

Characters of: CHANGEUP

Charlie.....former baseball coach 60-75

Ellen.....Charlie's daughter 35-45

A daughter helps her elderly father deal with life.

Open in BLACK to the sounds of children playing baseball and the accompanying CHATTER "At a baby, at a baby, Good pick, way to go. Way to hustle." LIGHTS inch up to reveal CHARLIE, an elderly man, sitting alone on a splintered, wooden bench. As Lights reach full O/S SOUND fades and Charlie, in a monotone, quietly takes up the chatter.

CHARLIE

Atta baby,atta baby. Way to go.  
Good hustle. Way to pick it.

(long pause, then he  
places the back of  
his left hand flat  
on the ground)

Bend your knees. Crouch down and  
bend your knees. Get low. Keep  
your glove on the ground.

(pause)

That's it. That's it, you've got  
it. Charge the ball now...charge  
it...

(sits quietly for  
several beats)

ELLEN (O.S.)

Dad...dad?

CHARLIE

Around the horn. Bring it home.  
Good hustle, now let's get two.

ELLEN

(entering)

Thank god, there you are.

CHARLIE

Oh, hi Ellen.

ELLEN

Where have you been. I've been  
looking all over for you.

CHARLIE

I'm right here.

ELLEN

I've been calling and calling.  
Why haven't you answered your  
phone?

CHARLIE

My phones at home.

ELLEN

You're supposed to keep it with  
you.

CHARLIE

No, no I keep it on the coffee  
table.

ELLEN

It's not going to you any good at  
home. You need to keep it with  
you. You know, for emergencies.

CHARLIE

I keep on the table. The coffee  
table. It's always right there in  
the middle of the table, Ellen.  
That's how I know where it's at.  
So I don't lose it.

ELLEN

That's fine, I don't want you to  
lose it, but do me a favor.

CHARLIE

Sure honey.

ELLEN

Keep it in your pocket.

CHARLIE

What?

ELLEN

Your phone.

CHARLIE

Not on the coffee table?

ELLEN

Right. Not on the table.

CHARLIE

O.K.

ELLEN

If it's in your pocket, I'll  
always be able to get ahold of you.

CHARLIE

And I'll have it for emergencies.

ELLEN

There you go, "you'll have it for  
emergencies."

CHARLIE

Good idea.

ELLEN

Thought I'd never find you. What  
are you doing over here at the  
school?

CHARLIE

Your mom went shopping so I  
decided to come over and watch the  
boys play ball.

ELLEN

Dad...mom's not here anymore.

CHARLIE

I know honey, she's shopping.

ELLEN

She's not shopping.

CHARLIE

She's not?

ELLEN

No, she's not.

CHARLIE

Well, where is she?

ELLEN

She died five years ago. Don't you  
remember?

CHARLIE

Five years?

ELLEN

We talked about this before. The  
funeral...

CHARLIE

The funeral?

ELLEN

Yes, the funeral. Remember?

CHARLIE

Sure I remember the funeral.  
There were a lot of flowers. Real  
nice flowers.

ELLEN

That's right. There were a lot of  
real nice flowers at moms funeral.  
That's why we had the services,  
because mom died.

CHARLIE

No, I don't think so. I love your  
mom, Ellen. She's just shopping.  
She loves to go shopping.

ELLEN

We've been through this...

CHARLIE

Probably at the mall.

ELLEN

Sure... O.K.

(pause)

Y'know, you had me worried. I  
didn't know where you were, but  
then I remembered how I found you  
at this school the last time you  
went missing.

CHARLIE

I like to watch the kids play ball.

ELLEN

There's no one here.

CHARLIE

Oh, sure there is.

(stands and looks out)

Can't you hear them chatter?

(he chatters)

"that a way, that a way to bring  
it. Come baby, hum baby."

ELLEN

You haven't coached the boys at  
this school in 20 years.

CHARLIE

Your mom used to keep score.

ELLEN  
You were a good coach.

CHARLIE  
She was a good score keeper.

ELLEN  
Yes, she was.

CHARLIE  
They're good ball players, these kids.

ELLEN  
I'm sure they were.

CHARLIE  
Know what I miss...that I really love?

ELLEN  
What?

CHARLIE  
Hitting infield. I miss that.

ELLEN  
Yeah, well you did it for a long time.

CHARLIE  
I did.

ELLEN  
Why this school? You coached at a lot of different places...

CHARLIE  
Five or six.

ELLEN  
So, why this school? Why come back here?

CHARLIE  
Hal Wallis.

ELLEN  
Hal Wallis?

CHARLIE  
Yup.

ELLEN

What on earth are you talking about?

CHARLIE

Know who he is?

ELLEN

Hal Wallis?

CHARLIE

Or who he was?

ELLEN

I think he had something to do with the movies...producer, director, something like that.

CHARLIE

Producer, he produced "Casablanca."

ELLEN

That was a good movie.

CHARLIE

It was.

ELLEN

Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

CHARLIE

He brought Elvis to Hollywood and produced most of his movies.

ELLEN

I'm surprised you know this.

CHARLIE

Honey, I may have problems with my memory, but I'm not dumb. Just have...you know, like holes in it.

ELLEN

I know.

CHARLIE

Anyway, this was his home. I looked up a lot of it on that Google thing you showed me how to use.

ELLEN

That's great. I'm glad you're using your computer. It's not really that hard.

CHARLIE

I finally got it. Took me awhile though. I kept on getting that other thing.

ELLEN

What other thing?

CHARLIE

That other thing with the goofy name.

ELLEN

"Goofy thing?"

CHARLIE

With all the restaurant reviews.

ELLEN

Yelp?

CHARLIE

Yeah, that one. I kept getting Yelped.

ELLEN

(laughing)

You got "yelped." That's funny, Dad.

CHARLIE

Those people are crazy. They give "Denny's" five stars.

ELLEN

(laughs)

It's just their opinion. What did you find on the internet?

CHARLIE

A lot. Wallis bought this old Spanish rancho in the twenties or thirties and remodeled the ranch house.

ELLEN

How did it become a school?

CHARLIE

The city took it.

ELLEN

Took it?

CHARLIE

Well, yeah...y'know, that thing they do.

ELLEN

Eminent domain?

CHARLIE

Yeah honey, that's it, "eminent domain". They took it from him and built the school.

ELLEN

How 'bout that?

(pause)

So that's why you come back here...Hal Wallis?

CHARLIE

No.

ELLEN

Why?

CHARLIE

The kids. The ball field.

(pause)

This is a good field. A good team...and

(pause)

And...and...

ELLEN

And what, Dad?

CHARLIE

And this is where I found my "Flying Eagle."

ELLEN

So tell me, what's a "Flying Eagle?"

CHARLIE

1858, One Cent coin.

ELLEN

That's old.

CHARLIE

It is. Found it right out there by home plate when I was hitting infield. Catcher kicked it up when he was fielding a bunt.



ELLEN  
Pretty good find.

CHARLIE  
Somebody dropped it in the  
eighteen hundreds and I found it  
a hundred and some years latter  
(pause)  
Right after I dropped your mother  
off to go shopping.

ELLEN  
1858...long time ago.

CHARLIE  
Dropped her off and came here to  
practice with the boys. Came to  
hit infield to the team. I loved  
to hit infield.  
(pause)  
I loved your mom.

He is lost in reverie

CHARLIE  
(continuing)  
She's just shopping.

ELLEN  
Dad...

CHARLIE  
She loved to go shopping...

ELLEN  
Hey Dad.

CHARLIE  
...huh...

ELLEN  
Think you can still hit infield?

Coming out of it.

CHARLIE  
Sure, I can hit infield

ELLEN  
Whose the Shortstop on this team?

CHARLIE  
"Scoots", Scoots DeJoie. That kid  
can really "pick it."

Running down stage.

ELLEN  
I'll be Scoots.

Takes up a fielding position.

ELLEN (CONT.)  
Come on hit me some, Coach.

CHARLIE  
Okay...okay, Scoots. Let's get  
one. The plays at First.

Mimes hitting a grounder.

CHARLIE (CONT.)  
Way to pick it, way to pick it.  
Atta boy.

Mimes catching ball, throwing it up and hitting another  
grounder. As LIGHTS START TO FADE.

CHARLIE (CONT.)  
(continuing)  
Okay let's shoot two guys...

Continue to FADE THE LIGHTS to Black and bring up O/S Chatter:

O/S CHATTER "Atta baby, atta baby, good pick, way to go, way  
to go."

