No. No ! Now, this is too much !
Now, look. I understand
your need to prove to yourself
and to the world
you are not turning
into your father,
but you've done it.
You believed in the magic.
It happened .
Isn't that enough?
It's more than that.
I know this is totally nuts,
but there's another reason
I'm supposed to do it.
I feel it as strongly
as I've felt anything .
There's a reason .
What? Just tell me what it is.
Something's going to happen
at the game.
There's something
at Fenway Park.
I got to be there
with Terence Mann
to find it out.
Is Fenway the one
with the big green wall
in left field?

Yeah .
I dreamt last night
you were at Fenway
with Terence Mann .
Was I sitting
on the first base side?
Yes.
About halfway up on the aisle?
Yeah . Eating a hot dog .
Eating a hot dog .
I had the same dream .
I'll help you pack.

RAY:

H i , I'm Ray Kinsella.
H i . No.
H i .
H i , I'm Ray Kinsella.
It's a great pleasure
to finally get to. . .
H i , I'm Ray Kinsella.
I'm a big fan of yours.
H i .
How do you do, Mr. Mann?
I have to take you
to a base. . .
All right, stupid ,
put your hands up
and get in the trunk.
Good . Good .
He lives right around here.
Do you know him?
He's sort of a tall black man .
I'm a friend of his.
If he was much of a friend ,
he could give you
the directions himself.
That's a good point.
Thank you .
I don't know where he lives.
Get away from me !
I ain't going
to tell you nothing .
Go away! You're a pest!

Two blocks down ,
right-hand side.
First door
that don't have a chicken
in the window is his.
No chicken .
Who the hell are you?
Sir, my name's Ray Kinsella.
We got
a learning disability here?
If I could just have
one minute, please.
Look, I can't tell you
the secret of life,
and I don't have
any answers for you .
I don't give interviews,
and I'm no longer
a public figure.
I just want to be left alone,
so piss off.
Wait! Wait!
Look, I've come 1 , 500 miles
to see you
at the risk of losing my home
and alienating my wife.
All I'm asking is one minute.
Please.
One minute .
Okay, I understand
your desire for privacy,
and I wouldn't dream
of intruding if this weren't
extremely important.
Oh , God .
I don't do causes anymore.
This isn't a cause.
I don't need money
or an endorsement.
Refreshing .
You once wrote,
"There comes a time
when all the cosmic tumblers
have clicked into place

"and the universe
opens itself up
for a few seconds
"to show you what's possible."
Oh , my God !
What?
You're from the '60s.
Well , yeah . Actually. . .
Out!
Hey!
Back to the '60s.
No place for you
here in the future.
Get back while you still can !
You've changed , you know that?
Yes, I suppose I have.
How about this?
Peace, love, dope.
Now get the hell out of here !
You've really pissed me off.
Hold it.
I was hoping I wouldn't have
to do it this way.
What the hell is that?
It's a gun .
It's your finger.
No, it's a gun .
Let me see it.
I'm not going to show you
my gun .
I'm not going to hurt you .
I need you to come with . . .
What are you doing?
I'll beat you with a crowbar
until you go away.
Whoa ! Wait! You can't do that.
There are rules here? Oh , no .
There are no rules here.
You're a pacifist!
Shit.
Thank you . Thank you .
So what? You kidnapping me?
What's the deal here?
I was. . .

I was hoping I could just
convince you to come with me.
So you are kidnapping me?
I have to take you
to a baseball game.
You what?
Tonight's game . Red Sox, A's .
Why?
Something will happen there .
I don't know what,
but we'll find out
when it does.
My name's Ray Kinsella.
You used my father's name
for a character
in one of your stories.
John Kinsella.
You're seeing a whole team
of psychiatrists, aren't you?
I don't blame you
for thinking that,
but, no, I'm not.
I swear to God ,
I'm the least crazy person
I've ever known .
Why are you kidnapping me
to a baseball game?
May I . . .
Oh , please .
Want a cup of coffee?
No.
Want some cookies?
No.
I read an interview you gave
a long time ago
about how you always dreamed
of playing at Ebbets Field
and how sad you felt
when they tore it down .
I never said that.
You didn't?
I don't even recall
thinking that.
This is so weird .

This whole. . .
This whole thing is so weird .
Then why go through with it?
It's a long story.
But it's a really good story.
I'll tell you on the way.
I'm not going to get rid
of you , am I?
Come to this game .
I'll never bother you again ,
not even . . .
Not even a Christmas card .
(ANNOUNCER SPEAKING ON PA)
So what do you do
with yourself these days?
I live, I work.
I learned how to cook.
I take walks
and watch sunsets.
Don't you miss being involved?
I was the East Coast
distributor of involved .
I ate it and drank it
and breathed it.
Then they killed
Martin and Bobby,
they elected
Tricky Dick twice,
and now people like you think
I must be miserable
because I'm not involved
anymore.
I've got news for you .
I spent all my misery
years ago.
I have no more pain left
for any of you .
I gave at the office.
So what do you want?
I want them to stop
looking to me for answers,
begging me to speak again ,
write again , be a leader.
I want them to start thinking

for themselves.
I want my privacy.
No, I meant what do you want?
Oh .
Dog and a beer.
Two.
10 bucks.
Okay, I understand .
You should be entitled to
as much privacy as you want,
but why stop writing?
I haven't published a word
in 17 years,
and still I have to endure
lunatics like you .
What do you think would happen
if I suddenly came out
with a new book?
They'd bleed me dry.

MALE VOICE:

Go the distance .
What's the matter?
You didn't see that?
See what?
I'm sorry. I guess
you didn't have to be here.
What?
Whenever you want to go,
we can go.
Fine. Let's go.
What is it
you're not telling me?
I've already taken up
too much of your time.
I wish I had
your passion , Ray.
Misdirected though
it might be,
it is still a passion .
I used to feel that way
about things, but. . .
You got another message,
didn't you?

You'll think I'm crazy.
I already think you're crazy.
What did it say?
It said ,
"The man's done enough .
Leave him alone."
"Moonlight" Graham .
You saw it.
Saw what?
You saw it.
New York Giants , 1 922.
He played one game.
He never got to bat.
What did I see?
Chisholm , Minnesota.
We were the only ones
who saw it.
Did you hear the voice, too?
It's what told me to find you .
Did you hear it?
"Go the distance"?
Yes.
Do you know what it means?
Yes.
What?
It means we're going
to Minnesota to find
"Moonlight" Graham .
We're going . . . We?
I must be out of my mind .
What do we do
when we find him?
How the hell
am I supposed to know?
That's right.
You're right. You're right.
This is so bitching .
I don't believe
I'm doing this.

RAY:

I'm with Terence Mann.

ANN LE:

You kidnapped him.
No, I didn't. He wanted to.
Sorry , but I'm going
to be a few days longer.
We're going to Minnesota.

ANN LE:

What's in Minnesota?
An old ballplayer.
I'll explain when I get home.
How are things with you?

ANN LE:

Great. Look, Ann ,
I got to go, okay?
Give Karin a hug for me ,
and I love you .
I love you , too.
Hey, someday explain all this
to me, okay?
I'll try .
Bye-bye .
Bye.
Why didn't you tell him?
Annie, you got no choice
in the matter.

RAY:

No Archibald . No "Moonlight."
Follow me.
Hello.
Excuse me.
Maybe you can help us.
We're looking
for an ex-baseball player
named Archibald Graham .
Oh , you mean Doc Graham .
No. I think
his nickname was "Moonlight."
Well , that's Dr. Graham .
Dr. Graham?
His baseball career
never amounted to much .
He went back to school .

H is father was a doctor.
Do you know
where we can find him?
It's nothing bad .
We're not from the 1 RS .
Doc Graham is dead .
He died in 1 972.
"And there were times
when children could not afford
"eyeglasses or milk
or clothing .
"Yet, no child was ever denied
these essentials
"because, in the background ,
there was always Dr. Graham .
"Without any fanfare
or publicity,
"the glasses or the milk
or the ticket to the ballgame
"found their way
into the child's pocket."
You wrote that.
The day he died .
Can I see that?
You're a good writer.
So are you .
(PHON E RI NG I NG)
Something's missing .
Well , he sounds like
he was a wonderful man .
Half the towns
in North America have
a Doc Graham .
What makes this one so special
we travel across the country
to find him
1 6 years after he died?
There's got to be more.
What else?
He always wore an overcoat,
he had white hair,
and he always carried
an umbrella.
What was the umbrella for?

It got to be a habit,
something to hang on to.
He said he used it to beat
away his lady admirers.
Tell me about his wife.
Alicia.
She moved to South Carolina
after Doc passed .
She passed
a couple years later.
She always wore blue .
The shopkeepers in town
would stock blue hats
because they knew
if Doc walked by,
he'd buy one.
When they cleaned out
his office,
they found boxes of blue hats
that he never got around
to give her.
I'll bet you didn't know that.
No, I didn't.
No screwing , no drinking ,
no opium ,
no midnight abortions,
no illegitimate children ,
no shady finances.
You sound disappointed .
Shoeless Joe had a problem .
That's why he needed you .
This guy doesn't need us.
Terence.
Do you know you're missing?
Oh , God .
"H is father,
who lives in Baltimore,
"notified police
after receiving no answer
to repeated telephone calls."
Shoot.
I better call him .
You want me to. . .
Thanks.

I'm taking a walk.
Be back in a while.
What do I tell him?
"This year's"?
Dr. Graham?
My name's Ray Kinsella.
I'm from Iowa.
Are you "Moonlight" Graham?
No one's called me
"Moonlight" Graham
in 50 years.
Well , I've come
a very long way to see you .
I couldn't sleep tonight.
Usually I sleep like a baby.
I told Alicia
I was taking a walk.
Do you mind if I join you?
I'd like to talk to you .
Let's walk over to my office.
What do you want
to talk to me about?
When you got to the majors,
you played only one inning
of one game.
What happened that inning?

G RAHAM:

of the season ,
bottom of the eighth ,
we were way ahead .
In three weeks,
I hadn't seen any action .
Suddenly old John McGraw
points a bony finger
in my direction
and he says, "Right field ."
I jumped up like I was sitting
on a spring ,
grabbed my glove,
and ran out on the field .

RAY:

a play?

They never hit the ball
out of the infield .
The game ended .
The season was over.
I knew they'd send me
back down .
I couldn't bear the thought
of another year in the minors.
So I decided to hang them up .
Go on . Sit down .
Thank you .
So what was that like?
It was like coming
this close to your dreams,
then watch them
brush past you ,
like a stranger in a crowd .
Then , you don't think
about it.
We just don't recognize life's
most significant moments
while they're happening .
Back then I thought, "Well ,
there'll be other days."
I didn't realize that
that was the only day.
And now,
I want to ask you a question .
What's so interesting
about half an inning
that you'd come from Iowa
to talk to me about it
50 years after it happened?
I didn't really know
till just now,
but I think it's to ask you
if you could do
anything you wanted ,
if you could have a wish . . .
And you're the kind of a man
who could grant me that wish?
I don't know. I'm just asking .
Well , you know,
I never got to bat

in the major leagues.
I'd have liked to have had
that chance, just once,
to stare down
a big-league pitcher.
Then just as he goes
into his windup , wink.
Make him think
you know something he doesn't.
That's what I wish for.
The chance to squint
at a sky so blue it hurts
your eyes to look at it,
to feel the tingle
in your arms as you connect
with the ball ,
run bases, stretching a double
into a triple and flop
face first into third ,
wrap your arms around the bag .
That's my wish .
That's my wish .
Is there enough magic
out there in the moonlight
to make this dream come true?
What would you say
if I said yes?
I think
I'd actually believe you .
There's a place where
things like that happen .
If you want to go,
I can take you .
This is my most special place
in all the world .
Once a place touches you
like this, the wind never
blows so cold again .
You feel for it,
like it was your child .
I can't leave Chisholm .
I understand . I do.
But I really think you're
supposed to come with us.

No.

But your wish?

It'll have to stay a wish .

I was born here, I lived here,

I'll die here, but no regrets.

Fifty years ago, for 5 minutes

you came this close.

It would kill some men

to get that close

to their dream

and not touch it.

God . They'd consider it

a tragedy.

If I'd only gotten to be

a doctor for five minutes,

now that would have been

a tragedy.

I better be getting home.

Alicia will think

I got a girlfriend .

RAY:

And then I figured , maybe

we're not supposed to take him

with us.

I don't know.

I don't know why in the hell

we were supposed to come here.

Maybe it's to find out

if one inning can change

the world .

Think it did?

Did for these people.

If he'd gotten a hit,

he might have stayed

in baseball .

I don't know.

Oh , your wife called .

She wants you

to call her tonight.

(TELEPHONE RINGING)

Ray?

I'm fine.

I'm just so glad it's you .

Listen , I talked to the bank,
and I asked them
if we could miss
a payment or two ,
and they told me
that they had just sold
the note on the farm
to Mark and his partners.
Right.
So they own the paper now.
He says
if we don't sell to them ,
they're going to foreclose.
Ray, we don't have the money.
Look, I've got to take
Mr. Mann back to Boston first.
Okay? So , it's . . .

MAN N :

Wait a second .
I'm going to Iowa with you .
We're coming home.

MAN N :

I got to see this ballpark.

RAY:

You might not.
Give it a try.
I need all the karma
I can get right now.
Thanks.
You're the first car by.
How far you going?
Iowa.
If it's okay,
I'll just ride along a while.
I play baseball .
Hop in .
All right.
I'm looking
for a place to play.
I heard that
all through the Midwest,

they have towns with teams.
In some places,
they'll find you a day job
so you can play ball
nights and weekends.
It's your lucky day.
We're going someplace
kind of like that.
All right.
I'm Ray Kinsella.
This is Terence Mann .
Hi .
I'm Archie Graham .
It's funny the way
he described towns
finding you a job
so you could play
on their team .
They haven't done that
for years.
Dad did that for a while,
but that was in the '20s.
What happened to your father?
He never made it
as a ballplayer. He wanted
his son to make it for him .
By 1 0 , playing baseball got
to be like eating vegetables
or taking out garbage.
When I was 1 4 ,
I started to refuse.
Can you believe that?
American boy refusing to have
a catch with his father?
Why 1 4?
That's when
I read The Boat Rocker
by Terence Mann .
Oh , God .
I never played catch
with him again .
That's the crap
people always lay on me.
It's not my fault you wouldn't

play catch with him .
I know.
Anyway, when I was 17 ,
I packed my things,
said something awful ,
and left.
After a while,
I wanted to come home,
but I didn't know how.
Made it back
for the funeral , though .
What was the awful thing
you said?
To your father?
Oh .
I said I could never respect
a man whose hero was
a criminal .
Who was his hero?
Shoeless Joe Jackson .
You knew he wasn't a criminal .
Then why did you say it?
I was 17 .
The son of a bitch died
before I could take it back.
Before I could tell him ,
you know.
He never met my wife.
He never saw
his granddaughter.
This is your penance.
I know.
I can't bring my father back.
So the least you can do
is bring back his hero.
Well . . .
Now I know what
everybody's purpose here is,
except mine.
Hey.

KARL N :

Karin , come here.

ANNIE:

Oh , we missed you .
Are you , okay?
Yeah . This is Terence Mann .
Terry .
Welcome.
Hi , Terry.

RAY:

is . . . This is Archie Graham .
Archie.

RAY:

with the team .
He'll be able to do
a lot more than that.
What does that mean?
(MEN CHATTERING)

MAN :

What do you say?

JOE:

Thanks , Joe .
Oh , my God .
What?
That's Shoeless Joe Jackson .
Of course it is .
You didn't believe me?

MAN N :

Oh , my God .

JOE:

Hi , Joe .
Good to see you .
Terry, I'd like you
to meet Shoeless Joe Jackson .
Joe, Terry Mann .
It's a pleasure meeting you .
The pleasure's mine.
We got tired
of just having practices,
so we brought another team out

so we'd have some real games.
I don't mind .
Where'd they come from?
Where did we come from?
So many wanted to play here .
We had to beat them off
with a stick.
Hey, that's Smokey Joe Wood
and Mel Ott
and Gil Hodges .
Ty Cobb wanted to play.
Nobody could stand him
when we were alive.
We told him to stick it.
Hey, are you Graham?

ARCH 1 E:

Why are you on the sidelines?
Came to play ball , didn't you?
Yes, sir.
All right. Well , go warm up .
Yes, sir.
Rookies.
Unbelievable.
It's more than that.
It's perfect.

MAN 1 :

MAN 2:

(ALL CHEERING)
Go , Graham ! Go , kid !
Come on , Archie !
He looks like a baby
next to those guys.
He is.

MAN 1 :

MAN 2:

Oh !

MAN :

(BLOWING A RASPBERRY)

Say hey!

AN N 1 E:

shake you up . Hang in there !
Knuckles, what did you throw
at the kid for?
He winked at me.
Don't wink, kid .
Good thing for you
he didn't throw the fastball .
Let's see that fastball .

MAN :

MAN :

UMPL RE:

Hey, ump ! Come on .
Give us a break !
Hey, ump .
How about a warning?
Sure .
Watch out
you don't get killed .
Time !
Those first two were
high and tight.
What will the next one be?
Well , either low and away
or in my ear.
He won't want
to load the bases.
So look for low and away.
All right.
But watch out for in your ear.

AN N 1 E:

MAN N :

Batter, batter,
batter, batter!
Come on , Arch .
It just takes one.

MAN :

AN N 1 E:

RAY:

MAN :

Go home !

Safe !

Son of a . . .

Way to go, Arch ! Way to go !

MAN :

This is the wave !

MAN 1 :

MAN 2:

MAN :

That's what we needed .

Way to go.

Yeah . Way to go.

(MEN CHATTERL NG)

MAN 1 :

MAN 2:

What is this jerk doing?

H i !

Shit!

Wreck him .

MAN :

You're interrupting

the game, Mark.

Ray, it's time to put away

your little fantasies

and come down to Earth .

It's not a fantasy.

They're real .

Who is real?

Shoeless Joe Jackson ,

the White Sox, all of them .

You mean?

He can't see any of them .

Well , who is this, Elvis?

AN N I E:

As a matter of fact,

it's Terence Mann .

How do you do?

I'm the Easter bunny.

Let's settle this thing now.

You have no money.

Look. I'm not selling .

You have no money!

You have a stack of bills !

Come fall ,

you got no crop to sell .

I have a deal that allows you

to stay on the land .

We don't have

to sell the farm .

You'll live

in the house rent-free.

What about the team?

Do you realize

how much this land is worth?

Yeah . Yeah .

2,200 bucks an acre.

We can't keep

a useless baseball diamond

in rich farmland .

Read my lips.

We're staying , all right?

We're staying .

Ray, you're bankrupt!

I'm offering you a way

to keep your home

because I love my sister.

My partners don't care

and are ready to foreclose.

Daddy, we don't have

to sell the farm .

Karin , please !

Just wait!

Wait!

People will come.
What people, sweetheart?
From all over.
They'll just decide
to take a vacation , see?
And they'll come to Iowa City.
They'll think
it's really boring .
So they'll want to pay us .
Like buying a ticket.
You're not seriously listening
to this, are you?
Yes.
Wait a minute.
Why would anybody pay money
to come here?
To watch the games.
It will be just like
when they were little kids
a long time ago.
They'll watch the game
and remember what it was like.
What the hell
is she talking about?
People will come.
All right.
This is fascinating ,
but you don't have the money
to bring the mortgage
up to date.
You're still going
to have to sell .
I'm sorry, Ray.
We got no choice.

MAN N :

People will come, Ray.
They'll come to Iowa
for reasons
they can't even fathom .
They'll turn up your driveway,
not knowing for sure
why they're doing it.
They'll arrive at your door

as innocent as children ,
longing for the past.
"Of course , we won't mind
if you look around ,"
you'll say.
"It's only \$20 per person ."
They'll pass over the money
without even thinking
about it.
For it is money they have
and peace they lack.
J ust sign the papers.

MAN N :

to the bleachers
and sit in their shirt sleeves
on a perfect afternoon .
They'll find
they have reserved seats
somewhere along
one of the baselines,
where they sat
when they were children
and cheered their heroes,
and they'll watch the game,
and it will be as if
they dipped themselves
in magic waters.
The memories will be so thick,
they'll have to brush them
away from their faces.
Ray, when the bank opens
in the morning ,
they'll foreclose.
People will come, Ray.
You're broke, Ray.
You sell now,
or you lose everything .
The one constant
through all the years, Ray,
has been baseball .
America has rolled by
like an army of steamrollers.
It's been erased

like a blackboard ,
rebuilt, and erased again .
But baseball has marked
the time.
This field , this game.
It's a part of our past, Ray.
It reminds us of all
that once was good ,
and it could be again .
Oh , people will come , Ray.
People will
most definitely come.

MARK:

you will lose everything .
You will be evicted .
Come on , Ray.
I'm not signing .
You're crazy. Absolutely nuts !
I can't do it, pal .
I mean ,
you build a baseball field
in the middle of nowhere,
and you stare at nothing .
It's not nothing .
Your daughter's turned
into a space case.
Get your hands off her!

AN N I E:

AN N I E:

Is she breathing?

MAN N :

I'm going to call Emergency.
Annie, wait.
What?
Just wait.
What have we got here?
She fell .

G RAHAM:

to death . Get her up .

Hold her steady now.
(KARL N COUG H l NG)
Hot dog . Stuck in her throat.
She'll be all right.
She'll be turning handsprings
before you know it.
Thank you , Doc.
No, son .
Thank you .
Oh , my God . You can't go back.
Hey, it's all right.
I'm sorry.
It's all right.
I best be getting on home
before Alicia begins to think
I got a girlfriend .
Hey, Doc.
Good work, Doc.
Nice going , Doc.
Going to miss you , Doc.
Win one for me one day,
will you , boys?
Okay, Doc.
Yeah .
When did these ballplayers
get here?

JOE:

You were good .
Do not sell this farm , Ray.
You got to keep this farm .
You've had a rough day.
Go inside and get
something cold to drink.
Yeah . That's a good idea.
Don't sell the farm , Ray.
Ray?
We're going to call it a day.
See you tomorrow.
Okay.
Hey, do you want
to come with us?
You mean it?
No, not you .

H im .
H im?
Come with you?

JOE:

What is out there?
Come and find out.
Wait a second . Why him?
I built this field .
You wouldn't be here
if it weren't for me.
Ray, I'm unattached .
You have a family.
I want to know
what's out there.
But you're not invited .
Not invited? What do you mean
I'm not invited?
That's my corn out there.
You guys are guests
in my corn .
I've done everything
I've been asked to do.
I didn't understand it,
but I've done it.
I haven't once asked
what's in it for me.
What are you saying?
I'm saying ,
"What's in it for me?"
Is that why you did this?
For you?
I think you'd better
stay here, Ray.
Why?
There's a reason
they chose me,
just as there's a reason
they chose this field .

MAN N :

What interview?
What are you talking about?
The one about Ebbets Field ,

the one that sent you
to Boston to find me.
You lied to me.
You were kidnapping me
at the time.
You lied .
You said
your finger was a gun .
That's a good point.
Ray.
Listen to me, Ray.
Listen to me.
There is something out there,
and if I have the courage
to go through with this,
what a story it'll make.
"Shoeless Joe Jackson comes
to Iowa."
What? Are you going
to write about it?
You bet I'll write about it.
You're going to write
about it.
That's what I do.
Good .

AN N I E:

Honey, where's he going?
Terry's been invited
to go out with the others.
How are you feeling ,
sweetheart?
Stupid .
You mean out?
Yeah .
Out.

AN N I E:

I want a full description .
Take care of this family.

AN N I E:

Bye.
What?

What are you grinning at,
you ghost?

"If you build it,
"he will come."

Oh , my God .

What? What is it?

It's my father.

"Ease his pain ."

AN N I E:

RAY:

No, Ray.

It was you .

RAY:

I only saw him years later
when he was worn down by life.

Look at him .

He's got his whole life
in front of him , and I'm not
even a glint in his eye.

What do I say to him?

AN N I E:

him to his granddaughter?

JOH N :

H i .

I just wanted
to thank you folks
for putting up this field ,
letting us play here.

I'm John Kinsella.

I'm Ray.

My wife Annie.

H i .

This is my daughter Karin .

Karin , this is my. . .

This is John .

KARL N :

H iya, Karin .

Well , we're going to let

you two talk.
I mean , if all these people
are going to come,
we got a lot of work to do.
It was very nice meeting you .
Ma'am .
Come on , hon .
You catch a good game.
Thank you .
It's so beautiful here.
For me. . .
Well , for me it's like
a dream come true.
Can I ask you something?
Is. . . Is this heaven?
It's Iowa.
Iowa?
Yeah .
I could have sworn
it was heaven .
Is. . .
Is there a heaven?
Oh , yeah .
It's the place
dreams come true.
Maybe this is heaven .
Well . . .
Good night, Ray.
Good night, John .

RAY:

You want to have a catch?
I'd like that.