

Batter Up

A Musical About Baseball In Two Acts

Book, Lyrics & Music
by
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The Locker Room of the Mudville Nine. The lockers have a bench in front of them and one to the side. There is some disarray: clothes on lockers, etc. To one side of the lockers there is a garish "shrine" that holds a black baseball bat. The name "Bertha" is inscribed above the bat. SOUND: crowd noises rise and fall and an ANNOUNCER'S voice comes from the small radio on top of the lockers. Pacing nervously in front of the benches is DEVON FOWLER the team owner. He is dressed in an expensive suit. JOEY HARRISON follows right in his footsteps, echoing his gestures. FOWLER stops and shouts and looks at the radio whenever the announcer mentions bad news.

TEX BARKER, ANNOUNCER

A swing and a miss!

FOWLER

My Grandmother's Pajamas! What's wrong with that idiot? I pay him enough money so's he should be able to at least hit the ball once in a while.

JOEY

Yessir.

FOWLER

And it's not like this was an exhibition game. Doesn't that idiot know this is a pennant game? Mudville in the pennant, and Skipper Martin skipping around like he was playing sandlot ball back in- wherever the heck he comes from.

BARKER

Martin gets two strikes.

FOWLER

Grandma's Girdle! Two and oh.

JOEY

Mr. Fowler, sir?

FOWLER

Yeah, what is it Joey?

JOEY

Why are you down here in the locker room, sir?
I mean, you own the place. Couldn't you get a
good seat?

FOWLER

Joey, the Mudville Nine has been the Mudville
Nothing for ten years now. For ten years, ever
since I bought this two-bit outfit, they ain't
done a doggone thing. Now, for the first time,
they're doing something. And I'm just too
nervous to watch.

**SOUND: a crack. FOWLER & JOEY look
at radio, but...**

SHELLEY ROGERS, CO-ANNOUNCER

It's going, it's going, it's going-

BARKER

It's going foul.

FOWLER

Foul! Phooey! What's wrong with that boy?

JOEY picks up bat from "shrine"

JOEY

He ain't Casey Carmichael, that's all.

FOWLER

Nobody ain't Casey Carmichael, son. There ain't
nobody like that somebody nowhere, no-when, no
way. They broke the mold on Casey Carmichael.

BARKER

A swing and a miss.

ROGERS

That's all for the Skipper.

FOWLER

He's out?! Out? What am I paying these clowns
for? Who's up next?

BARKER

That brings up Catfish Beauregard.

JOEY

Catfish!

FOWLER

Just great! A pitcher up to bat. All's we need at this point is the absolute worst hitter in the league. Down a run, bottom of the ninth, nobody on. Grandma! Where are you?

SALLY enters, dressed as a boy. She wears a scruffy shirt and a baseball hat pulled low down to her ears and wears a back pack. She listens to FOWLER & JOEY

JOEY

If Catfish gets a hit, we still got a chance, Mr. Fowler. Casey comes up right after him.

FOWLER

If Catfish gets a hit, I get religion. But let's hope for the best. You got Casey's bat?

JOEY holds up the black bat

JOEY

Right here. Bertha B. Boomer.

JOEY starts out, FOWLER stops him

FOWLER

Not yet, Joey. You know how he is about Bertha.

JOEY

Yeah, I know how he is about Bertha.

JOEY takes a rag from his pocket and shines the bat

SALLY

Is that really Casey's bat?

FOWLER

Who are you, boy?

SALLY

Name's Sully. Sully Car- son. My name's Sully Carson, sir.

JOEY

How'd you get in here? Nobody can get in here.

SALLY

Nobody said a thing to me, I just walked in. Is that Casey's bat?

JOEY

You're not supposed to be here.

FOWLER

Listen, kid, you shouldn't be roaming around the stadium. You need to come back some other-

SOUND: a loud crack

FOWLER (CONT'D)

What happened?

BARKER

Catfish got a hit!

ROGERS

Whatta hit!!

FOWLER

Catfish got a hit?

FOWLER hugs SALLY

Catfish got a hit!

JOEY and FOWLER begin dancing around SALLY.

JOEY & FOWLER

Catfish got a hit! Catfish got a hit!

BARKER

Beauregard is safe on first.

JOEY & FOWLER

He's safe on first!!

FOWLER

What's it gonna be? Catholic, Methodist, Buddhist? I said I'd get religion!

BARKER

That brings up Casey Carmichael.

JOEY & FOWLER run in place, looking at each other

JOEY & FOWLER

That brings up Casey Carmichael!

SALLY

Is that Casey's bat?

JOEY

Of course this is Casey's bat!

SALLY

Ain't he gonna need it?

FOWLER

Well, of course he's gonna need it, it's his bat. His bat! Grandma's Carbcuncles! Get wings, boy, get moving.

JOEY

Yessir!

JOEY runs out

SALLY

I guess I better get going, too.

FOWLER

Wait a minute. Don't move a danged inch! You must be good luck. Here's a twenty. Stick around 'till this is over, kid. Maybe I'll get you an autograph.

SALLY

Don't want an autograph. I want a job.

FOWLER

Whatever. Just don't move.

FOWLER becomes intent on the radio. SALLY wanders over to the lockers, looking at each in turn. She examines the Bertha shrine.

BARKER

Carmichael swung and missed, Shelley. That's oh and one.

FOWLER

Come on Casey, come on.

CROWD (OFFSTAGE)

Come on Casey, come on. Come on Casey, come on.

ROGERS

Another strike. Maybe this isn't Bertha's day, Tex.

CROWD

Come on Casey, come on. Come on Casey, come on.

BARKER

There's the windup- the pitch-

SOUND: a loud crack, and the CROWD goes wild

ROGERS

That one's outta here, Tex! Mudville wins it!

FOWLER

We won! That ties the series, two to two to two. Here, kid, here's another twenty. You want a job? You got a job! Grandma's got new shoes!

JOEY runs in carrying Bertha. He crosses to Bertha's shrine, but FOWLER grabs bat as he goes past, then kisses the bat

FOWLER (CONT'D)

Money in the bank!

MUDVILLE NINE & CROWD swarm in, CASEY is on the CROWD's shoulders

A FAN

He did it!

CASEY

Everybody did it.

FAN 2

Yeah, but you hit it, Casey.

CASEY

Now, ya'll. I was proud to do my part no, matter how small.

LADY FAN

But you always do the hugest part!

CASEY

Aw, it's just a real an honor to play baseball here in Mudville, folks.

FAN 3

Nobody but Casey.

FAN 4

He's the batter around here.

1.1-2: "Batter Up"

Batter Up

FAN 1

SINCE DEAR OLD ABNER DOUBLEDAY
PICKED UP A BAT AND BALL

FAN2

AND FACED NINE MEN OUT IN A FIELD
AND KNOCKED ONE TO THE WALL

MORE FANS

NOT SINCE THEN HAS THERE BEEN A MAN
 A MAN WHO DOES WHAT CASEY CAN
 WHO KNOCKS 'EM TO THE GRAND-STAND
 MISTER CARMICHAEL, STEP UP HERE

CHORUS

LET'S GIVE THIS MAN A HAND!

BATTER UP, HE'S THE BATTER UP
 THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY BETTER BATTER UP
 BATTER UP, HE'S THE BATTER UP
 I BETCHA'LL NEVER GET A BETTER BATTER UP

TELL ME WHO WOULD DARE DENY
 HE'S A SLAMMER WITH A HAMMER KIND O' GUY?
 WHO COULD DARE DENY?
 NONE OF US AND HERE IS WHY:
 THERE'S THE MAN WHO HAS THE BALL
 A BURLY KIND OF HURLER WITH THE BALL
 STANDS UP STRAIGHT AND TALL
 THERE'S THE PITCH (WHAT A PITCH!)
 THAT'S ALL! (THAT'S ALL?)
 THAT BALL IS OVER THE WALL

BATTER UP, HE'S THE BATTER UP
 THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY BETTER BATTER UP
 BATTER UP, HE'S THE BATTER UP
 I BETCHA'LL NEVER GET A BETTER BATTER UP

CASEY

DON'T BELIEVE THAT I'M SO GREAT
 I JUST MANAGE MY ADVANTAGE AT THE PLATE
 YOU'VE JUST GOT TO WAIT
 TILL THE PITCH IS TRUE AND STRAIGHT
 THAT'S THE TIME WHEN I WILL SWING

MUDVILLE NINE

HE CAN STING YA WHEN HE SWINGS HIS MIGHTY SWING

CASEY

WHEN IT'S TIME TO SWING
 THAT'S THE TIME

CHORUS

THAT'S THE TIME

CASEY

I'M KING!

CHORUS

HE'S KING!
 AND TIME FOR MUDVILLE TO SING:

BATTER, BATTER, BATTER, BATTER, BATTER UP
 LISTEN TO THE CHATTER 'BOUT THE BATTER UP
 BATTER, BATTER, BATTER, BATTER, BATTER UP
 THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY BETTER BATTER UP
 BATTER UP, BATTER UP, AIN'T NO BETTER BATTER UP
 BATTER UP, BATTER UP, AIN'T NO BETTER BATTER UP

MUDVILLE NINE
 HE'S THE BEST ONE OF THE BATTERS
 AIN'T NO BETTER BATTER, BROTHER
 WE'RE NOT BITTER 'CAUSE HE'S BETTER
 THERE JUST AIN'T NO ANY OTHER

WHISKERS
 (**spoken**)
 Now wait a minute!
 (**paces, thinking**)
 WHAT ABOUT OL' JOE DIMAGGIO?

CHORUS
 OKAY BUT NOT COMPLETELY UP TO SNUFF

WHISKERS
 HANK AARON HE WAS MIGHTY GOOD AT HITTING

CHORUS
 BUT HANK HE DIDN'T HIT 'EM QUITE ENOUGH

FAN
 MICKEY MANTLE, HE COULD SWING A BAT

CHORUS
 BUT DEFINITELY NOT IN CASEY'S WAY

WHISKERS
 WHAT ABOUT THE BABE?

MEN take hats off

CHORUS
 WHAT ABOUT BABE RUTH?
 WHEN BERTHA B. IS BOOMING
 CASEY BLOWS 'EM ALL THE WAY

BATTER UP, HE'S THE BATTER UP
 THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY BETTER BATTER UP
 BATTER UP, HE'S THE BATTER UP
 THERE'LL NEVER EVER BE A BETTER BATTER UP
 BATTER, BATTER, BATTER, BATTER, BATTER UP
 THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY BETTER BATTER UP
 BATTER UP, HE'S THE BATTER UP
 I BETCHA'LL NEVER GET A BETTER BATTER UP
 THERE'LL NEVER EVER BE A BETTER BATTER UP!

TOWNSPEOPLE exit cheering

FOWLER

We're mighty proud of you, Carmichael. This means Mudville is going to play in the championship for the first time ever. Heck, I might even watch the next game.

CASEY

I wouldn't start counting my chickens yet, Mr. Fowler. We still have to win the pennant, and that's still at least two games down the road.

FOWLER

Oh, I'm counting my chickens, Casey. I'm counting my chickens, and my eggs and my money. But mostly I'm counting on you!

He slaps CASEY on the back

FOWLER (CONT'D)

Come on, Joey. You, too, kid. What's your name?

SALLY

Sully.

FOWLER

Well then, Sully. And Joey. I'm gonna treat both of you to something real nice.

JOEY

Like what, Mr. Fowler?

FOWLER

When my grandma wanted to give me a reward, she always fixed pickles and sauerkraut.

JOEY

What did she do for punishment?

They exit.

CATFISH

If you ask me, we gotta settle down and take this here thing one step at a time. Slow-like.

SKIPPER

I hope you don't mean as slow as your fast ball, Catfish. We'll be waiting 'till the second coming.

INYO

I for one ain't waiting on nothin'. I want that pennant now.

CASEY

Inyo, you want everything now.

INYO

Why wait? You end up dead if you wait.

PHILLIPE

You end up dead if you don't wait. I'm with Inyo: rather end up dead with a pennant flag flying over my grave.

SHORTSTUFF

(sung to "On Top of Old Smokey")

HERE LIES POOR PHILLIPE
PENNANT FLAG AT HIS HEAD
HE'S NEVER PLAYED BETTER
TOO BAD HE IS DEAD

PHILLIPE

You best stick to baseball, Shortstuff.

SKIPPER

There isn't going to be a pennant flag unless there's a pennant game, you guys. And the way contract negotiations are going, there might not be any more pennant games.

CASEY

Whaddaya mean, Skipper? I'd a bet ten dollars to a ginger snap ya'll had a contract all worked out, ready to sign.

CATFISH

Yeah, Skip. You're the team rep. You ain't got us a dadblamed contract?

SKIPPER

Hey, don't look at me. It's Fowler's fault. Everything was all set. Salary, pension, free agency. All the details. Just needed to dot the T's and cross the I's. Then Fowler got his signals crossed instead.

CASEY

And?

SKIPPER

And now that so and so wants to tie everybody into a real long term contract. No free agency, mandatory drug testing. They even want a piece of our endorsements.

PHILLIPE

Ain't nobody gonna get my endorsements but me!

INYO

The only endorsement you got is when you sign over your alimony check.

SHORTSTUFF

For three wives.

PHILLIPE

Okay, maybe they can have that endorsement.

INYO

If I ever *had* any endorsements, I'd for sure never let Fowler get his grubby hands on 'em.

ARNOLD

Why's he getting so stubborn?

CASEY

Mudville's finally on the map. He wants to keep it that way.

SKIPPER

You got it, Casey. Anyway, the other side is starting to balk. And if they do, we're gonna walk. Out.

CASEY

Skipper, you gotta do whatever it takes to get this worked out.

CATFISH

This here's the pennant.

INYO

Yeah, the pennant, man!

TEAM crowds in on SKIPPER.

CASEY

You bet! Doesn't come around many times for most fellas. This is our throw of the dice, maybe our one chance.

SKIPPER

Listen, guys. I'm doing all I can. I'm not skipping anything this time.

CASEY

We know you are, Skip. I'm sure everything's gonna be hunky-dory.

CATFISH

Uh, what makes you so sure, Casey? Skipper has been known to be less than a hundred percent.

CASEY

Fellas, I'm going to let ya'll in on the secret of my success. They same thing that keeps me hitting homers is what's going to win this pennant.

INYO

Batting practice?

CASEY

No.

SHORTSTUFF

Lifting weights?

CASEY

Nope.

SKIPPER

I know, I know! Wheaties.

CASEY

No. Positive thinking. The power of positive thinking. I tell you, it can work miracles!

CATFISH

That's what we need alright.

CASEY

Just repeat after me: "We can do it, don't you doubt it."

INYO

We can do it?

CATFISH

Don't you doubt it?

1.1-3 : "We Can Do It"

We Can Do It

CASEY

WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT

CASEY & SKIPPER

WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT

ALL

WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT

WE CAN WIN THIS THING.

WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT

WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT

WE CAN DO IT , DON'T YOU DOUBT IT

WE CAN WIN THIS THING.

ALL IT TAKES IS ONE GOOD PITCH
 ALL IT TAKES IS ONE GOOD SWING
 ALL IT TAKES IS ONE GOOD HIT
 WE CAN WIN THIS THING.
 WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT
 WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT
 WE CAN DO IT , DON'T YOU DOUBT IT
 WE CAN WIN THIS THING.

**They march around picking up bags,
 bats, gloves, etc.**

WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT
 (ALL IT TAKES IS ONE GOOD PITCH)
 WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT
 (ALL IT TAKES IS ONE GOOD SWING)
 WE CAN DO IT , DON'T YOU DOUBT IT
 (ALL IT TAKES IS ONE GOOD HIT)
 WE CAN WIN THIS THING.
 WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT
 WE CAN DO IT, DON'T YOU DOUBT IT
 WE CAN DO IT , DON'T YOU DOUBT IT

All except CASEY march out.

WE CAN WIN THIS THING
 WE CAN WIN THIS THING
 WE CAN WIN THIS THING.

**"TEDDY BEAR" OWENS and his muscle,
 "BOO-BOO" MCGRUDER appear in
 opposite doorway. SKIPPER is last
 marching out**

SKIPPER

We can win this thing, can't we?

CASEY

Positively!

SKIPPER exits.

TEDDY BEAR

That'd do Mudville proud.

CASEY cringes as he sees who it is

TEDDY BEAR (CONT'D)

How's it goin' wid my number one baseball
 investment?

CASEY

(looking out the door)

Keep it down, Teddy Bear. You want to ruin my
 reputation?

TEDDY BEAR

I don't want to ruin nothing of yours, Casey.
Like I said: you're like an investment wid me.
A man don't do nothing to harm his investments.
Ain't that right, Boo-Boo?

BOO-BOO

What's that, boss?

TEDDY BEAR

Whatever I say, you lunthead.

BOO-BOO

Yeah, right, boss.

CASEY

What do you want, Teddy Bear? I'm kinda busy.
Like I said, we got a pennant race going on.

TEDDY BEAR

So I hear, so I hear. You fellas gonna get any
kind of bonus out of this game, Casey?

CASEY

Bonus?

TEDDY BEAR

Yeah, bonus. You know, a little extra cash.
Like the kind you owe me. No wait. That'd be a
lot of extra cash.

CASEY

Listen, Teddy Bear, I'm good for the money.

TEDDY BEAR

Not yet you ain't.

CASEY

But I will be. Just wait a little while.

TEDDY BEAR

I been waiting a while, Carmichael. A long
while. I'm getting a little impatient. I do not
enjoy being impatient and Boo-boo don't like it
either, do you Boo-boo?

BOO-BOO

Like what, boss?

TEDDY BEAR

When I get impatient.

BOO-BOO

I don't have a problem with it. It's you that don't like to be impatient, boss. Like you always say, "I do not enjoy being impatient."

TEDDY BEAR

No, no, Boo-Boo. I mean when I'm impatient. That's when you do not like me.

BOO-BOO

I like you fine, boss. You're a swell guy.

TEDDY BEAR

Go stand outside, Boo-boo.

BOO-BOO

Sure thing, boss.

(starts out)

Say, are you feeling impatient, boss? I would not like that.

TEDDY BEAR

Out!

BOO-BOO exits

TEDDY BEAR (CONT'D)

Look, Teddy Bear Owens is all for the hometown boys. Mr. "Citizen", that's me.

CASEY

Citizen Kane.

SKIPPER enters and crosses to his locker, rummages around

TEDDY BEAR

Whatever. Hey, I want the Mudville Nine to win the pennant. I want 'em to win the World Series, the Super Bowl and the Publisher's Clearing House. And I know they can do it, as long as you stay healthy. You feeling pretty healthy, Casey?

CASEY

So far.

TEDDY BEAR

Good. Let's try to keep it that way. Maybe you ought to think about taking vitamins or something, huh? See you later.

He exits