

GUS
What?

MICKEY
It was more important that I be here. It's, I . . .

GUS
No.

MICKEY
No, it's alright.

GUS
No.

MICKEY
No, I'll deal with it.

GUS
No. God, I worked my ass off so you could have more, and you... You're gonna throw it away on coming to a garbage can like this? - That's no life for a...

MICKEY
- For a girl.

GUS
That's no life for a kid of mine. Living out of suitcases and visiting every shit-ball town in the area. That's not what I wanted for my kid.

MICKEY
Well, I guess what I wanted didn't matter.

GUS
- You don't even like baseball.

MICKEY
- I love baseball. You know I love it. I never wanted to be a lawyer. I did that for you so that you would be happy with me... and that you would approve of me and then maybe you'd keep me around.

GUS
I did what I felt was right. I just didn't want you to have life in the cheap seats.

MICKEY
They weren't the cheap seats. Spending every waking moment with my dad watching baseball... eating food that was no good for me. Playing pool, staying up too late, those were the best seats in the house... until you sent me away.

GUS

Well, I was just doing the best I know how.

MICKEY

Only a coward leaves their kid.

GUS

You don't know half of what you think you do.

MICKEY

Okay, then tell me the other half. Goddamn it, Dad, talk to me. Dad... talk to me. Please.

GUS

You remember years ago, down in Mobile, Alabama... they had the horse running around the field.

MICKEY

Yeah.

GUS

They used to keep that horse in a trailer down outside the bullpen gate. Anyway, I was talking to this kid I had signed... telling him there's no place for him in the big leagues. And all of a sudden I realized you were gone and I couldn't find you. I was panicking. I saw this shack there. I went... I went over and looked in... and there you were with this guy. He had his hand down the back of your shirt.

MICKEY

I don't remember that.

GUS

Yeah. How could you? You were only 6 years old. I sent you out, and then I started beating the shit out of this guy. I smashed his head against the wall and I started hitting him with everything I had. I strangled his ass. Finally, he passed out.

MICKEY

Oh, my gosh, Dad.

GUS

I kept waiting for the police to come and arrest me, but they never did. That's when I sent you to your aunt and uncle's. I thought they'd take care of you. I thought I'd failed you. Your mother had died a year before and I was a mess. You have to understand that.

MICKEY

Can't you understand that you sending me away wasn't protecting me... it was rejecting me. I've been working hard to not let anyone else get close enough to do that again. And being alone really sucks.

GUS

Well... you might just have to give me a little slack on that, because... I just can't change.

MICKEY

You never tried.

GUS

I'm just a broken-down old man. And you ought to get as far away from me as you can.
Can't you just do that?

MICKEY

Yeah. I can do that.