

Baseball Card

by Joshua I Kaplan, 2013

The field's an emerald, shining bright
Lines all perfect and blinding white
thanks to the hardy, never tardy guys on the crew

An i hear Mr Cubbie say
"Man, it's sure a pretty day.
c'mon boys," he grins, "lets play two!"

Ernie, i'm with you

There I am in school one day
bored 'til I hear the teacher say
"Class what you wanna be when you grow up?"

pretty little Marilee
said a vet was what she's gonna be
an Jake's gonna win some horse riding cup

Meryl wants to be a doc
and it came as no real shock
when Marc and Stacy said they would lawyers be

Gary wants to rock n roll
and Stu just wants to roll in dough
then the teacher turned to me...

...she said, "what you wanna be?" (an I grinned)

I wanna be the guy on the baseball card
smiling wide an swingin' hard
making young men cheer and the ladies fan their face

I wanna be the guy makes the crowd all cheer
and that guy jumped an spilled his beer
with a drive to the gap an I dig for the extra base

It's a pennant race

Baseball card, an I'm goin' yard

There I am in little league
tryin my best to be
same as my heroes in the books

Hot corner, number 5
waitin' on that line drive

and I make the diving grab, just like the Brooks

(and the girls all looked)

I wanna be the guy with his name inscribed
in some lucky kid's new Rawlings hide
an he thinks of me every time he makes the play

I wanna live the gold glove shortstop dream
number 10, red pins, at the left field seam
start the double play to end the frame

it's a brand new game (an i spit)

At the game i'm on deck
an i'm scared as heck
and i'm thinkin', "Y'know, i really don't want to be here."

While i'm fearing
i started hearing
my heroes whisper, "You can do it!" in my ear

at the dish I tap my feet
even though i ain't wearing cleats
'cause that's what all of the big boys do

I give the mound an angry stare
but that pitcher, he don't care
'cause that boy, he has his heroes, too

An how bout you?

You wanna be the guy tips his hat to the crowd
an winks at the kid who's cheering out loud
as he turns to his father and pointing says, "Dad, did you see?"

after the game, you wanna be the one
signs his name for every mother's son
that's waitin' at the bus with some cards an a black Sharpee?

I hope so, 'cause that was once me

Do you wanna be the guy with the logo gone?
(Ex)'spos to (A)'stros, semi-pros so long
from Double A to Frisco Bay an you get the bid

Do you wanna be the guy with the stats on back,
showin' time in Reading an Hackensack,
with a little cartoon 'bout somethin' cool you once did?

when you were just a rookie

an you grab your junk...on national tv

Quarter in my pocket, like a rocket to the store
gonna get a wax pack, tomorrow get some more
Hope I get a Mays, Seaver, Clemente or Killebrew
or any Seattle Pilot will do

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C'mon boys," He grins, "Lets play two!"

Ernie, i'm with you

"...Play Ball!"

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