

### **Scene 8 - Little Wrigley Field**

This is the minor league baseball stadium in South Central Los Angeles built to look like its namesake in Chicago. MIKE and DONOVAN climb over patrons down a long row to find two empty seats. Mike has two hot dogs, a box of crackerjack and a program.

MIKE

Glad you could meet me for breakfast.

DONOVAN

Somehow I pictured bacon and eggs, lox and bagels. Not hot dogs.

Mike hands him a hot dog as they find their seats.

MIKE

Stop complaining. I hope you like onions.

DONOVAN

I don't.

MIKE

Too bad. You know how to keep score?

DONOVAN

Look, Morales, I didn't drop everything on my schedule to take in a ballgame. I thought you had a few questions to ask. I'm here to give you a few answers.

MIKE

Okay. Answer me this: know how to keep score?

DONOVAN

Not exactly.

MIKE

Figures.

DONOVAN

What's that supposed to mean?

MIKE

Nothing in particular.

DONOVAN

Say, this place looks awfully familiar.

MIKE

Wrigley Field.

DONOVAN

I beg your pardon.

MIKE

Little Wrigley Field. Built to look like the original in Chicago for the Cubs' minor league team. Now the property of Walter Francis O'Malley. Soon to be the property of the city of Los Angeles. If the voters okay the deal.

DONOVAN

What do you mean?

MIKE

I mean O'Malley swaps Wrigley Field for Chavez Ravine – if the voters sign on the dotted line. You gotta keep up with this stuff, Donovan. O'Malley had to buy out the Cubs' minor league rights so he could move his big club into the territory. It also give him a back-up in case the Chavez Ravine deal falls through.

DONOVAN

I knew that. Is that why you brought me out here? For a history lesson?

MIKE

Nope. Brought you out here for batting practice. Eat.

They do. They also watch the teams play ball.

MIKE

Jinx says you're from Chicago.

DONOVAN

And when did she tell you that?

MIKE

Cubs fan?

DONOVAN

Not really.

MIKE

White Sox, then.

DONOVAN

Nope.

MIKE

Cardinals?

DONOVAN

Look, Morales. I really don't like baseball.

MIKE

You what???

DONOVAN

Stupid game. Takes too long. And all the players look like they're wearing pajamas.

MIKE

Bite your tongue, man. You're talking about our national pastime. Not to mention my bread and butter.

**"Ya Don't Like Baseball"**

MIKE

YA DON'T LIKE BASEBALL?

DONOVAN

THAT'S RIGHT

MIKE

WHADDAYA MEAN?

DONOVAN

I DON'T LIKE BASEBALL

MIKE

YEAH, RIGHT  
HOW DO YA MEAN?  
YOU DON'T LIKE TEAMWORK AND FRIENDSHIP,  
TENSION AND DRAMA,  
BEAUTY, SKILL, GUTS, GLORY,  
SYMMETRY AND GRACE?  
THAT'S BASEBALL

DONOVAN

NOT SO

MIKE

MORE THAN A GAME  
THE ART OF BASEBALL

DONOVAN  
OH, NO!

MIKE  
EVEN THE NAME  
A WORD SO HONEST AND NEAT  
AND YET SO COMPLETE  
COMPLEX, YET DECEPTIVELY  
SIMPLE ON ITS FACE

DONOVAN  
ONE WHO LOVES WATCHING BASEBALL  
IS ONE WHO CRAVES MARVEL COMIC BOOKS  
BOTH ARE GARISH AND BROAD  
SILLY AND DULL  
CHEAP AND UNCHALLENGING  
BASEBALL...

MIKE  
YA DON'T LIKE BASEBALL?

DONOVAN  
GIMME A BREAK  
THE GAME OF BASEBALL...

MIKE  
YA DON'T LIKE BASEBALL?

DONOVAN  
...YOU OUGHTTA TAKE BACK HOME

There is the sound of the crack of a bat. Mike stands up, excited.

MIKE  
Beautiful! Right down the left field line! A picture  
perfect double!

DONOVAN  
So what happens to these guys?

MIKE  
What do you mean?

DONOVAN  
These guys. (gesturing to the field) Say the Dodgers  
do move out west, these guys become Dodgers, too?

MIKE

No, of course not. These guys are minor leaguers.

DONOVAN

So who's gonna watch minor leaguers play when there's a major league team in town?

MIKE

Come again?

DONOVAN

Seems to me the minor leagues are doomed attendance-wise if a big league team muscled in.

MIKE (putting two and two together)

You're not as dumb as you look, Donovan.

DONOVAN

Thanks lot. You married, Morales?

MIKE

I am.

DONOVAN

Must be tough. You, a married man on the road half the season.

MIKE

It's all right.

DONOVAN

Must be hard on the wife, though.

MIKE

We manage. What about you?

DONOVAN

None of your damn business. If you don't mind. Oh, great.

MIKE

What?

DONOVAN

Mustard on my tie. God, I hate baseball.