

# OLD GLORY

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FADE IN:

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - NIGHT.

Yankees Baseball Stadium.

The AUDIENCE screams excitedly, there is no sound, you can hear the beating of a heart.

DAN MURRAY (42) is ready to bat. He rubs his hands on the bat. His eyes are fixed on the PITCHER. His feet are making movements in the ground... as if holding on.

The PITCHER makes his move. He releases the ball, and it slowly spins in the air.

Dan, deeply focused on the ball, prepares and takes a long swing. His bat collides with the ball. The roar is deafening. The ball soars into the air and blends into the blue sky.

Every PERSON in the stadium: MANAGER, PITCHER, CATCHER, FANATIC, VENDOR... and Dan... watch as the ball leaves the stadium.

Dan drops the bat with great excitement and runs around the bases with great pride.

The pitcher's gaze is accusatory.

Each PLAYER defending the field looks at him accusingly as Dan runs the bases. When he reaches home plate, the catcher confronts him.

CATCHER

Cheating!

Dan glares at him. He charges at him, and the two come to blows.

Both dugouts empty. Players face off against each other. On the field, it's total chaos.

INT. COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY.

Baseball Commissioner RICK RAMOS (70s) stands in front of a podium. Many cameras, microphones, and JOURNALISTS are crowded in front of him.

RAMOS

After extensive investigations by my office... we have concluded that Dan Murray must be banned from baseball for repeated use of prohibited substances over the past ten years... his ban will begin immediately...

JOURNALISTS crowd around the commissioner, peppering him with questions.

The Commissioner cannot hear them all because of the din and leaves the podium.

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM. PARKING - DAY.

Several JOURNALISTS rush toward Dan. He walks toward his Ferrari, carrying a bag containing all his equipment and personal belongings. He is accompanied by his LAWYER, PETER BIRD (40S), and a BODYGUARD.

JOURNALIST

Dan! Dan! Are you going to appeal?

Dan doesn't respond, he continues walking.

JOURNALIST

Dan! Aren't you going to defend yourself?

PETER

(intervening)

Mr. Murray will not be making any statement.

Dan reaches his Ferrari. He puts his bag in. He gets in. His lawyer and his escort get into another car waiting nearby.

JOURNALIST

Dan! Dan! Are you a cheater? Are you?

The Ferrari accelerates out of the parking lot, its engine roaring.

EXT/INT. OFFICE - DAY.

Skyscrapers. You can see all of Manhattan around them.

In that building, you can see an entire level of offices, as well as a cubicle with dozens of WOMEN working in front of a computer. On that level, there is another office near the cubicles, and a glass door shows a man sitting at his desk. It's MIKE DONOVAN (40s), reading a newspaper. The newspaper headline (in giant letters) is about Dan Murray's expulsion from baseball.

His secretary, CLAUDIA (55), comes in and sees the newspaper headline.

MIKE

(noticing his presence)

Today is a sad day for baseball.

CLAUDIA

Mr. Donovan...

MIKE

Claudia, I told you to call me Mike.

CLAUDIA

Yes, Mr. Donovan, the President wants to see you.

MIKE

The president? The president of the United States?

CLAUDIA

No! The president of the company.

MIKE

Of course!

Mike stands up as he fixes his tie.

CLAUDIA

(taking the newspaper)

He deserved it.

MIKE

Dan Murray is a legend, he has done a lot for baseball.

CLAUDIA

A man who's already over forty and still bats like a twenty-year-old? He's obviously cheating.

MIKE  
(changing the subject)  
Am I presentable?

CLAUDIA  
Yes, Mr. Donovan.

MIKE  
Mike! Why do you have such a hard time calling me by my name?

CLAUDIA  
Because he's my boss and I don't want to be sexually harassed.

Mike is surprised by the comment, because of the obvious age difference, and doesn't believe that's what's happening.

MIKE  
Believe me Claudia, you are safe from being harassed.

CLAUDIA  
That's what everyone says.

Mike's face expresses confusion.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUED.

Mike is in the elevator. He's nervously rubbing his hand. He's checking some graphs on his cell phone.

MIKE  
I hope it's good news. I need it.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUED.

Mike steps out of the elevator and heads straight to the office of the company's PRESIDENT, CARL REED (60), who is waiting for him.

REED  
Mike! Glad to see you.

MIKE

Mr. Reed!

REED

I was waiting for you. Have a seat.

Mike settles into a large armchair. He crosses his legs, but returns to his formal position.

Carl Reed stands in front of his huge window, admiring the view that New York City offers.

REED

Mike! You must be wondering why I called you... right?

MIKE

Yes sir, the last time he called me was to promote me...

REED

Exactly! You've given so much to this corporation... you're a hard worker.

MIKE

Thank you sir.

REED

Yeah, well... you know we're in tough times. We've had some dips in our production... a big one!

MIKE

Yes sir, I'm aware of that. We're developing a plan to recover the losses... if we make the right investments...

REED

(interrupting him)

Yes, yes... I'm aware... but let's face it, it's time for us to make some tough decisions.

MIKE

(confused)

Mister?

REED  
We're closing!

Mike is shocked. His body language is one of utter confusion.

MIKE  
Close? How to close? Do you mean... close?

REED  
Yes Mike... we'll close... I can't keep losing money... and I'm losing a lot... the good thing is that you can always start over... from scratch... reinvent yourself... that's what's exciting.

Mike is in shock.

MIKE  
Exciting? Sir... I'm over forty... what am I going to do?

REED  
Come on, Mike... forty is nothing to you... you can do anything you set your mind to... that's the good thing about life, it gives you the chance to start something new... this is your chance to do something for yourself... there are plenty of opportunities out there... go for them.

Mike is still in shock.

CUT TO:

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - DAY.

TITLE: 10 years later.

Mike prepares a hot dog in Times Square. A LITTLE GIRL watches the process closely.

MIKE  
Here you have it... a delicious hot dog.  
The girl takes it and looks at Mike intently.

MIKE  
What?

LITTLE GIRL  
This is a hot dog?

MIKE  
What do you think it is?

LITTLE GIRL  
The man on the other corner prepares  
them better...

Mike looks at her seriously.

MIKE  
My hot dogs are better than any in this  
city... now pay me and get out!

LITTLE GIRL  
This is garbage!

The girl throws the hot at him dog Mike and runs away.

Mike is covered in sauce and pieces of bread, and his face is  
one of total frustration.

INT. MIKE'S HOUSE - DAY.

Mike arrives at his Brooklyn apartment, in a poor  
neighborhood. He enters the kitchen and pours himself a glass  
of milk. Now he walks to the counter and sits in a chair  
while looking at a photo in a frame. It's a young woman,  
about twenty years old. He picks up his phone and searches  
his contacts for a name. Stefany stands out. He makes a move  
to call her, but changes his mind. He puts down the phone and  
picks up the newspaper. He looks in the classifieds section.  
An ad catches his eye.

Pick up the phone again and dial the number in the newspaper.  
Wait.

MIKE  
Hello... I'm calling about the ad looking  
for an experienced driver... yes... yes...  
tomorrow? Of course... I'll be there... yes,  
I know the place... thanks... see you  
tomorrow.

Mike hangs up. He gets up from his chair, very excited.



MIKE

No more hot dog.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE. GARDEN - DAY.

Dan Murray stands in the enormous garden of his mansion, next to the pool, gazing at the blue sky. He is accompanied by his friend AL GUILLEN (50s).

AL

You still have a chance!

DAN

This is my second year voting... they say they're going to sabotage it so I don't get into the Hall of Fame...

AL

Those are rumors.

DAN

Oh... everyone hates me!

AL

It's not true! You know it's not.

DAN

I know perfectly well that it is.

A buxom, BLONDE WOMAN, NATALIE (40), arrives in the garden. She's wearing a bikini and sits near the pool while Dan and Al watch her.

NATALIE

They're going to choose you! I don't know why you're so worried.

DAN

What do you know about baseball? You only like fashion... shopping and appearing on OnlyFans!

NATALIE

You know I like baseball.

DAN

You should... You're with me, aren't you?

NATALIE

I think you're worried about nothing.

AL

Just relax. Don't get so upset anymore.

DAN

Those bastards took what I loved most from me... they kicked me out of the game! It's been ten years, and I still can't get over it... Now they don't want me to go to Cooperstown either...

The doorbell rings.

Dan and Al look at each other.

It rings again... and again.

AL

I think someone is knocking at the door.

DAN

Surely.

They both look at Natalie and she looks at them confused.

NATALIE

What? No! I'm not going out like that!

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE. GATE - CONTINUED.

Mike stands at the gate. He presses a button. In the distance, he sees a blonde woman coming out of the house, wearing a bikini.

Mike is impressed.

NATALIE

I'm going! I'm going!

She runs up to the gate in a very funny way. Mike continues to stare at her in surprise.

NATALIE

How can I help you?

MIKE

Good morning! I spoke to Peter Bird last night ... he gave me this address for a job... as a driver.

NATALIE

Did Peter tell you that?

MIKE

Yes, miss.

NATALIE

Thanks for the miss, wait a minute.

She turns back.

Mike watches her run gracefully, from the entrance of the house he hears her scream.

NATALIE

(V.O.)

A man comes for a job... Peter sent him.

DAN

(V.O.)

Yes, make it happen!

NATALIE

(V.O.)

Ok!

Natalie returns and arrives at the gate again, exhausted.

NATALIE

OK.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE. GARDEN - CONTINUED.

Natalie guides Mike and they reach the garden.

NATALIE

...that's why we don't have a maid... or a driver... or a cook... or a bodyguard... Dan is very temperamental... nobody can stand him...

MIKE

Dan?

NATALIE

Yeah, Dan Murray... have you heard of him?  
He played for the Yankees... he was really  
good.

MIKE

Wait! I'll be working for Dan Murray?

NATALIE

Yes, Peter didn't tell you?

Mike walks around in surprise. They reach Dan and Al, who  
watch him carefully.

NATALIE

(introducing Dan)

Mike...it's Dan...Dan...Mike.

(now with Al)

...and this is Albert... Albert... Mike.

AL

My friends call me Al, just call me sir.

Mike is surprised to see Dan Murray.

MIKE

Dan Murray! It's an honor.

Dan continues to watch him closely.

DAN

Did Peter tell you about the job?

MIKE

He just told me to show up today.

DAN

Are you a Republican? Democrat?

MIKE

I don't vote!

DAN

Yankees or Mets?

MIKE

Yankees!

DAN  
You were a reservist... a marine?

MIKE  
I have never been in the military.

Dan looks at Al with great satisfaction.

DAN  
It will do.

AL  
Your experience as a driver?

MIKE  
(handing in his resume )  
I've driven all my life... although not  
always for others.

AL  
Is this your first time as a driver?

Mike nods nervously.

Dan moves closer to Mike, looking at him closely.

Mike is static... and confused.

DAN  
Are you going to fuck me?

MIKE  
(confused)  
No sir!

DAN  
Are you thinking of screwing me?

MIKE  
No!

DAN  
Everyone wants to screw me... everyone!  
And I've screwed them all!

Natalie makes a negative gesture...

DAN (CONT'D)  
 ...you better not fuck with me... or else...

MIKE  
 You'll fuck me up!

DAN  
 Exact!

NATALIE  
 Yeah, Dan... you always give the same  
 speech... you've got the poor man  
 terrified...

Dan continues to stare at Mike.

MIKE  
 I just want to work.

Al reads Mike's resume and is amazed.

AL  
 You worked at the Reed Corporation? Were  
 you the sales executive?

MIKE  
 Yes, that was ten years ago.

AL  
 My uncle worked there... Enrique Guillen...  
 he was fired... he was left with nothing...

MIKE  
 Yes, I know what it feels like.

Dan now sees him very apprehensive.

DAN  
 Looks like life has messed you up a bit  
 too...

Mike nods.

DAN  
 Well, Mike... it's time to fuck life up...  
 welcome aboard.

Dan offers his hand and Mike shakes it gladly.

INT. AUTO - DAY.

Vehicle in motion. There's a lot of traffic on the street.

Mike drives.

Dan is sitting in the back of the car talking on the phone.

DAN

...and then? What? Don't fuck with me!  
Don't fuck with me! Are you fucking with  
me? Then I don't accept... no... no way... no!  
I won't do it... I won't do it... no!

Dan hangs up the phone angrily. He hits the front seat  
several times.

Mike watches everything in silence.

DAN

Those bastards... they want me to go  
sign autographs and they're going to  
take 30 percent of the money from the  
proceeds? Screw someone else! Not me!

Dan continues cursing. He sees Mike nervously looking at him  
in the rearview mirror.

DAN

Do you have something to say?

MIKE

(surprised)

Me?... No! Why do you think so?

DAN

All white people are like that... they  
think that because you don't fight for  
what's yours, you have to settle for  
crumbs.

MIKE

I think 30 percent is fine...

DAN

What did you say?

MIKE

Thirty percent... I think that's okay.

DAN

You mean, if I make ten thousand dollars at the event, I have to give them three thousand?

MIKE

Yes... seems fair to me.

DAN

Right? That's why the company you worked for went bankrupt.

MIKE

They provide the premises?

DAN

Yeah.

MIKE

Do they serve food?

DAN

Yeah.

MIKE

I mean, you just have to arrive, sit down, and wait for everyone to come to you so you can sign whatever they want, is that right?

DAN

Yes that's how it is!

MIKE

Well... from my point of view, if you can make ten thousand dollars, just by sitting and signing things, it seems to me that three thousand is not a big loss... plus, they have to pay for electricity, security, the venue... I think you would come out ahead.

Dan watches him carefully.

DAN



Do you think I should do it?

MIKE

I would do it... of course, if they all  
went for my signature.

INT. HOTEL. MEETING ROOM - DAY.

Dan sits at a table. He signs a ball and takes a photo with A  
BOY. Next to him is Peter Bird .

A long line waits patiently for its turn.

Mike looks into the distance and notices a FAT MAN, who is in  
line. He discovers that it is a former co-worker, LOU  
MORRISON (50s) accompanying his SON.

LOU

Mike?... Mike Donovan!

Mike looks at him and is surprised.

MIKE

Lou... Morrison... Tech Support! How are  
you?

LOU

Well, good to see you. Are you no longer  
having computer problems?

MIKE

No, not anymore. I don't use them  
anymore.

LOU

Everyone uses them.

MIKE

Yes, but you know... I don't work for  
companies or anything like that anymore.

LOU

What a shame. Are you here for a  
signing? It's Dan Murray!

MIKE

No... I, no...

LOU

It's okay... we all felt bad when the company closed... but we have to survive.

MIKE

I agree, Lou.

LOU

Well Mike, I'm glad to hear you're okay.

MIKE

Same to you, Lou. Take care.

Mike is surprised when Dan starts arguing with a MAN in line.

DAN

Have you ever hit a 100-mile fastball?  
Have you done it?

MAN

On steroids... anyone can hit it.

Dan is furious. Peter holds him firmly.

Mike runs over to where Dan is.

DAN

Do you think you have the right to tell me all kinds of rubbish?

FANATIC

You won't be entering the Hall of Fame... you have no right... cheater!

DAN

I have more rights than you imagine, idiot! Nobody gave me anything... I earned it.

Peter and Mike take Dan out of the room.

DAN

Let's get out of this dump!

PETER

You can't leave... you must fulfill the contract.

DAN

Damn it, Peter, I'm not going back there.

PETER

You're coming back whether you like it or not... you're demanding that I find you a job to pay your bills... you've already wasted a lot of money... you'll finish this even if I have to force you.

Dan glares at him.

Mike says nothing.

Peter approaches Dan calmly.

PETER

Come on, Dan... you know this isn't the first time a fan has confronted you, and it certainly won't be the last. Security is bringing him out... he's a nobody. You're a somebody. Let's go back, there are a lot of people waiting for the great Dan Murray.

Dan calms down, straightens his suit, and walks into the living room with Peter.

Mike stands there thoughtfully.

INT. AUTO - NIGHT.

Mike drives. He glances in the rearview mirror from time to time and watches Dan, who is very thoughtful.

DAN

You may wonder why I fell so low.

MIKE

No, sir, I don't think he's fallen low.

DAN

I shouldn't be signing baseballs in a dive bar... I should be doing commercials, or working for ESPN... I should be managing a team in the big

leagues... but nobody wants me around...  
they say I'm a cheater.

Mike listens to him.

DAN

Tell me what you did after you were  
fired from the Reed Corporation?

MIKE

I did a little bit of here, a little bit  
of there... working at whatever.

DAN

Whatever? Were you a prostitute?

MIKE

No, not that... I drove a taxi for a  
while, then I sold clothes, worked in a  
fried chicken restaurant...

DAN

Fried chicken?

MIKE

Yes, I served, washed dishes, took out  
the trash... those kinds of things.

DAN

How could someone with your academic  
qualifications work in a damn chicken  
restaurant?

MIKE

Well, imagine an astronaut... he's  
worked his whole life to be an  
astronaut... turns out they don't send  
anyone into space anymore... so he has  
to do... whatever...

DAN

Crumbs!

MIKE

Crumbs?

DAN

Yes, that's what the system wants... for you to pick up your crumbs.

MIKE

Well, how much crumbs did you make signing autographs?

Dan thinks for a second.

DAN

Twenty-five thousand!

MIKE

Not bad for an afternoon. Just crumbs.

DAN

Well, not bad, but I'm a person used to earning millions.

MIKE

You made millions... where did all that money go? If I may ask.

DAN

My ex-wife, child support, gambling debts, liquor, women, and all those mansions and cars I bought... well, my ex kept half of them.

MIKE

Ok... now you're bankrupt.

DAN

Not yet... but Peter tells me I'm on my way.

EXT./INT. DAN'S HOUSE. PARKING. GARDEN - NIGHT.

The car enters the house.

Mike and Dan get out of the car and walk into the living room. They notice Natalie doing yoga.

DAN

My ex hates her... that's why I've lasted longer with her... that reminds me that you have to go to her house early tomorrow.

MIKE

Your ex? Should I look for her?

DAN

Well, actually you should go and give him ten thousand... for child support.

MIKE

You want me to come out with ten thousand? In cash?

DAN

What's the problem?

MIKE

I'm not used to having so much cash on me.

DAN

You were in a company that earned millions, with ten thousand you'll be fine... You're not going to steal from me, are you?

MIKE

For a measly ten thousand? Of course not.

DAN

Okay, I'll give you the address tomorrow. Have a good night.

MIKE

Good night, Dan.

Mike leaves. He leaves the house. He gets into his car and starts it. He thinks for a few seconds.

MIKE

(imitating Dan)

You're not going to steal from me... are you?

EXT. BETH'S HOUSE. MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY.

Mike is standing in front of the car. Waiting.

A WOMAN emerges from a luxurious mansion. Wearing a large, very expensive dress. It's BETH (40s), Dan's ex.

Mike watches her approach his car. She stops right at the door. She glances at Mike, who's staring at her. He reacts quickly and rushes to open the door. She gets in without saying a word. Mike rushes into the car. He immediately leaves.

INT. AUTO - DAY.

Mike is driving. He glances in the mirror at Beth, who is concentrating on staring out the window.

MIKE

Should I take her somewhere?

Beth continues to look out the window.

Mike continues to see her in the mirror.

MIKE

I can take you wherever you tell me...

Beth finally pays attention to him.

BETH

Is the dumb blonde still with him?

Mike is surprised.

MIKE

Miss Natalie?

BETH

Miss?

Beth laughs out loud.

Mike looks at her in the rearview mirror, very surprised.

Beth keeps laughing... for almost a minute. Suddenly... she gets very serious.

BETH

I want to go to Dan's house!

Mike starts to stutter.

MIKE  
Dan's house?

BETH  
Yes, Dan's house.

EXT./INT. DAN'S HOUSE. ENTRANCE - DAY.

Dan is on the terrace of his house, reading the newspaper, when he sees the car arrive.

DAN  
It was about time.

When he sees Mike leave, he is surprised to see Beth get out of the car.

DAN  
What? No! No! No!

He starts running around aimlessly all over the place.

DAN  
I forgot to tell you never to bring her here.

EXT./INT. DAN'S HOUSE. - DAY.

Beth enters the house. She looks around carefully... as if searching for something... or someone.

Mike comes in a little nervous.

MIKE  
I'll call Mr. Dan to see you.

Beth now heads out to the garden, where the pool is.

Mike follows her.

Beth arrives at the garden and manages to see Natalie, in a bikini, sunbathing.

BETH  
Bitch!



Beth approaches Natalie and stands in front of her... overshadowing her.

Natalie looks at her very surprised.

NATALIE

And now what?

Beth looks at her contemptuously.

BETH

Bitch! Gold digger! You still can't get enough of him.

NATALIE

You never tire of tormenting me! Don't you see that he doesn't love you anymore?

BETH

That's very clear to me.

NATALIE

So why do you keep interfering in our lives?

BETH

Because you did it first... now it's my turn.

Mike watches the spectacle, not knowing what to do.

MIKE

I'll... look for Dan.

The two women continue arguing.

Mike heads to the kitchen... then to the office... to the gym... crosses the garden again... goes up to the bedrooms and sees Dan smoking a cigarette, hidden on the roof of the house.

MIKE

Dan?

Dan signals for her to come up quietly.

DAN

I forgot to tell you rule number one...  
never bring my ex back...

MIKE

Aren't you going down? Will you leave  
them arguing down there?

DAN

Why not?

MIKE

Well... isn't it dangerous? They  
could... you know... fight... hurt each  
other.

DAN

No... they don't go that far.

MIKE

And what is the plan?

DAN

Wait for them to calm down... only then  
will I go down.

MIKE

Are you serious? Will you wait until  
they calm down?

DAN

Mike... there's something you should  
know about women... even if they don't  
want anything to do with you anymore,  
they'll continue to torment you... no  
matter what... it's like their duty in  
this life. So, I'll let her let out all  
that anger and frustration... it's good  
therapy for her...

MIKE

Ok.

Mike sits to the side, very confused.

DAN

I didn't ask you if you have a family.

MIKE

No, he didn't.

DAN

And you have her? Wife and kids?

MIKE

I am divorced, and I had a daughter.

DAN

Do they torment you like mine ?

MIKE

I haven't seen them for ten years.

DAN

Wow ! That's a lot.

MIKE

Yes it is.

DAN

Do they hate you? Or do you hate them?

MIKE

The truth is, she left me for another man. We divorced, she moved with my daughter to Florida, to Miami, got married, and now she's very happy away from me.

DAN

That's the worst country song I've ever heard, do you get a pension like mine?

MIKE

As I said, I haven't heard from them for ten years.

DAN

Man, and I thought my life was complicated.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE. MAIN ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER.

Dan and Mike continue on the roof.

They don't hear any more screams.

DAN

It's time!

INT. DAN'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED.

Dan arrives in the living room and carefully peers in. He sees Beth sitting in an armchair on one side and Natalie lying on the couch on the other, playing with her phone.

Beth watches him closely.

BETH

Until finally.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE. MAIN ENTRANCE - CONTINUED.

Dan and Beth are in the front yard of the house.

Mike waits patiently next to the vehicle.

Beth stares at Dan without blinking.

DAN

Are you going to stand there looking at me like a mannequin?

She shakes her head.

BETH

I look at you and I don't know what happened to the Dan I met years ago, the one I married.

DAN

People change, it happens.

BETH

They change for the better, you did the opposite.

DAN

I already gave you the money, the one the judge forces me to give you every month, what more do you want from me?

BETH

You're right, the judge forced you to fulfill your parental obligations. I'll

tell your children that they're  
guaranteed food on the table.

DAN

With ten thousand dollars they're sure  
to have it guaranteed.

BETH

You know it's not just about money, it's  
about you paying for all the wrong you  
did to us.

Dan looks at Beth in a distressed way.

DAN

You're right, I must pay for my sins.

BETH

Maybe they will forgive you one day.

DAN

Will you do it?

BETH

You don't have to seek forgiveness from  
me, you should worry about them.

She walks away to the car and gets in.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE. MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY.

Mike is cleaning the vehicle in the yard.

Natalie is sitting there in a beach chair watching him.

NATALIE

Mike, how did you find the work?

MIKE

Good, very interactive.

NATALIE

Interactive?

MIKE

Yes, sometimes I think I'm on a TV show,  
like a reality show.

NATALIE  
Like the Kardashians?

MIKE  
Yes, something like that.

NATALIE  
Not a bad idea, I should talk to Peter  
about doing a show like that.

MIKE  
It would be a bombshell.

Dan appears and leans against the door.

NATALIE  
Look who decided to show up.

Mike watches him.

DAN  
I wanted to be alone for a while.

NATALIE  
You always hide in your room when you're  
depressed, which is often.

MIKE  
Mr. Dan, I heard that the Major League  
Association will be holding a veterans'  
exhibition game for the Ladies  
Association.

DAN  
They do it every year.

MIKE  
Aren't you invited?

DAN  
Why should they?

MIKE  
Because it's Dan Murray!

NATALIE  
Yes, exactly.

DAN

If they invited me I wouldn't know whether to go, half of those women hate me.

NATALIE

Nobody hates you, it's just that you're very harsh with them... You once told the president to go take care of her children.

DAN

Because she said I didn't take care of mine, she probably didn't even raise them... anyway, I'm not interested.

Dan enters the house without saying anything else.

MIKE

Seriously, they don't invite him?

NATALIE

I don't think so, the only one who could get it for him would be Peter.

They both look at each other mischievously.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY.

Dan arrives in the kitchen and gets a cup of coffee, he goes straight to the garden where Natalie is doing yoga.

NATALIE

Good morning.

DAN

Good morning, I received a message from Peter, he wants me to come to the office as soon as possible.

NATALIE

Seriously? What does he want?

INT. OFFICE - DAY.

Dan walks into an office and sees the RECEPTIONIST named CHLOE (20s).

DAN  
Hello Chloe!

CHLOE  
Hello, Mr. Murray, Mr. Peter is waiting  
for you, you can come in now.

DAN  
Thank you.

Dan enters Peter's office where he is speaking arrogantly on  
the phone.

PETER  
...I told you I won't take no for an  
answer...

Dan sits down while he waits for Peter to finish speaking.

PETER (CONT'D)  
...you owe me... you owe me... we'd be even...  
ok... see you then...

Peter hangs up and sits at his desk.

DAN  
Another satisfied customer?

PETER  
Dan, you know that for you I'll do  
anything to help you... you know that  
right?

DAN  
I know.

PETER  
Good.

Peter takes an envelope out of his drawer and hands it to  
him. He takes it and examines the contents. He notices a  
flyer for a veterans' exhibition game for the MLB Ladies'  
Association.

DAN  
What is this?

PETER



An exhibition game and you're going to go, say hello, and play.

DAN

I don't want to go. Did Natalie tell you this?

PETER

Damn Dan!

Peter slams his hands on the desk in fury.

Dan is impressed by her reaction.

PETER

I just sold my soul to the devil so you could go to that game. Every sports press in the country will be there, even ESPN will be broadcasting it. It's a way for people to see you again... a way to promote yourself for free. It'll definitely benefit you, but what does the great Dan Murray say? I don't want to go! Because his ego doesn't fit in his selfish little brain. You only think about yourself and not the people who sacrifice and stand up for you.

Dan watches him without saying a single word.

Peter is very upset as he breathes heavily.

DAN

Okay, Peter, I get it... you went to such great lengths to get this for me, I appreciate it, I really do, but remember I looked really bad in front of those ladies a few years ago.

PETER

That's all behind us now. Karen wants you to take some photos with her before the game to show the press that the whole impasse is over.

DAN

Was everything overcome?

PETER

Yes, that's right, if she wants you to kiss her, hug her, or make love to her, you'll do it, I don't care if you like it or not...

DAN

Wow ! We've really fallen low.

Peter takes a pill out of his drawer and swallows it.

DAN

Are you OK?

PETER

Yeah, I think so, it seems to be my blood pressure.

DAN

Okay, I'll do it... I'll do whatever you ask, I don't want you to have a fit because of me.

PETER

Yes, sorry for yelling at you, you know...

DAN

Okay, I guess I deserve it.

PETER

What happened with your checkups?

DAN

My checkups?

PETER

Don't act crazy, you know you should get your checkups with Dr. Cohen.

DAN

I'm fine.

PETER

Dan...

DAN

Peter, I'll do it when I'm ready, not yet.

Peter doesn't insist, he prefers not to argue.

PETER

And another thing... are you familiar with the Kardashians show?

DAN

That?

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - DAY.

At the Brooklyn Cyclones baseball stadium, MANY PEOPLE walk in and out. Parked cars, hot dog carts, and souvenir vendors are the main attractions.

Mike walks through the plaza, in front of the stadium, and sees a girl buying a hot dog, is the same girl one that threw the hot dog a few days ago.

LITTLE GIRL

This is a hot dog?

Mike watches her from afar. He watches as the girl throws the hot dog to the gentleman. She moves away from the spot, walks, and stops right in front of him. She sees him, tries to remember his face.

LITTLE GIRL

What?

MIKE

You have a bad habit that hurts people.

LITTLE GIRL

What are you talking about? I know you?

MIKE

Let's just say I'm just another victim who endured your rudeness, you should apologize to that man.

The girl looks at him confused and leaves the place.

MIKE

Millennia, why are they like that?

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - CONTINUED.

Dan and Peter are on the field watching reporters interview several former players.

DAN

Look at them, they're all ignoring me,  
like I'm not here.

PETER

Give them time, they're just testing  
you.

DAN

Testing? What do you mean?

PETER

You know, they're hoping you'll do  
something stupid.

DAN

Why would I do something like that?

Peter watches him silently.

DAN

I won't do anything stupid, I promised  
you, I keep my promises.

They both see a group of WOMEN enter the field along with  
some JOURNALISTS.

The president of the association, KAREN (50s) looks at Dan  
and walks towards him.

PETER

Here it comes, remember what we  
practiced: everything is in the past,  
what matters now is the present.

DAN

Everything is in the past, what matters  
now is the present.

PETER

Could you say that without sounding like  
a robot?

DAN

I don't know, Peter... I'll do my best.

Karen reaches them along with the journalists who are positioned around her.

KAREN

Peter, it's a pleasure to see you...

Dan... it's a pleasure too.

DAN

(shaking his hand)

Everything is in the past, what matters now is the present.

Karen looks at him with a little distrust.

KAREN

You did well, well done Peter.

PETER

All for the sake of the ladies' association that you so aptly lead.

KAREN

It's true.

Both pose for the cameras.

BASEBALL STADIUM EXT. STANDS - CONTINUED.

In the stands, Mike sits next to Natalie.

NATALIE

It's been a while since I visited a baseball stadium, Dan doesn't visit them anymore.

MIKE

It must have been hard for him to walk away from the sport that made him so famous.

NATALIE

He was, he won't admit it, and he never will, but he lost a lot when he got

expelled, you should have seen the way he looked.

MIKE

Were you with him when it happened?

NATALIE

He was still with his wife, Beth, but he always came to me. I didn't take him away from his family, I swear it's true... but I couldn't leave him alone... things were bad between them, I just... just...

MIKE

Did you pick up the broken pieces?

NATALIE

Exactly! I just lent him my shoulder... and of course something else.

MIKE

Natalie, what matters now is that you're with him, and that counts.

NATALIE

Thanks, Mike.

Peter arrives, along with Al Guillen, and both sit with them.

PETER

Everything is going very well, and that scares me.

AL

Peter, how pessimistic, everything will be fine.

MIKE

Do you think Dan can enter the Hall of Fame?

AL

There is no doubt that it is.

PETER

The truth is that he has everything against him.

AL

What are you talking about? The numbers are there. He hit over 500 home runs... and he went to many World Series. His numbers are Hall of Fame.

PETER

But the chroniclers don't want it, and they are the ones who decide.

MIKE

If he changed his attitude... could he do it?

PETER

I don't know, Dan is very stubborn, he does everything his way, no journalist has approached him, I guess they are paying him back for how he behaved with them in the past.

EXT. BASEBALL STADIUM - MOMENTS LATER.

Dan comes up to bat.

The opposing team's pitcher looks at him contemptuously.  
THE CATCHER too.

CATCHER

Hey Dan, did you take your meds?

DAN

I don't need them.

CATCHER

Seriously? You could hurt yourself.

DAN

I don't think I'm the one who gets hurt.

The pitcher prepares to pitch, makes his movements and throws the ball.

Dan watches as the ball heads straight for his face. He dives to the ground and manages to dodge it.

The entire PUBLIC is lamenting.

NATALIE  
(screaming)  
You're trash! Play fair!

AL  
(screaming)  
Don't know how to throw? Or do you want  
me to come down and teach you?

PETER  
I was afraid something like this would  
happen.

MIKE  
I hope Dan doesn't get upset.

Dan stands up and brushes off his uniform. He looks at the  
pitcher , who is staring at him defiantly.

The catcher smiles at him maliciously.

CATCHER  
Are you okay, Dan?

DAN  
I'll be there in a minute.

The pitcher throws and again the ball passes very close to  
Dan's body.

The entire audience begins to boo the pitcher.

NATALIE  
Are you blind or is it arthritis?

AL  
That old man is still upset because Dan  
hit him with a home run in the World  
Series.

Dan stares at him, doing nothing.

THE UMPIRE approaches the pitcher.

UMPIRE



Hey, this is a charity game, people want to see a good show, if you hit him again you'll be sent off.

The pitcher smiles.

Mike watches as the crowd heckles the pitcher.

MIKE

It can be used in Dan's favor.

PETER

In favor of Dan?

Mike stands up and begins to clap vigorously.

MIKE

DAN! DAN! DAN! DAN!

People watch Mike, and little by little, they begin to imitate him.

DAN... DAN... DAN... DAN... can be heard throughout the stadium.

Dan watches as the crowd takes his side. He returns to the batter's box and prepares.

The pitcher makes his moves and throws the ball.

Dan swings... the ball hits his bat and soars skyward. It flies out of the park to everyone's amazement.

PETER

It's a home run! It's a home run!

Mike celebrates with Peter and Natalie, as the entire audience burst into applause.

Dan starts running around the bases while looking at the crowd. Everyone is shouting his name.

PUBLIC

DAN... DAN... DAN... DAN...

Dan crosses onto Third Street and stops halfway, takes off his helmet and bows to the audience.

PUBLIC

DAN... DAN... DAN... DAN...

Dan finally reaches home and can't help but cry.

The catcher looks at him, moved.

CATCHER

Well done, Dan.

Dan squints his eyes as he looks out at the audience.

The audience applauds him. There's a lot of excitement. The camera pans over to Dan, who's very surprised.

In the stands, Mike, Peter and Natalie are also impressed .

PETER

What just happened?

MIKE

Every man deserves a second chance.

Natalie cries with happiness.

EXT. STADIUM - CONTINUED.

Dan arrives at the dugout and several teammates greet him. When he sits down, he suddenly grabs the side of his stomach, pretending not to feel pain. He looks around worriedly.

INT. AUTO - DAY.

Mike drives down the highway. Music plays on the player while Natalie sings happily.

Dan is very serious as he stares out the window. Peter looks at him with concern.

PETER

Everything's fine?

Dan looks at him with the same seriousness.

Peter interprets her look and nods discreetly.

Mike notices Dan's seriousness.

MIKE

Can I change the music if you want?

DAN

Leave it, it's okay.

NATALIE

Are you feeling bad, darling?

PETER

(changing the subject)

I can't believe what happened... that  
was it  
Incredible.

NATALIE

It was a miracle, Peter.

PETER

Everyone was calling out his name...  
everyone.

NATALIE

Dan was always loved.

PETER

And hated too.

NATALIE

Greatness inspires envy, envy  
resentment, and resentment lies.

Everyone looks at her in surprise.

NATALIE

It's from JK Rowling... the Harry Potter  
one... I like Harry Potter.

PETER

We have to take advantage of that... we  
can't sleep... I'll make sure that  
moment is broadcast on all social media,  
television, radio... everything!

NATALIE

Social media has already gotten ahead of  
you... look.

Natalie shows him her phone and Peter watches all the comments the videos generate.

PETER

It's already viral.

Mike continues to watch Dan.

MIKE

And what does Dan think? He's very quiet.

DAN

I just want to get home to rest.

NATALIE

Of course, you must be exhausted, well... you're not a young man anymore.

Dan continues to stare out the window, absorbed.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY.

Dan enters the house with Natalie. Mike stays outside in the vehicle, and Peter gets in.

PETER

Mike, I want you to take Dan to Dr. Daniel Cohen first thing in the morning, but only him. Here's the address.

MIKE

Is he okay?

PETER

He must be tired, he hasn't played in a while... it'll be a routine check-up.

MIKE

Mr. Peter, I know I'm new and I know I haven't earned your trust, but... it's obvious something's up, and I think I can help if I know all the details.

Peter looks at him seriously, but his eyes betray his concern. He takes him by the shoulder, as if trying to lean on him.

PETER

What I'm going to tell you, swear that you won't tell anyone.

MIKE

Yes, I swear, you can count on my silence.

PETER

I assume you know all the details of Dan's expulsion... for steroids.

MIKE

Yes of course.

PETER

Everything is true, the investigation conducted by the MLB commissioner is true. Dan, however, denied them all, which is why he was expelled.

MIKE

Ok.

PETER

The problem is, everything he consumed is taking its toll. He's been suffering from a liver tumor in his pancreas for some time now. It's malignant. It's metastatic pancreatic cancer.

MIKE

(surprised)

Since when have you had it?

PETER

He's been fighting it for seven years. No one knows, only the doctor, him and me, and now you.

Mike can't hide his grief. The expression on his face betrays it.

MIKE

God!

PETER

Dan prefers his family not to know.

MIKE

Do you agree? He needs the support of all of them.

PETER

I know, but he's more stubborn than a mule.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE. RECEIPT - DAY.

Mike is sitting on the couch, drinking a cup of coffee. Natalie sits next to him, keeping him company.

NATALIE

Dan will be down in a minute.

MIKE

Good, Peter told me to take him to his routine doctor, just for a checkup.

NATALIE

A check-up?

Mike nods as he sips his coffee.

She looks at him with extreme care.

NATALIE

I know Peter is hiding something from me about Dan's health, just like Dan, you wouldn't hide anything from me, right?

Mike continues drinking his coffee.

NATALIE

TRUE?

MIKE

Yes, of course. I'm just the driver.

Natalie continues to watch Mike shrewdly. Dan reaches the counter, walks over to the coffee machine, and grabs a cup.

DAN

Good morning, I slept like a baby.

Dan watches Natalie stare at Mike, who constantly avoids her gaze.

DAN  
(dropping the cup)  
We better go, I don't want to be late  
for my doctor's appointment.

Mike stands up relieved, hastily abandoning the receipt.

MIKE  
I'll start the car.

Natalie watches him leave the hall and hugs Dan before leaving.

NATALIE  
If you had something wrong, you would  
tell me, wouldn't you?

DAN  
Of course, dear.

NATALIE  
Because you love me, right?

DAN  
With all my heart.

Dan gives her a kiss and leaves the hall.

Natalie approaches the door and watches him get into the car.  
Her expression is now filled with anguish.

INT. AUTO - CONTINUED.

Mike drives and avoids Dan's gaze.

DAN  
Well, you know.

MIKE  
Yes, I know.

DAN  
You will understand that it is very  
important to me that no one knows.

MIKE

Can I give my opinion?

DAN

No, Mike, you can't.

Mike shrugs and continues driving.

DAN

Sorry, this is a very sensitive topic for me.

MIKE

Don't apologize, Mr. Dan, I'm just the driver.

DAN

Mike, it's true you're the driver, but you're now our confidant, which makes you part of the family. Only, I've made my decision, and I need you to respect my wishes.

MIKE

So it shall be.

DAN

Thank you.

MIKE

Should I continue lying to Mrs. Natalie?

DAN

Well, she's not the one paying you, you have to lie to her and the world.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY.

Dr. Daniel Cohen (60s) sits at his desk, looking at the report on his computer. His face is a poem of seriousness.

Dan looks at him in anguish.

DAN

Dr. Cohen, you're killing me. Tell me now.

DR. COHEN



Dan, I'm not killing you, the cancer is.

DAN

So everything we did was for nothing?

DR. COHEN

The cancer has spread to several areas of your body, including your pancreas, your liver, and now your kidneys. This checkup should have been done months ago. Why didn't you come in sooner?

DAN

The truth is, I was scared.

DR. COHEN

Now your fear has become reality.

DAN

Can something be done?

DR. COHEN

We can try, that means we have to hospitalize you immediately, this process would take a few months, just to see how we go.

DAN

A few months? How long to be exact?

DR. COHEN

Maybe about four to six months.

Dan sighed regretfully.

DAN

No guarantees.

DR. COHEN

I'm sorry, your cancer has progressed a lot.

DAN

So you're saying I'll be subjected to all kinds of tests for months, suffering and agonizing, without knowing what will come of it?

DR. COHEN

Yes, Dan, that's what I'm saying, but at least you have a chance. I'd take it if I were you.

Dan now looks out the window, his gaze lost in the blue sky.

DAN

Dr. Cohen, do you believe there is a paradise?

DR. COHEN

I'm Jewish, of course I believe that.

DAN

Do you think God gives cheaters a chance?

DR. COHEN

God gives equal opportunity to all his children.

DAN

Not me.

Dan gets up and leaves the office.

INT. AUTO - DAY.

Mike drives down the highway. He watches Dan in the rearview mirror and notices he's very distant.

MIKE

When I lost my dream job, I felt like I was being punished for something I did or didn't do.

Mike pauses, making sure Dan listens to his story. He remains absorbed in his thoughts.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Later, I realized that what I did, I did because it had to be done, and nothing could change that, no matter how much I wanted to.

Mike notices a traffic jam on the highway. A long line of cars begins to move very slowly. He takes advantage of the situation and turns to face Dan.

MIKE (CONT'D)

The company didn't fail because it made bad decisions, it failed because its time had come.

Dan looks at him confused.

DAN

I don't understand you.

MIKE

The past is a window that shows us what we were, what really matters... is what we do now.

Mike takes the wheel again and drives along the line of cars as they continue to move slowly.

DAN

(annoying)

Mike, I'm dying, that's what matters.

MIKE

Mr. Dan, what really matters is what you do now, die? We all die... eventually.

DAN

I don't know if those words can comfort me.

MIKE

Words? Maybe not, but family, loved ones... definitely.

Mike continues driving. The line of cars continues to clog the highway.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY.

Natalie watches the car pull into the driveway. She notices Dan getting out, his head down, considering getting in. Now she sees Mike encouraging him, but Dan seems reluctant. She runs out of the house and hugs Dan warmly, to his astonishment.

DAN  
Natalie! What's going on?

NATALIE  
Whatever it is, we'll face it together.  
Okay ?

Dan can't stop crying. He hugs Natalie tightly.

NATALIE  
Everything will be okay, everything will  
be okay.

They both enter while Mike follows them respecting the moment.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY.

Mike is sitting in the hallway reading a magazine. He hears the door open. When he looks out, he sees Al Guillen waving to him from the doorway.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUED.

Al and Mike walk through the garden.

AL  
I can't believe what's happening to Dan,  
how he hid it from me.

MIKE  
Did he tell you?

AL  
Natalie just confessed to me, so I came  
as quickly as I could.

MIKE  
Have you told anyone else?

AL  
Natalie told me to keep it a secret, she  
told me she's had it for years.

MIKE  
Yes, he doesn't want everyone to know.

AL

But I'm his best friend. How come you know that and I don't? That hurts, no offense.

MIKE

It's okay, everything is happening very fast and he is very depressed.

AL

I bet Peter knows that too, right?

MIKE

Yeah.

AL

Wow! I met him in high school, and that lawyer was with him when he got his first multimillion-dollar contract. I feel really humiliated.

MIKE

Al... he didn't tell you precisely because of how long you've known each other, he considers you part of his family, and that's why he didn't want to upset you.

AL

So... your wife doesn't know either?

MIKE

Well, as far as I know, no.

AL

At least I knew before that witch did.

Dan appears in the garden and Al rushes to hug him.

AL

Brother, count on me for whatever.

DAN

I need your two kidneys and the pancreas.

Al looks at him surprised.

DAN

It's a joke.

Al laughs nervously.

AL

I can give you a kidney, and part of the pancreas.

DAN

It's okay, no need.

AL

Can it be reversed?

DAN

I don't have many options.

AL

What are you going to do?

DAN

I don't want to live in a hospital, at least for the rest of my life, undergoing all kinds of tests. Why would I? The end result will be the same.

AL

So, are you just going to give up?

DAN

No, I'm going to live. That's what I'll do.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY.

At a children's baseball stadium, some CHILDREN play on a splendid sunny day.

Mike, standing and leaning on the hood of the car, watched Dan watching the game from the side of the stands, as if he didn't want to attract attention.

Mike notices his ex-wife Beth is there, ignoring his presence.

MIKE

That's the plan? Hide in the stands?

Dan looks at him. His nervousness is evident.

DAN

I don't know how to tell you... besides,  
my children are there... I think it was  
a mistake to come.

MIKE

Well, there's only one way to know if  
it's a mistake, you'll never know until  
you try.

Dan nods hesitantly. He continues to watch the game in  
silence.

MIKE

Is your child playing?

DAN

Yes, he's covering first base, he always  
wanted to play there, like his dad.

MIKE

Well, if he wants to emulate you, it's  
because he still admires you.

Dan walks purposefully up the platform. He climbs a few  
steps, passing through some PEOPLE, and arrives right where  
Beth is, accompanied by her daughter EMILY (11). Both are  
surprised to see him.

BETH

(soberly)

Emily, say hello to your father.

Emily looks at him seriously, stands up without much haste,  
and hugs him half-heartedly. Her face expresses great  
disappointment when she sees him.

Dan hugs her with great emotion and can't hide his regret.  
Beth notices Dan's pained expression and knows something  
isn't right.

The people sitting in the stands recognize Dan and their  
looks are prejudiced.

BETH

Emily, wait for me here, I'm going to talk to your father.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - CONTINUED.

Beth and Dan are walking along one end near the stadium, while Mike watches them from the stands next to Emily.

MIKE

Your brother has agility in the first. He's going to be good.

EMILY

He's a fool, but he plays well.

MIKE

Believe me, I know what I'm talking about. He'll definitely be better than your dad.

EMILY

Are you his new friend?

MIKE

The truth is, I am your driver, but I would like to know that I have come to that.

EMILY

He doesn't have many friends, except for Uncle Albert and his lawyer.

MIKE

He's a bit of a standoff, I must admit, but over time he discovers that it's a good idea. Person.

EMILY

But not a good father.

Mike is surprised, he notices resentment in the girl.

MIKE

I know what you're saying is true, but he's very sorry about it. He wants to change things.



EMILY

In the past, he said it a lot, about changing, but he always forgot about us, always going back to his selfish and manipulative routine.

MIKE

This time it will be different.

EMILY

What are you talking about?

MIKE

He knows he disappointed you, he knows it very well, and now he wants to make up for that time, he wants to make up for all the harm he caused you... you have nothing to lose by giving him another chance.

EMILY

Sir, Mike... do you have children?

Mike makes a gesture, which alerts the girl.

MIKE

Yes, I have a daughter, now a grown woman, named Stefany. She lives with her mother in Florida.

EMILY

How long have you not seen her?

Mike doesn't answer. He can't help but blush.

EMILY

Well, if you follow your own advice, you'll be fine.

Mike nods, and at the same time he is surprised.

MIKE

How old are you?

Around the stadium, Beth and Dan walk while watching the game.

DAN

Beth, I'm sorry to come so unexpectedly.

BETH

Dan, in the past, your kids would have loved that, but now... well, you saw how the girl felt.

DAN

Yes, it's true, you're absolutely right, I was a bad father, I was, and I can't turn back time.

BETH

No, Dan, you can't.

DAN

But at least let me try to win them back, let me earn their love.

BETH

They don't hate you, they just... don't want to be deceived and disappointed anymore, you really hurt them.

DAN

I know, I know, but now I want to be a better father, I need to be one, not for me, for them.

Beth looks at him suspiciously.

BETH

You're hiding something from me, aren't you?

Dan doesn't answer, he avoids looking.

BETH

Are you dying?

Dan's expression is genuine. Beth discovers that her assumption is correct.

BETH

What? Is it true?

Dan nods and lowers his head sadly.

Beth begins to breathe heavily. Her expression was one of anger, but it immediately turns to grief. She can't stop crying, and without planning to, she hugs him. Crying inconsolably.

DAN  
(comforting her)  
Okay, I finally got what I deserved.

BETH  
Not like that... not like that.

DAN  
I've accepted it, now I need to make peace, especially with you and my children.

They both remain hugged, sharing pain and forgiveness.

Mike, from the stands, watches them, rejoicing in the moment.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - CONTINUED.

On the baseball field, the children continue playing. The batter hits the ball toward shortstop, he catches it and throws to first. JOHN (12), Dan's son, makes the last out, and everyone gathers to celebrate. John looks up at the stands and sees his sister, but he doesn't see his mother. When he starts looking for her, he sees her on the side of the field with her father. He makes a face of disappointment.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - CONTINUED.

Mike waits near the car, watching Dan arrive with Beth.

DAN  
I'll be right back.

MIKE  
I'll be here.

Mike takes out his phone and looks at a photo of a young woman. He makes another attempt to call her, but he can't. His frustration is evident in his eyes.

Dan approaches John, who is packing his things into his backpack. He notices that he's watching him but shows no emotion at his arrival.

DAN

Son! You played well.

John looks at him very seriously.

JOHN

Dan, at least you saw me?

DAN

Dad, not Dan.

JOHN

Why would I do that? Dan.

BETH

(intervening)

John!

DAN

Okay, let him, he has every right to be upset.

JOHN

Of course I have, Dan.

DAN

Son, we can walk, that's all I ask.  
Please.

John looks at his mother who nods, as does his sister.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - CONTINUED.

Dan, Emily, and John are sitting in the stands. All the parents and children have already left. It's just them, looking out across the vastness of the baseball diamond.

DAN

I don't blame them for anything, any of them. I know I was a bad father, and they have every right to be upset, but I just ask that they listen to me. I may not get another chance, and that could weigh on us all in the future, or whatever remains of it.

EMILY

Are you moving out of town? With that dumb blonde?

DAN

No, I'm not going anywhere, well... at least for now.

JOHN

I don't understand you, but that's not strange coming from you.

DAN

What I'm trying to say is... I'll be leaving very soon, and I'm not talking about another city, I mean...

John looks at him. His eyes understand what Dan wants to express.

Emily immediately panics and hugs him, crying uncontrollably.

John adopts a casual expression.

JOHN

You will finally get what you deserve.

EMILY

John! How dare you?

DAN

Okay, let him get it out.

JOHN

You had no regard for us, why should I have any regard for you?

DAN

It's true, you are not obligated to do anything.

JOHN

That's right, remember that time I turned ten? Remember that?

Dan makes an embarrassed gesture, trying to hide his face.

EMILY

John, don't continue.

JOHN

My mother had kicked you out, and you crashed my party, drunk, high, yelling that we weren't your children and that my mother was an inconsiderate bitch... remember? Because I can't forget.

DAN

Son, I'm so sorry.

JOHN

If you're going to die, just do it, don't come for my pity, because you won't get it.

John gets up and runs down the steps, disappearing into the parking lot as Beth follows him.

Emily cries and hugs Dan who also cries inconsolably.

Mike watches everything in silence, and with regret.

INT. AUTO - DAY.

In the car, Dan stares sadly at the sky. Mike, while driving, watches him in the rearview mirror.

MIKE

It was a day full of emotions.

DAN

At least my daughter forgave me, and Beth.

MIKE

Yes, little by little things will fall into place.

DAN

I think so.

MIKE

Will your son be okay?

DAN

It will be, after I'm gone, it will be.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUED.

Natalie watches the car pull into the main courtyard and runs outside to greet Dan.

Dan sees her arrive and hugs her.

NATALIE

Honey, how did it go?

DAN

Well, I've made a lot of progress, not as much as I wanted, but it's something.

NATALIE

That witch, I don't like violence, but I'll rip out her extensions.

DAN

No, it wasn't her, in fact, she was the most understanding.

NATALIE

What are you talking about?

DAN

It was my son, John, he despises me, and I don't blame him. He has every reason to hate me.

NATALIE

Okay. Let's go inside, I made you some soup.

DAN

Soup? I hate soup.

NATALIE

Then we'll order a pizza.

DAN

Sounds better.

Mike approaches Dan.

MIKE

Mr. Dan, if you don't need me any further, I'd like to...

Dan looks at him and understands what Mike wants to do.

DAN

Sure. Go and sort yourself out, it's fashionable these days.

INT. MIKE'S DEPARTMENT/ STEFANY'S DEPARTMENT - DAY.

Mike arrives at his apartment and immediately sits down in his chair. He picks up the phone and dials. He's starting to get impatient. The sound of the ringing makes him sweat.

In Florida, STEFANY (21) picks up the phone and notices it's a call from New York. She is surprised and answers.

STEFANY

Hello?

Mike is surprised to hear her voice, starts to get nervous, and is about to hang up.

STEFANY

Dad, is that you ?

Mike is shocked. He cries silently.

STEFANY

I was wondering when you'd call... it's been a long time. How are you?

Mike takes a deep breath and gets ready to answer.

MIKE

Okay daughter, I'm fine.

STEFANY

It's nice to hear your voice. I wanted to call you, but... last time everything went wrong.

MIKE

It wasn't your fault, I just got carried away... I... was stupid.

STEFANY

No, Dad, we both did it wrong.



MIKE

I never should have put you in that situation, I never should have pressured you to choose between your mom and me.

STEFANY

I shouldn't have answered you like that.

MIKE

Yes, you did well, that's why your mother always said that you look more like me than her.

STEFANY

(crying)

I can't believe I told you all that, I'm sorry.

MIKE

No, you were right. Work took me away from you, and after I got fired, everything got worse. It wasn't fair of me to take it out on you and your mom.

STEFANY

Will you come visit me?

MIKE

I'm in a new job now, better than my previous ones, but as soon as I get a chance I'll call you to see you, even if it's just for a day.

STEFANY

Yes, I'd love that. I'll wait for your call.

MIKE

Well, I wanted to hear your voice and now I'm very happy.

STEFANY

Dad, is everything okay?

MIKE

Yes, daughter, now that I'm talking to you, everything is fine.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY.

Dan is in an area of the garden, watching television, while Natalie is doing yoga nearby. On television, they're discussing the Baseball Hall of Fame inductions.

COMMENTATOR 1

I don't think Dan Murray will make it in this time. Although he got 5 percent in his debut, it didn't go very well, and everything indicates that this year will be the same.

COMMENTATOR 2

I'm sure he'll stay within five percent to avoid being eliminated, but he won't get any more than that.

COMMENTATOR 1

You need to score seventy-five to be elected, but Dan won't get it. He has the numbers, but his final expulsion from baseball is his worst example.

COMMENTATOR 2

And don't forget that he treated the press very badly, that certainly weighs on him too.

Natalie got up annoyed and turned off the TV.

NATALIE

I don't know why he listens to them... they're idiots.

DAN

Those comments don't affect me anymore, a while ago they did... but now... it doesn't matter anymore.

NATALIE

You can't think like that, and I don't want to see you finished.

DAN

Darling, I'm not there yet, but we have to face it.

Natalie hugs him understandingly.

NATALIE

Have you not thought about speaking?

DAN

Talk? What do you mean?

NATALIE

You know... give an interview, a very exclusive one.

DAN

You want me to expose all my privacy to the world?

NATALIE

Many have done so.

DAN

You want me to do what Pete Rose did? Or Lance Armstrong? You want me to apologize?

Natalie says nothing, her understanding look says it all.

DAN

I won't, I won't talk to anyone.

NATALIE

Well, I'm just saying...

DAN

That won't happen.

Dan gets up annoyed and enters the house.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE. MAIN ENTRANCE - CONTINUED.

Mike is checking the car's oil level and notices Dan leaving the house very upset.

NATALIE

(following Dan)

Dan... dear... I didn't mean to...

DAN

It's never your intention, but you  
manage to make me feel the worst.

NATALIE  
You know I do it for your well-being.

DAN  
(addressing Mike)  
Mike! We're leaving!

Mike quickly closes the hood of the car and opens the door to  
Dan, who enters very angry.

DAN  
I have a lawyer, a lifelong friend, even  
a driver who worked for a multi-million  
dollar company, and they can all give me  
good advice, but you... not you... you're  
here to give me pleasure in bed... that's  
what you're here for!

Natalie is paralyzed, surprised and very offended.

Mike gets into the car, observes Natalie's reaction, and  
gives her a supportive gesture. He starts the vehicle and  
they leave the house.

INT. DAN CAR - CONTINUED.

Dan is very upset. His body language betrays it.

MIKE  
Mr. Dan... where do I take you?

DAN  
I want to go to the cage.

MIKE  
(confused)  
To the cage?

DAN  
Yeah, damn it... take me to the cage!

Mike is very confused.

MIKE  
To the zoo?

Dan looks at him contemptuously.

INT. BATTING CENTER - CONTINUED.

At the Baseball Center NYC in Manhattan, Dan is in a batting cage, hitting balls thrown to him by a machine. Mike is sitting watching him hit and notices Al Guillen approaching and cheers him on.

AL  
(cheerful)  
Wow! You still have gas left.

Dan hits another ball, the sound it makes is shocking.

DAN  
Can you believe Mike wanted to take me  
to a zoo?

AL  
Because?

DAN  
(laughing)  
I'll tell you later.

Dan hits another ball with great impact.

AL  
How did you feel? You know.

DAN  
I'm fine thanks.

AL  
Well, if you came here, it's because  
something's bothering you.

Dan stops and looks at Mike

DAN  
You see, Mike, this old man knows me  
very well.

AL  
The old part is unnecessary, but yes,  
we've known each other for thirty years.

DAN

Yes, you are the only one who has been there from the beginning.

AL

From the beginning?

DAN

Well, from my career.

AL

That's true.

Dan comes out of the cage. Mike brings him a cloth and a refreshing drink.

DAN

Natalie thinks I should go talk about my life on a show.

AL

How did Lance Armstrong do it?

DAN

Yeah.

AL

No, old man, don't do it, they'll eat you alive.

DAN

You see, I thought the same thing.

Dan looks at Mike. He immediately looks away.

DAN

Mike, what do you think?

AL

Seriously? You're going to ask a driver for your opinion? No offense.

DAN

You're forgetting that Mike went to college, which you and I didn't finish, and worked for a large corporation.

AL

And it went bankrupt. But if you want a second opinion, ask Peter.

DAN

I will, but now I want to know what Mike thinks.

Mike puts on a thoughtful expression.

MIKE

Well, we have to look at the positive and negative aspects of all this.

AL

A list? Very original.

MIKE

Exposing everything will make you very vulnerable; you'll have to be open to all the questions they ask you, whether you're comfortable with them or not. The average American loves stories of redemption and forgiveness, but seeing their hero fall and beg for mercy... I don't know, it wouldn't be good for you, especially with the Cooperstown elections starting soon. They'd think it wasn't genuine, they'd see it as a ploy, and they wouldn't like that.

DAN

So... do you see it as an option?

MIKE

It could be, but not now. I'd do it after the elections.

Dan looks at Mike with pleasure.

DAN

You see, Al, that's why he worked at a big company.

AL

That went bankrupt. No offense.

Mike nods.

DAN

Anyway, now I have to see how I  
apologize to Natalie, she must be pissed  
off.

EXT./INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY.

The car pulls up to the driveway. Dan gets out of the car  
with a large bouquet of flowers.

DAN

Baby! I'm here.

Mike watches him enter the house, he is expectant about what  
will happen.

MIKE

There will surely be a lot of screaming.

Mike parks the car and gets out. He looks toward the house  
and is surprised by the silence.

MIKE

That doesn't sound good.

He walks to the door, enters, and sees Dan standing in front  
of the receipt, the bouquet of flowers dangling in his hand,  
touching the floor, and his dejected attitude surprises him.

MIKE

Mr. Dan... are you okay?

Dan turns to him slowly. In his other hand, he holds a card  
and points it at him.

DAN

Natalie... abandoned me.

Mike's look is one of surprise.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, GARDEN - NIGHT.

In the garden, Dan and Mike sit, admiring the spot where  
Natalie usually does yoga. On a table to one side, there's a  
half-finished bottle of whiskey.

DAN



I never understood the purpose of yoga,  
but she had style. She looked  
spectacular.

MIKE

I shouldn't be drinking, I have to drive  
back.

DAN

None of that, you'll be staying in the  
guest room.

MIKE

So... cheers!

Mike tilts the glass and downs the entire whiskey in one  
gulp.

DAN

Like a man!

Dan does the same, and refills both glasses.

DAN

She was always with me, through thick  
and thin. Especially through the bad.

MIKE

She'll come back, just give her time,  
she's hurt, but she'll get over it.

DAN

You think so? I really hurt her. I've  
said a lot of things to her, and she  
always put up with it, but what I said  
today was the worst.

MIKE

She loves you, and that's why she will  
forgive you.

DAN

When I got expelled, I went home with  
Beth, and she just yelled at me. We had  
a huge fight. After a while, I went out  
and ran into Natalie. Do you know what  
she said?

MIKE

No.

DAN

Here I am, darling, here I am for you. That's when I realized my relationship with Beth was over, and so I did. She and my children hated me for it.

MIKE

You've had many ups and downs in your life, but you've overcome them all.

DAN

Well, so far.

They both raise their glasses and down the whiskey in one gulp.

Dan refills the glasses.

DAN

What about you?

MIKE

(confused)

I don't understand.

DAN

You separated from your wife because of work, how did that happen?

Mike took a drink, to gather strength.

MIKE

My job consumed me; I was a workaholic. I liked feeling like I could accomplish things no one else could. I landed multimillion-dollar contracts. I only went to big corporations; the others were looking for scraps. That caught the attention of my bosses, especially Mr. Reed. I worked on holidays, including Christmas and New Year's. Of course, my wife didn't like that, but I told her it was for our own good... for the family. But the truth is, I was very

competitive, and I liked the feeling of winning.

DAN

Wow ! We do look so much alike after all.

MIKE

One day I get fired because the old man was afraid and didn't want to take the risk. That made me jump from one company to another, earning much less and working twice as hard. One day I come home with a bouquet of roses, just like you did, and earlier than usual, I find my wife with another man.

DAN

I'm sorry, but that's where we're similar.

MIKE

Right there I understood that my life was over.

DAN

Life has screwed us.

MIKE

Life has screwed us.

DAN

What do we have to do?

MIKE

Fuck her.

DAN

Exact!

They both take another drink.

DAN

What if Natalie doesn't come back?

MIKE

Then you must humble yourself and bring her back.

DAN

And how do I do that?

EXT. CONDOMINIUM - NIGHT.

A car is parked next to other vehicles in a remote suburb.  
Mike looks around worriedly.

MIKE

I know this neighborhood. It's not very popular. Especially at this time of day.

DAN

Mike, don't be a chicken, it was your idea to come and humiliate me.

MIKE

Not today, not at this time, besides, how do you know he's here?

DAN

Believe me, she's here. Her aunt lives here. She hates me.

MIKE

What's new.

Dan gets out of the car and starts searching one of the buildings.

DAN

(pointing)

That's it. In that window.

Dan stands right in front of the window. He gathers his courage and begins to sing.

DAN

If I should stay ... i would just be in your way ...

Mike is surprised.

MIKE

Whitney Houston?

DAN

So I Will go , but I know ... I'll think  
of you every step of the way ...

MIKE

Please don't go screaming.

DAN

(screaming)

And I Will always love you ... I will  
always love you

The various windows in all the surrounding buildings begin to  
light up. People shout all sorts of insults at Dan to get him  
to be quiet. He ignores them all.

DAN

Will always ... love you ...

MIKE

(Concerned)

Okay, Dan, time to go, it seems your  
audience wants to lynch you.

DAN

I Will always ... love you ...

Natalie looks out a window, which is in another building and  
another window, and is surprised to see Dan.

NATALIE

Dan? What are you doing?

Dan recognizes the voice and fixes his gaze on it.

DAN

It seems I have the wrong window.

MIKE

And building.

Dan runs to the right building and stands in front of  
Natalie's window.

DAN

Natalie, please forgive me, I was  
stupid, I can't live without you.

NATALIE

Dan, go home.

DAN

I won't leave. I won't leave until you  
forgive me and come back to me.

Mike continues to watch the reaction of people shouting all  
kinds of obscenities at Dan.

MIKE

Or until we get lynched.

NATALIE

Dan, please, you must go.

DAN

No, I won't, until... until...

Dan takes his hand to his chest and begins to massage it, his  
face showing agony.

NATALIE

Dan?

Dan doesn't respond. He falls to the ground.

Mike realizes what's happening to him.

MIKE

Dan?

NATALIE

If this is a joke... I'm going to get  
angrier.

Dan remains on the floor unresponsive.

Mike runs to Dan and notices that he is unconscious.

MIKE

Call 911!

Natalie grabs her phone and desperately dials 911.

INT. HOSPITAL. RECOVERY ROOM - NIGHT.

Dan wakes up and realizes he's in a hospital room. He  
recognizes Natalie sitting across from him.

NATALIE

Dan! It's me, you're okay now,  
everything will be okay.

DAN

I'm already dead.

NATALIE

Not yet, but if you treat me like that  
again, I'll kill you.

DAN

Never again, I promise.

The door opens and Beth appears busily.

BETH

Dan?

Natalie and Beth exchange hateful glances.

BETH

Are you OK?

DAN

Of course I'm fine, I just had a  
relapse.

BETH

You had a heart attack, the doctor told  
me they had to revive you.

DAN

OH, that's great, I'll just keep waiting  
for cancer to kill me then.

BETH

Do you think this is a joke?

NATALIE

It would be better to let him rest.

BETH

You don't give me orders, you have no  
right to be here.

NATALIE

I have every right in the world, I've been living with him since...

BETH

Say it, since you took it from me.

Natalie doesn't say anything, she prefers not to argue.

DAN

Beth, since our relationship ended, she's just been picking up the pieces. Don't blame her, blame me.

BETH

Of course it's your fault. I don't know why I came, I'm an idiot.

Beth leaves the room very upset.

INT./EXT. HOSPITAL. WAITING ROOM - CONTINUED.

Mike and Peter are in the waiting room. Al arrives, very distressed, and joins them.

AL

What happened? What did they say?

PETER

He's out of danger now, he's fine.

AL

How did it happen?

PETER

Mike told me that Dan was depressed because of a fight he had with Natalie and she dumped him. He started drinking and then went to look for her at her aunt's house. He did a little act and his heart nearly exploded. The doctors did a great job and revived him. He's stable now.

Just then, Beth comes out, very upset. Peter goes after her.

PETER

Beth! Wait a minute.



Beth walks straight to her car and Peter finally catches up with her.

PETER

Beth, what's wrong? Please tell me, talk to me.

BETH

(sobbing)

I'm sorry, Peter, but it still hurts, it still hurts that he chose her over me, over his family.

PETER

Please, Beth, that's in the past, you should be over it by now.

BETH

I couldn't, okay, I still can't.

Peter watches as Beth breaks down in tears and hugs her, trying to comfort her.

EXT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUED.

A MAN wearing a coat from a local news station stands outside the hospital entrance, smoking a cigarette. He watches Peter and Beth embrace from a distance. He takes out his phone and calls a number.

MAN

Hey, yes, it's me. I'm standing at the entrance of a hospital here in New York City... I heard Dan Murray was rushed to the hospital... how serious? Well... I'm watching his ex sobbing inconsolably with Dan's lawyer... I don't know if he's dead... but I'm going to find out.

INT. HOSPITAL. RECOVERY ROOM - DAY.

Dan wakes up to find it's already dawn. He's alone in the room.

DAN

Did they abandon me?

He tries to sit up, but he can't; he's so exhausted. Just then, Natalie arrives and sees what he's trying to do.

NATALIE  
What are you doing?

DAN  
Isn't it obvious? I try to stand up.

NATALIE  
Of course not, you stay lying down.

DAN  
Where were you?

Natalie made a worried expression and Dan noticed.

DAN  
What's going on? I know you're hiding something from me.

NATALIE  
(resigned)  
You'll find out anyway.

DAN  
Tell me.

NATALIE  
A reporter did a report on your condition last night.

DAN  
Who told him?

NATALIE  
None of us talked to him, Al and Mike pushed him out of the hospital, but he still managed to find out.

DAN  
And Peter?

NATALIE  
Peter came in next, he was outside with your witch ex.

DAN

What did he say?

NATALIE

Everything, everything is already known.

DAN

Those vultures.

NATALIE

It's already on all the news, everyone knows the truth.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY.

A group of JOURNALISTS crowd the hospital entrance. They watch as Dan leaves with Peter, Natalie, Al, and Mike. They all crowd around to interview him.

JOURNALIST 1

Dan... Dan... is the cancer terminal?

JOURNALIST 2

Dan... how do you feel now?

JOURNALIST 3

Dan... have you done any rehabilitation?

JOURNALIST 4

How much time do you have left to live?

JOURNALIST 5

Dan... have you made peace with God?

JOURNALIST 6

Dan... why don't your ex and your children accompany you?

Dan walks among them without a single comment. Mike opens the door for him, and they all start to file in. Mike is about to enter, but stops when he hears another reporter's question.

JOURNALIST 7

Dan... do you regret everything you've done?

MIKE

Repentance is much more than simply acknowledging that one has done wrong...

it is a spiritual change that leads to a  
new perspective on oneself and others.

Mike gets in and starts the car. He notices everyone in the  
car watching him very carefully.

MIKE

Sorry, I couldn't help myself.

DAN

Well said.

The car moves forward, leaving the journalists and the  
hospital behind.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY.

In the garden, Dan watches on his television as the hot news  
is about him and his illness.

DAN

Don't you get tired? It's been a week,  
and you're still going.

NATALIE

Let them be free advertising.

DAN

Advertising? I didn't know death sold so  
much. Sex, yes, that does sell.

NATALIE

Surely you will get something good out  
of this.

DAN

Of my death? Surely.

The phone rings. Natalie picks it up and answers.

NATALIE

Natalie and Dan's residence... who is it?

Dan makes a gesture of exhaustion.

DAN

Just say hello.

NATALIE

Peter? Is this a new number? Okay... okay...  
I'll tell him... okay... okay... goodbye.

Natalie hangs up and smiles at Dan.

DAN

Yeah?

NATALIE

I told you something good would come out  
of all this.

DAN

What did Peter tell you?

NATALIE

A commission from the Hall of Fame is  
coming today.

DAN

That?

NATALIE

They called Peter, they want to meet  
with you, and he told them you could  
today.

DAN

That's what Peter said? What could he do  
today... without consulting me?

NATALIE

Yes, isn't it wonderful?

DAN

(pessimistic)

Marvelous!

NATALIE

I don't understand why you're so  
depressed, you're the ones in the Hall  
of Fame.

DAN

They probably want me to do something  
for them, I don't know... charity or  
something like that.

NATALIE

Perfect! That'll get you into the Hall of Fame, isn't that what you want?

DAN

I don't want your pity, nor conditions... I want you to treat me with respect.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE. RECEIPT - DAY.

In the lobby, Peter is sitting on the couch with Dan and Natalie, waiting for the arrival of the Hall of Fame representatives.

PETER

They said at three, it's already three.

NATALIE

Mike will be here soon, there must be traffic.

PETER

Dan, I swear to God, if you screw this up, I'm quitting, I'm not going to be with you anymore.

Dan gives a nonchalant gesture as he watches Mike pull into the driveway.

DAN

It's here.

Peter nervously gets up. Natalie rushes to the door and waits patiently. Dan yawns carelessly.

PETER

Here they come, here they come.

They hear a knock on the door. Natalie opens it with a big smile.

NATALIE

Welcome!

Two men, JACK WEAVER (61) and LEN WILLIAMS (63), both Well-dressed and with very serious faces, they enter the house,

greet everyone present, and sit at the other end of the sofa.  
Mike waits outside.

PETER

Gentlemen, it's good to meet with you.  
Mr. Dan is willing to help with anything  
you may need.

WEAVER

It's good to hear that, and at the same  
time, we're here to pay our respects and  
hope that your illness can be  
successfully overcome.

WILLIAMS

Believe me, MLB will pay you a visit  
once we present the results of this  
meeting.

DAN

Did the commissioner's office send them?

WEAVER

Of course not, but they are very  
interested in what we achieve here.

DAN

And what is that?

The two men in suits look at each other very positively.

WEAVER

His transition to the Hall of Fame.

Natalie and Peter smile profusely. Dan doesn't.

DAN

I'm supposed to be able to enter only  
through voting, right?

WILLIAMS

Correct, but there is one pending issue,

PETER

Dan's expulsion from baseball?

WEAVER

Yes that's how it is.

PETER

He is banned from playing, not from participating in the vote.

WEAVER

That's right, and... how did last year go for you?

DAN

You know very well how it went for me.

WEAVER

Exactly, Mr. Murray, this year it will be the same, the reporters will not allow you to enter unless the commissioner withdraws the expulsion.

DAN

The chroniclers? You don't mean... you?

WILLIAMS

Mr. Murray, the columnists have complete independence in their votes; we do not force them on who to vote for.

DAN

So... what are you doing here?

WEAVER

Considering your situation, we believe the best thing you can do is give a press conference and assume your responsibility; that should happen before the vote.

DAN

Why does it have to be before the elections?

WILLIAMS

This will DAN you greater transparency into your situation and make everything easier.

DAN



Easier? You know if I do it now, no one will vote for me, and I'm sure I won't even get five percent.

PETER

That would disqualify him from future elections.

Dan gets up from the couch with great determination. His attitude is one of annoyance.

Peter gives her a tragic look, pleading for calm.

DAN

This meeting is over, good afternoon.

Dan leaves the house.

Natalie and Peter watch as Dan gets into the car and Mike rushes in and drives.

NATALIE

I'll call you a taxi.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY.

In Central Park, with a clear sky and the sunset in the foreground, Dan and Mike are sitting watching the lake and the PEOPLE walking in front of them.

DAN

Mike, they don't just want to destroy my name, they want to destroy my legacy.

MIKE

Mr. Dan, you have always fought against pressure, don't give up now.

DAN

Pressure, pressure, to me, is nothing. Remember the 2010 World Series? Fisk was pitching . He was a fastball, in the 100s. He'd struck out a couple of times in interleague games, but I knew nothing in the world would make me miss him. When I faced him, on the first pitch, I sent the ball into the stands. Even though I was playing on the road,

everyone was booing me, and despite all that, I never heard them. I was just there, facing the pitcher . Pressure, to me, was like child's play.

MIKE

So what will you do?

DAN

I will give my lecture, but not when they want, I will do it as we planned.

MIKE

It's a smart move.

DAN

Mike, I want to thank you.

MIKE

For advice? You don't have to.

DAN

No, it's just that, since you arrived, you've never asked me if I did it.

Mike nods.

MIKE

Mr. Dan, I've always admired you, ever since you debuted with the Yankees, you've always been my favorite player.

DAN

Oh really?

MIKE

No, Derek Jeter is.

DAN

Of course.

MIKE

But, you have been the one I identify with the most.

DAN

How is that?

MIKE

Well, life has screwed you over, but you  
still don't give up.

EXT. NEWSPAPER STAND - NIGHT (EARLY MORNING)

A newspaper delivery vehicle stops abruptly. A young man  
throws a bundle of newspapers, and a man picks it up. The  
front page features the Hall of Fame results. And in a small  
column, a reference to Dan Murray is made:

"DAN MURRAY DIDN'T MAKE IT."

INT. BETH'S HOUSE - DAY.

Beth serves breakfast. Emily and John sit down to eat. John  
checks his phone for the news that Dan Murray wasn't elected  
to the Hall of Fame.

BETH

I told you no cell phones, let's eat.

Emily realizes the news.

EMILY

I want to go see dad.

Beth is surprised.

BETH

If you want to see it, that's fine by  
me.

Beth watches John who is eating.

BETH

And you? Do you want to see it too?

John doesn't answer.

INT. MIKE'S DEPARTMENT - DAY.

Mike is talking to his daughter Stefany on the phone, via  
video call.

MIKE

...It's a good job, I'm sure you'll do  
well.

STEFANY

Thanks, advertising is my thing.

MIKE

It will stand out, I know.

STEFANY

Mom says I'm very stubborn, the way I do things, and that's how I'm like you.

MIKE

Did she say that?

STEFANY

He said it in a nice way.

MIKE

I don't believe you, but it's nice that you have something of me.

STEFANY

Dad... you know that I get all the virtues from you and Mom.

MIKE

Well, as long as it's just that, it's fine.

STEFANY

I saw the news this morning, it didn't go well for Mr. Murray.

MIKE

Yes, that's right, but it was something we knew would happen, what we didn't know was that he would get 15 percent of the vote, 10 percent more than last time, that's good.

STEFANY

And what about the other stuff? How does it feel?

MIKE

Anyway, daughter, he's already resigned, he doesn't want to undergo any treatment.

STEFANY

But that is giving up, you are  
surrendering to a fatal outcome.

MIKE

He calls it a dignified death. He  
doesn't want to be bedridden in a  
hospital.

STEFANY

That's sad, well at least he gave you  
the day off so we can talk without  
pressure.

MIKE

Yes, he wanted to be alone with Natalie,  
he said he wouldn't go out, there was no  
point in being there.

EXT. FOOD TRUCK - DAY.

On 8th Avenue, Mike is buying a meal at a food store. truck .  
A line of people waits their turn. When he manages to buy it,  
he notices his phone rings.

MIKE

Dan? What's going on?

DAN

(VO)

I know I told you to take the day off,  
but I need a favor.

MIKE

Yes tell me.

DAN

(VO)

My daughter wants to see me, could you  
please...

MIKE

Sure, I'll go for it.

Mike rushes to get the car.

EXT. BETH'S HOUSE - DAY.

Mike waits at the entrance to Beth's house. He watches Emily walk out the door with Beth. They approach Mike, who is still staring at the door.

BETH  
John won't come.

MIKE  
Would you let me try something?

INT. BETH'S HOUSE. ROOM - CONTINUED.

John is in his room playing video games. He's surprised to see his mom with Mike.

BETH  
Mr. Mike came to say hello, be nice.

John sees him dressed in a casual suit.

JOHN  
Is this what drivers dress like now?

MIKE  
Today is my day off.

JOHN  
And what are you doing here? Shouldn't you be taking a nap?

MIKE  
I was actually going to have lunch, but a friend asked me for a favor, and here I am.

JOHN  
Are they friends now? He treats strangers better than his own family.

MIKE  
Your sister wants to go see him, imagine how she'll feel when she sees you too.

JOHN  
I don't want to see it.

MIKE

You know, I lost my father when I was very young; he suffered a heart attack. I was a little younger than you. That day, we made plans to go to the stadium to see a Yankees game. Instead, I was at the hospital, waiting to be told he would be okay and we would go see the game. Imagine how upset I was when they told me I'd never see him again.

John looks at Mike very distressed.

JOHN

He failed us, he failed in his duty to raise us.

MIKE

He's just a man, full of virtues and flaws, just like my father, but that never took away his love for me, and I know your father never forgot his love for you either. Just let him say goodbye... I couldn't do it with mine, and that will weigh on you in the future. You bet.

INT. BETH'S HOUSE. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUED.

Beth is surprised when she watches John cross the room with Mike.

MIKE

Ma'am, we're ready to go.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE. MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY.

Dan sits outside the house, on the front porch, waiting. He watches as the car pulls up and parks in the driveway. Emily gets out and gives him a big smile. Dan smiles back. Now John gets out too, and Dan is surprised to see him. Dan runs over and hugs him.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE. GARDEN - CONTINUED.

Natalie and Mike are in the garden watching Dan from afar talking to his children.

NATALIE

I'm glad I can finally make peace with them.

MIKE

Yes, that is certainly an achievement.

NATALIE

Dan needs it, badly.

MIKE

I guess it came at the right time.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - NIGHT.

In a television studio, Dan sits opposite a JOURNALIST. Television cameras focus on him and lights illuminate the entire studio.

JOURNALIST

So, Dan... you're saying you cheated?

Dan stares into the camera. His face expresses great seriousness.

DAN

Yes, I did. I took steroids to improve my numbers.

JOURNALIST

Did you do it because you felt pressured or someone pushed you to do it?

DAN

I assure you it wasn't because of pressure, but I must admit that I felt the need for my family to be secure, at least financially, and I needed to improve my numbers to sign that big contract the Yankees gave me.

JOURNALIST

But you already had good numbers, without steroids, why risk your career?

DAN

In this business, if you don't stand out, you're nobody. You can hit 30 home runs or 300 and still be average... but



if you do something that no one else can  
do, or that few have achieved, then  
you're elite, and that's where I wanted  
to be.

INT. COOPERSTOWN HALL OF FAME - DAY.

TITLE: Twenty years later.

An old and tired Mike walks with his daughter, Stefany, now forty, down a long, neat hallway. On the walls are pictures of players inducted into the Hall of Fame.

EXT. COOPERSTOWN HALL OF FAME - CONTINUED.

In an outdoor area, Natalie, now sixty, sits with an aging Al Guillen, among a large crowd. Mike joins her, sitting silently. There, they're celebrating the induction of new members into the Hall of Fame. There are five in total, but there are only four people on the podium, all elderly, with their respective plaques. The fifth inductee is a large photo of Dan Murray raised on a tripod.

His children, John and Emily, now adults, proudly hold their father's plaque.

Everyone present applauds as the entire celebration area is seen from the sky.

FADE OUT.

END.