

**YA GOTTA BELIEVE!**

a 10-minute play by  
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**CHARACTERS:** LOUIS, early 20s  
MICHELLE, early 20s  
GUY  
SCALPER  
POLICEMAN

**TIME:** October 22, 2000, around 7:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Outside Yankee Stadium

*LOUIS paces, while MICHELLE sits on the ledge of a concrete wall. She holds a tin Band-Aid box.*

**LOUIS**

Who's sellin'? Who's sellin'? Who's got tickets! I need a pair! Who's got tickets? Who's sellin'?

*(Pause.)*

Ugh...I'm losin' hope here.

*A SCALPER ENTERS.*

**SCALPER**

You sellin'?

**LOUIS**

No...no...I'm buying.

*SCALPER EXITS.*

**MICHELLE**

You know I scalped tickets once.

**LOUIS**

Really?

**MICHELLE**

When I was still living back home, I drove down to Cincinnati with my friend Molly to see the Reds.

**LOUIS**

On a whim?

**MICHELLE**

No. Molly just really loved the Reds, and she asked me to go with her. This guy told us that he had two great seats right behind second base. We said, "Great!"

**LOUIS**

Second base...?

**MICHELLE**

He saw us coming, boy. We got inside and we asked the usher, "Where's second base?" And he was like..., "Out there and up about seven levels!"

**LOUIS**

Oh, man!

**MICHELLE**

We paid like \$40 each for \$10 tickets. They were so high up it was ridiculous.

**LOUIS**

I tell ya. Right now...? I'd take those tickets in a heartbeat. I don't think we're going to see this game.

**MICHELLE**

Do you want to go home?

**LOUIS**

I thought you were a baseball fan?

**MICHELLE**

So-so.

**LOUIS**

You said your father and brother turned you into one.

**MICHELLE**

Yeah, but...you know...sports have always just drifted in and out of my life.

**LOUIS**

What do you mean?

**MICHELLE**

It means I never would have known that this was an important week in baseball if you didn't tell me. I wouldn't even know the Mets and Yankees were playing in the World Series. It seems like I'm only interested when the men around me are interested.

**LOUIS**

But that's how the game gets passed down. My Dad was a fan so...I'm a fan.

**MICHELLE**

Okay.

**LOUIS**

Michelle, I need to see this game.

**MICHELLE**

Can't we go across the street and watch it at Stan's?

**LOUIS**

*(Reflective.)*

Do you know when I was a kid my Dad took me into Stan's?

**MICHELLE**

Isn't that a good thing...?

**LOUIS**

He took me to my first game...right here...Yankee Stadium. We went on this bus trip with the police department, and the Yankees won in the bottom of the ninth. My Dad won the betting pool. He was *thrilled*. Afterwards, we went into Stan's, and that was the first time I was ever in a bar. My Dad bought drinks for all the guys, and then he picked me up, he put me on a bar stool, and he ordered me a sarsaparilla. I asked him, "Is there booze in this...?" And he went, "Yeah, there is!" And I took a drink, and I'm like..., "I feel drunk!"

**(MORE)**

**LOUIS (CONT'D)**

*(Pause.)*

I was so happy.

**MICHELLE**

Aw.

**LOUIS**

Do you know what we need here?

**MICHELLE**

Tickets?

**LOUIS**

A miracle.

**MICHELLE**

Since when do you believe in miracles?

**LOUIS**

I'm a Mets fan. Of course I believe in miracles. When they won the World Series in '69...? They were comin' off a year when they finished in second to last place. Goin' into the season the odds of them winning it all were 1,000-1. They played Baltimore in the World Series and the Orioles had one of the best pitching staffs in the history of the game. Their team ERA was 2.83.

**MICHELLE**

Is that good?

**LOUIS**

The Mets beat 'em in five games.

**MICHELLE**

But I thought you were a Yankees fan?

**LOUIS**

Actually, my father was the Yankees fan and I was the Mets fan. He liked all those Italian guys who played for the Yankees - Joe DiMaggio...Phil Rizzuto...Yogi Berra...all those guys. I started routing for the Mets because I've always been a fan of the underdog. It made for a friendly rivalry between us. And then when the Mets beat the Red Sox in '84 in the miracle of all miracles...a ground ball through Bill Buckner's legs with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning...that was it...I was Mets fan for life. The first time my Dad took me to Shea Stadium...? We found two tickets on the ground.

**MICHELLE**

No.

**LOUIS**

Do you know what the Mets motto used to be?

*(Pause.)*

"Ya Gotta Believe!"

**MICHELLE**

The game starts in less than a half hour, Lou.

**LOUIS**

That's why we havta find tickets...I promised him I would go. My Dad said that he wanted some of his ashes sprinkled in the backyard...some in the ocean...and the rest on the field in Yankee Stadium.

**MICHELLE**

I have no idea where I'd want my ashes scattered.

**LOUIS**

I told him I would do it if I could pull it off, and he said, "Hey, it's not like I'm asking you to dump a full urn!"

**MICHELLE**

But even if we get inside how are we...

**LOUIS**

...once the game is over...we'll make our way down to the rail, and.....we'll unload the Band-Aids.

**MICHELLE**

Can't we do this some other day...?

**LOUIS**

No. I asked my father. I said, "Is there any special time you want this done?" And he thought about it, and he said, "My birthday's in the fall...if the Yankees and the Mets ever play in the World Series do it then."

**MICHELLE**

And today's his birthday...

**LOUIS**

...I mean I even said to him, "What if that day never comes? Or what if it doesn't come for a *really* long time?" He said, "I'll be in an urn! I won't know the difference!" And then he paused..., and he said, "But it will really piss me off if I don't go there."

**MICHELLE**

He didn't think that was a big responsibility to put on you?

**LOUIS**

He was dying. He didn't care. He said there was a new company called Eternal Images. They're sponsored by Major League Baseball. They'll bury you in a casket for any team in the league. He said, "I'll give you a choice. Either spread some of my ashes on the field or bury me in a New York Yankees casket."

*(Pause.)*

My family decided to...

**TOGETHER.**

...spread his ashes on the field.

**MICHELLE**

We're going to see this game.

*She stands and holds up two fingers.*

**LOUIS**

What are you doing?

**MICHELLE**

*(To the CROWD.)*

We need two miracles.

**LOUIS**

What?

**MICHELLE**

*(To LOUIS.)*

That's how the Deadheads used to do it!

*(To the CROWD.)*

"We need a miracle, man! Just two miracles!"

*(To LOUIS.)*

It's from one of their songs.

**LOUIS**

I know the song.

*A GUY comes straight for MICHELLE.*

**GUY**

Yo, Deadheads!

**MICHELLE**

Do you have tickets?

**LOUIS**

How many do you have?

**GUY**

A pair.

**MICHELLE**

Fantastic!

**LOUIS**

Can I see 'em?

*He hands LOUIS the tickets.*

**GUY**

A friend of mine stuck me so...I just want to get rid of 'em.

**LOUIS**

How much do you want?

**GUY**

What do you want to spend?

**LOUIS**

You know scalping is illegal?

**GUY**

Yeah...?

**LOUIS**

I don't want you to get in any trouble.

**GUY**

Yeah...I know...so? Let's do it quick...

**LOUIS**

I'll give you \$200 for the pair.

**GUY**

Nah. I'm looking for \$200 *apiece*.

**LOUIS**

Face value is \$75!

**GUY**

It's Mets/Yankees.

**LOUIS**

I can't pay that!

**GUY**

*(Shrugs.)*

It's your call.

**LOUIS**

*(Pause.)*

It's too much.

*The GUY takes back the tickets, starts to walk away.*

**MICHELLE**

*(Grabs hold of the GUY'S shoulder.)*

Hold on!

*(To LOUIS.)*

How much does he want?

**GUY**

It's \$200 *each*.

**MICHELLE**

Two hundred dollars?

**LOUIS**

I don't have that kind of money.

**GUY**

Do you want 'em or not?

**LOUIS**

I'll give you \$300.

**GUY**

Give me \$350.

**LOUIS**

That's all the money I have - \$300!

**GUY**

*(Pause.)*

Awright, let's do it!

**MICHELLE**

Wait a second!

**GUY**

What?

**MICHELLE**

Are they behind second base?

**GUY**

They're behind third base. They're great seats. C'mon. Let's do it and get it over with.

*As LOUIS searches for his money, the SCALPER swoops into the deal.*

**SCALPER**

What do you got? What are you sellin'?

**GUY**

A pair of field boxes - \$300.

**SCALPER**

I'll give you \$350.

**GUY**

You have \$350?

**SCALPER**

You want it? Hurry up. I got \$350 right here. What do you want to do?

**LOUIS**

*(OVERLAP.)*

You're not selling them to him!

**SCALPER**

It's up to you. Choose. I'll give you \$350. Right now. Make up your mind. What do you want to do?

**LOUIS**

*(To the GUY.)*

You're selling them to me! I'm the baseball fan here. C'mon! We have a deal.

**MICHELLE**

*(To the GUY.)*

You came to us first! Remember?

**GUY**

*(To the SCALPER.)*

Gimme \$400.

**SCALPER**

Done.

*(He fishes the money  
out of his pockets.)*

Here.

**MICHELLE**

*(To the GUY.)*

We'll give you \$400!

**LOUIS**

What are you doing?

**MICHELLE**

I have some money...I can chip in.

*A POLICEMAN bursts into the circle, grabs  
the SCALPER in an arm lock.*

**POLICEMAN**

What's going on here?

**GUY**

*(Releases his hand,  
leaves the SCALPER  
holding both the money  
and the tickets.)*

Nothing. Nothing at all...

*(He backs away, briskly,  
muttering.)*

...fuckin' Deadheads.

*He EXITS.*

*The POLICEMAN rips the money and the tickets  
out of the SCALPER'S hands.*

**SCALPER**

I was just...uh...

**POLICEMAN**

SHUT THE FUCK UP! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR A WORD OUT OF YOUR MOUTH!

**SCALPER**

I'm sorry.

**POLICEMAN**

WHAT DID I TELL YOU BEFORE, HUH? DIDN'T I TELL YOU I NEVER WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN? DIDN'T I SAY THAT?

**SCALPER**

Yes.

**POLICEMAN**

NOW YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA DO FOR ME? YOU'RE GONNA TURN THE FUCK AROUND...AND YOU'RE GONNA START RUNNIN'...AND YOU'RE NOT GONNA FUCKIN' STOP UNTIL YOU GET TO NEW JERSEY. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

**SCALPER**

I understand you.

**POLICEMAN**

BECAUSE I SWEAR TO FUCKIN' GOD IF I SEE YOU AGAIN TONIGHT I WILL LOCK YOUR ASS UP FOR GOOD.

*(Pause.)*

NOW GET THE FUCK OUT OF HERE.

*The SCALPER runs off-stage.*

**POLICEMAN (CONT'D)**

*(To LOUIS.)*

And what's your problem?

**LOUIS**

I...

**POLICEMAN**

Do you know you could go to jail for this? Do you know that? The two of you!

*(Pause.)*

Wise up.

*(He pushes both the money and the tickets into LOUIS'S chest/hands.)*

Now get goin'. Don't lemme catch you out here again.

*The POLICEMAN EXITS.*

*LOUIS and MICHELLE look down at both the tickets and the money.*

*They start to EXIT...LOUIS stops, doubles back, grabs the Band-Aid tin filled with his father's ashes.*

**BLACKOUT**