

**From:** [Dan Keusal](#)  
**To:** [dankeusal@dankeusal.com](mailto:dankeusal@dankeusal.com)  
**Subject:** "Baseball and the pain of men" (Summer 2014)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 19, 2014 10:01:53 AM

---

Dan Keusal, MS, LMFT  
Jungian Psychotherapist.  
Summer 2014 Newsletter:  
"Baseball And The Pain Of Men"

## Greetings...



Most of my clients know it.  
All my friends know it.  
Most anyone who talks  
with me for more than ten  
minutes comes to know it.  
Two of my greatest

passions are baseball and movies. This newsletter draws on a movie about baseball that is also a movie about the pain of men in our culture, and about the illusion of perfection, and about the possibilities opened up by grief, vulnerability, and longing.

While I long for the day when my beloved Mariners will finally play in a World Series, I hope these summer days find you well, and that you find something in this newsletter to enrich your journey.

~Dan



In this edition:

- \* **Reflections:** "Baseball and the pain of men."
- \* **Quotes** for Inspiration and Action
- \* **Resources** For A Richer Life.
- \* **3 Good Poems.**
- \* **Jungian Psychotherapy.**
- \* **Upcoming Lectures & Workshops.**
- \* **Privacy Policy, HT Unsubscribe.**
- \* **Comments, HT forward, share this newsletter on Facebook**, et. al.



## Reflections: "Baseball and the pain of men"

Critics were not kind to the Kevin Costner film "**For Love Of The Game**," and in many ways, they were right. Overall, this is not a great movie. But there's a scene near the end that is a moving portrayal of the ways that men have been wounded by the very patriarchy that has instilled in them a sense of entitlement and privilege, and of the hidden grief they carry as a result.

Costner plays "Billy Chapel," a Hall of Fame caliber major league baseball player at the end of his career, pitching on the last day of the season against the fabled New York Yankees in their legendary home, Yankee Stadium. The film moves back and forth between the present and the past, between play-by-play coverage of the game and the back story, the context, in which the game takes place. This back story shows how Chapel, a good-hearted but insulated bachelor, had entered into a relationship with a single mother, "Jane Aubrey" (played by Kelly Preston) and her teen daughter "Heather" (played by Jenna Malone).

Over time, Chapel is opened by these relationships to dimensions of life that have nothing to do with baseball, which up to that point had been his first and only love. At a critical moment in the story, a vulnerable moment when Chapel is faced with an injury that threatens to end his career, he closes up, gets angry, and pushes Jane and Heather away.

It is in this context that the present-day story unfolds: with each passing inning of the game, Chapel, knowing that Jane has left him and is on a plane to London to start a new life without him, is inching

closer and closer to pitching a "perfect game," a feat so rare that in the history of baseball, which spans 135 years and more than 300,000 games, it has been done only **23 times**.

The game ends with a dramatic, final play: Chapel completes the "perfecto." The crowd goes wild. The movie's play-by-play announcer (played by actual Hall of Fame announcer Vin Scully), exclaims, as Chapel falls to his knees, "The Cathedral that is Yankee Stadium belongs to a Chapel!" Jubilant teammates rush onto the field to celebrate, then hoist Chapel onto their shoulders and carry him off the field in a triumphant procession.

After the post-game celebration, Chapel returns, alone, to his luxury hotel suite, which is dark, engulfed in shadows from the outside street lights filtering in through the windows. He turns on the lamp on the night table next to his bed, reaches for the phone, and dials--he is hoping against hope that Jane has called...He hears through the phone a bright, chirpy, automated female voice say "Hello! You've reached the hotel message center. There are no new messages. Thank you for using the hotel message center!"

Sitting on the right side of the bed, he hangs up the phone...hangs his head...and begins weeping...quietly at first...then falling forward, his head in his hands, crying out "Oh, God..." as the camera moves in close and you catch a glimpse of his tear-stained face...

"Billy" (Chapel's first name) should be on top of the world. He is rich, famous, good-looking, and has just reached the absolute pinnacle for his profession, an accomplishment that assures he will be remembered not just in the next day's sports pages, but in the annals of history.

And yet he sits alone, weeping. He's gone from the heights of the pitcher's mound to the depths of his own emptiness, from the

spotlights of the stadium to the shadows of his hotel room, from the roar the crowd to the silence of his own loneliness.

The film's writer and director add one more scene--Billy and Jane (who skipped her flight to England when she saw, on a TV in the airport bar, Billy's unfolding perfect game) run into each other at the airport the next day, she catching her "make-up" flight, he on her way to pursue her in England...They profess their love for each other, and end the film in each others' embrace.

It makes for "a happy ending"...but I've always thought it would have been more honest, more poignant, and more true-to-life, for the film to end with Chapel weeping in his hotel room, torn open by his grief, feeling uncertain, and aching for something more. In that moment, Chapel is on the verge of realizing that perfection isn't perfect, but imperfection, openness, vulnerability, grief, longing: these are often the portals into life's deeper, richer realms, if we can stay present to them.

*(back to [Table of Contents](#))*



### **Quotes for inspiration and action...**

"The small man builds cages for everyone he knows, while the sage, who has to duck his head when the moon is low, keeps dropping keys all night long, for the beautiful, rowdy prisoners."

*(Hafiz)*

"Between the pen and the paperwork, there must be passion in the language. Between the muscle and the brainwork, there must be feeling in the pipeline."

*(Suzanne Vega, "Big Space")*

"People think a soul mate is your perfect fit, and that's what everyone wants. But a

true soul mate is a mirror, the person who shows you everything that is holding you back, the person who brings you to your own attention so you can change your life."

*(Elizabeth Gilbert)*

"To become wise, you must learn to listen to the wild dogs barking in your cellar."

*(Nietzsche)*

"I bought a cheap watch from a crazy man floating down canal.

It doesn't use numbers or moving hands, it always just says 'now.'

Now you may be thinking that I was had, but this watch is never wrong.

And if I have trouble the warranty says 'Breathe in, breathe out, move on.'"

*(Jimmy Buffet)*

*(back to [Table of Contents](#))*



## Resources For A Richer Life

*More than just "self-help," Resources For A Richer Life is meant to bring you music, movies, books, articles, web sites, events, videos, and more that will touch the depths of your soul and awaken the most alive parts of you.*

(online video): "**Leading With Lollipops.**" (Drew Dudley). A brief, inspiring video, with a story that will remind you that even the smallest, silliest, everyday thing you might do...can be life-changing for someone else.

(music video): "**Take Me Out To The Ballgame**" (Bernie Williams). It's easy to characterize today's professional athletes as over-paid, soul-less, and one-dimensional, but Williams, who had a distinguished career as center-fielder for the New York Yankees...is also an accomplished classical guitar player. Here

his soul shines through in a beautiful, original arrangement and performance of an American classic that bridges baseball and music.

(movie/DVD): "**About Time**." When I first saw the trailers for this film, and learned its premise (a young man whose father tells him that the men in their family can travel back in time and re-do any moment they want), I wrote it off as an excuse for sophomoric, boys-will-do-whatever-they-can-to-"get the girl" hijinks. But when a friend (whose taste in movies usually parallels my own) spoke about how deeply the film had touched him, I gave it a try...and found a funny and poignant reflection on life and death, fathers and sons, and ultimately...making the most of each *present* moment. Written and directed by Richard Curtis, who also wrote and directed "Love Actually," and wrote one of my favorite movies in recent years, "**The Girl In The Cafe**," this film features warm, funny, heartfelt performances by Bill Nighy, Rachel McAdams, and Domhnall Gleeson, and an excellent supporting cast.

*(back to [Table of Contents](#))*



### 3 Good Poems

Click on the titles below to read the poems online. You can also access them by going to the "**Writings**" page of my web site, finding the link for my "e-newsletters," and then clicking on the link for the Summer 2014 edition.

1. "**Bridge**" (Jim Harrison)
2. "**Progress**" (Julie Cadwallader-Staub)
3. "**My Life Has Been One Great Big Joke**" (Maya Angelou)

*(back to [Table of Contents](#))*



## Jungian Psychotherapy for Individuals & Couples.

*"The greatest and most important problems in life can never be solved, only outgrown."*

~C.G. Jung

I offer Jungian-oriented psychotherapy for individuals and couples. Whether you come to me with a problem or simply the sense that it's time for a change, I help you look at how that starting point is calling you to grow, and how you can respond to that call with creativity, vitality, and hope.

To learn more, visit my web site by clicking [here](#).

To schedule an appointment, or if you have questions, call me at (206) 523-1340.



## Upcoming Lectures & Workshops.

I have a number of new lectures and workshops planned for this Fall and into the Winter; watch future editions of this e-newsletter for details.

If you would like me to come speak to your group, please call me at (206) 523-1340, or [email](#) me.

On my web site, you can view a list of other [organizations](#) that have invited me to speak.

*(back to [Table of Contents](#))*



## Privacy Policy, How To Unsubscribe.

This newsletter is one of the ways I share helpful information and resources, and keep interested people informed about my

work.

I sincerely do not want to bother you with unwanted email, so if you no longer wish to receive my e-newsletters, simply click on the "**Safe Unsubscribe**" link at the bottom of this email and follow the directions.

I never give or sell my mailing list to anyone, for any reason, period. I used Constant Contact to manage my emails and my mailing list because they support my commitment to providing you with excellent content while keeping your contact information private.



### **Comments, HT Forward/share this newsletter.**

That's it for this edition of my newsletter. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. You can call me at (206) 523-1340, or **email** me.

To share this newsletter with friends, click on the "Forward this email" link below. You can also post a link to the online version of this newsletter on your Facebook, Google +, or other social networking sites. The page you'll want to link to is **here**.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to dankeusal@dankeusal.com by [dankeusal@dankeusal.com](mailto:dankeusal@dankeusal.com) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Dan Keusal, M.S., LMFT. Jungian Psychotherapist | 2611 NE 125th Street #112 | Seattle | WA | 98125