Jason: So we’ve got about twenty minutes before the game starts. We’ve got the place to ourselves. Thanks for coming over.   
  
Les: Thanks for the invite. Is anyone else coming over?

Jason: No, why?

Les: No reason, I just didn’t expect to be… I thought you might have your friends over too. (Looks around)

Jason: No I’m not. hey! Do you want something to drink? My dad let’s me keep a six pack for special occasions.

Les: Is this a special occasion?

Jason: Well, uh… It’s Opening Day…

Les: Ah, I’m fine actually. If you want something, go ahead.

(INTRO)

Jason: So who are you going to prom with?

Les: I’m not, but thanks for asking.

Jason: Asking?

Les: I mean, for assuming I’d have someone to go with.

Jason: I’m not going either.

Les: Oh… why not? Doesn’t your girlfriend want to go?

Jason: No man, we broke up.

Les: Oh, that’s too bad… Hey, who’s that on your wall?

Jason: You don’t know?

Les: He looks familiar but…

Jason: Johnny Bench! Catcher? Cincinnati Reds? Rookie of the year in 1968. National League’s most valuable player in 1970 AND 1972… You seriously don’t know Johnny Bench!?

Les: Of course I did! I just… didn’t recognize him.

Jason: But, his name is on the poster.

Les: There was a light glaring off I before… What? ☺

Jason: You’re not interested in Baseball at all, are you?

Les: I wouldn’t say I’m dis-interested, I just haven’t had much exposure to baseball.

Jason: I that why you came over?

Les: Why do you not want me to….?

Jason: If you’re not interested in baseball why did you come over?

Les: I don’t know, I didn’t have any other plans. I’m usually busy with…uh. So I figured, why not. What inspired you to extend the invitation?

Jason: Well ya know? You’ve been a terrific lab partner, hell you actually got me to understand my physics homework. The least I could do was invite you over to watch the game.

Les: It was my pleasure

Jason: It was my grade point average. I really appreciate it.

Les: Any time. So, this is your chance. Enlighten me, what is this fascination with baseball?

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Jason: It’s the perfect sport. The rules are clear, it doesn’t require anyone to beat the hell out of anyone else, and the uniforms are…. comfortable.

Les: You certainly make it sound good.

Jason: Have you ever played?

Les: Not successfully. My dad wonders why I don’t like sports and leaves it at that. No one’s ever shared their enthusiasm before.

Jason: I see. Well don’t worry you’ll get use to it. It’ll be happening all summer.

Less: so, I’m suppose to watch it all summer?!

Jason: You got anything else better to do?

Les: I have reading to catch up on

Jason: You actually read during the summer?

Les: What are your summer plans? I suppose you’ll be hanging out with your friends.

Jason: No, not really. I never thought I’d have to work my way through college. My parents figured I’d get athletic scholarships. Where are you going to college?

Les: Pitt.

Jason: So you’ll be around.

Les: I suppose. If your lap partner’s a loser, give me a call.

Jason: Are all your friends going away too?

Les: I suppose. They aren’t my friends really. They’re acquaintances.

Jason: What’s the difference?

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Les: Friends, at least in my option, are more than people you eat lunch with 5 times a week.

Jason: So are we acquaintances then? You and me?

Les: We’re… lab partners

Jason: So you don’t have any friends? Just acquaintances?

Les: You probably think that’s weird. You can’t rely on anyone. They’ll borrow your social studies notes, but won’t talk to them when they’re with their friends.

Jason: Am I like that?

Les: Not that I’ve noticed. But anyways, I hate it. Have you ever seen invasion of the body snatchers?

Jason: uh… no not all the way through.

------------------------------------------------------

Les: You know about the pod people? About how they replace humans with doubles with no personalities?

Jason: kind of like study hall? Yeah I know about them. There’s a remake coming out.

Les: Really? Interesting. I’ll have to catch it.

Jason: Maybe we could see it together?

Les: Sure. That’d be…. Great. My point was, it seems as though the pod people, are these soul-less robots, at these they’re consistent. They’re loyal. In a way it’s like they’re devoted to each other.

Jason: Oh… ok. Um… why don’t you just sit on the edge of the bed?

Les: Do you just have a sweater I could borrow for a while?

Jason: No they’re all packed. My mother put them away in March. Just sit here. You can see the tv better anyway.

Les: Thanks.

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Jason: So we have a few minutes before the game. Wanna play Truth or Dare?

Les: I don’t take dares.

Jason: How about we just play the truth part then?

Les: I don’t know.

Jason: Come on

Les: I don’t like questions.

Jason: you can ask me things too. You know the first rule of truth or dare, don’t ya? Nothing said during the game is repeated outside of it.

Les: ok, ask away.

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Jason: What’s your favorite color?

Les: Blue. Who’s your favorite baseball team?

Jason: Cincinnati Reds. Have you ever had a girl friend?

Les: no comment

Jason: You agreed to play

Les: Why did you ask me that?

Jason: I never seen you with anyone so I wondered….

Les: Yes, I did

Jason: Who was she?

Les: How would you it if I asked about your girlfriend?

Jason: I told you, I don’t have one

Les: Fine, why aren’t you going to prom?

Jason: Because my girlfriend decided she wanted to go with someone else.

Les: So she dumped you?

Jason: who was your girlfriend?

Les: You wouldn’t know her.

Jason: why?

Les: why’d she dump you?

Jason: because she’s a jock groupie, and I’m not a jock anymore. Why wouldn’t I know your girlfriend?

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Les: Because, all she did was kiss me in the 5th grade. I didn’t know you until Jr. High. I barely remember her.

Jason: But you remember the kiss. Don’t you.

Les: I remember it happened. You’re about 3 turns ahead.

Jason: I thought you were done.

Les: So you’re not a jock anymore?

Jason: Do you see me on any teams?

Les: I don’t pay attention to intramural sports.

Jason: you mean inter scholastic. Intramurals are….

Les: I know the difference I don’t keep up on any of them.

Jason: You should. It shows school spirit.

Les: I hate everyone at school. Why would I want to show school spirit?

Jason: everyone?

Les: 99% of them. So what happened?

Jason: It doesn’t matter, I think the game is about to start

Les: It can wait

Jason: Yeah, spoken like a true sports fan

Les: why did you need to know if I ever had a girlfriend? You’ve heard rumors haven’t you?

Jason: sort of.

Les: Yes or no dammit!

Jason: Yes, I did.

Les: What did they say?

Jason: They said you and a friend of your’s… Andrew DeSetti is the name I heard

Les: Really? Damn. You don’t just listen to anyone do you?

Jason: So it’s true?

Les: Look, Andy and I had a mis-understanding. He thought I meant something, I didn’t. He over reacted, we stopped being friends, that’s it.

Jason: That’s not what I heard.

Les: I don’t care what you heard. I don’t care what you believe. I think I also stopped caring about your grade point average.

Jason: Are you mad?

Les: I’ll see you Monday.

Jason: Wait. We still have a game to watch.

Les: I’ve already played too many today, watching one would be boring.

Jason: I’ll tell you why I dropped out of sports.

Les: I’m not interested in that any more.

Jason: You remember when I tripped during the 100-yard dash last year?

Les: yeah.

Jason: I don’t know how I landed so badly. But when they were fixing me up, the doctors found something. A heart murmur. It was barely noticeable, which I suppose is why they never detected it before.

Les: I’m sorry

Jason: It’s not so bad. I was almost my family’s star athlete. They use to be so proud of me.

Les: I’m sure they still are.

Jason: They don’t have to be. My sister’s already the girl’s track star and she’s only in jr. High. We’re all very proud of her.

Les: It’s good that you can bare this with such grace.

------------------------------------------------------

Jason: do you want to hear it?

Les: what?

Jason: the murmur

Les: I don’t know Jason

Jason: It’s ok. Come here. Do you hear it?

Les: I don’t know

Jason: Relax. Try not to listen to anything specific. It’s like ¾ of a real heart beat. (BM-BHH) Can I listen to yours?

Les: Why? I mean it’s your average run of the mill heart beat.

Jason: Exactly. I don’t remember what one sounds like. Come on, just a little so I can hear. Hold Still. (BM- BHH, BM-BHH)- It’s sure beating fast, are you ok?

Les: Yes, that was interesting. I have to…um… I can’t stay.

Jason: Why not? The game.

Les: I’ll have to take a rain check.

Jason: You can’t. It’s opening day.

Les: I promised myself I wouldn’t let anything like this happen again.

Jason: nothing’s happened.

Les: And it shouldn’t, I don’t want it to get uncomfortable. Baseball’s not my thing anyway.

Jason: Les. I’m not Andy. And there’s no misunderstanding.

Les: What are we going to do?

Jason: Relax. Come here, are you comfortable?

Les: I’m a little cold, actually.

Jason: Here, but your feet under the comforter. Is that better?

Les: It’s fine.

Jason: Great sport, check out the uniforms.

Les: They do look comfortable. I think I’m starting to appreciate baseball.

INTRO: In life, we are faced with many obstacles that can either hinder our abilities or strengthen our relationship with others. Famous playwright, David Storie once stated, “The essence of a true friendship is to make allowance for ones little lapses.” In this Duo Interpretation, we look at the relationship between two lab partners who share very uncommon interests and are brought together by America’s national pastime. Baseball. Murmurs, by Scott Sickles.